

CATAWISSA BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING
MONDAY February 6th 2023 - 6:30 p.m.

CALL TO ORDER:

- The meeting was called to order by Council President Sue Helwig.

ROLL CALL:

- Present were: Sue Helwig, Jeff Fleming, Gary Steinruck, AJ McKenney, Andrew Detwiler, Mayor Todd Burke, Kevin Ferris, Roy Klinger and Anthony McDonald

READING OF MINUTES:

- A motion was made by Andrew Detwiler, 2nd by Jeff Fleming to dispense reading of and approve minutes of the January 9th, 2023 Council Meeting. All Aye

PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

- Council President Sue Helwig introduced the Borough's new Treasurer Judy Snyder.

GUESTS TO BE HEARD:

- Guest Brian Zysset gave a presentation on the game pickle ball and how the court is laid out. Mr. Zysset requested Council allow him to tape out lines on the tennis court for pickle ball. Mr. Zysset also offer his assistance if Council would like to look into doing future assessments for a pickle ball court.
- Guest Nick Cuff discussed purchasing the Borough property that runs along the car wash and Railroad St. Mr. Cuff would like to use this property for his tenant's parking and maybe storage units. Borough Solicitor Anthony McDonald informed Council the property must be sold for fair market value and open to the public for bidding. Mr. Cuff suggested a 99-year lease. Water Authority Super Intendent Cindy Bachman made Council aware of a utility easement would need to be included in the sale of the property due to a dry hydrant line running from South St. down Railroad St. Council is going to do some further review and bring this back to March Agenda.
- Guest Tara Timpanelli discussed parking issues for her venue. Ms. Timpanelli presented an email she received in 2021 giving permission to use the Borough lot between S. 1st and Railroad Streets. Now Ms. Timpanelli received an email stating she can no longer use the lot. Ms. Tampanelli questioned why and asked for a solution to the parking issue. After some further discussion Council is going to further investigate if parking can be done on the Borough property between 1st and Railroad Streets. which is a FEMA property buy out. Chief Laidacker and Council Members gave Ms. Timpanelli some suggestions for public street parking to use in the meantime.
- Guest Tara Timpanelli asked if her clients can use Eyer Park to hold their wedding ceremony. After a brief discussion Chief Laidacker stated it is an open public park Council cannot tell her no but also no one else can be stopped from entering the park while the ceremony is taking place.

CORRESPONDENCE:

- Manager of Administration Connie Cole reported the Borough received a Third Amendment to the Flood Mitigation Grant. The amendment extends the use of the remaining funds until June 30th 2024.

MAYOR:

- Mayor Burke welcomed everyone to the meeting.

WATER:

- Water Authority Superintendent Cindy Bachman had nothing to report.

CODE ENFORCEMENT REPORT:

- Councilman AJ McKenney read the code enforcement report.

POLICE:

- Chief Laidacker reported for the month of January the department responded to (306) calls for service. Chief Laidacker read his report which stated the following:
- The SUV was taken for repairs on a spark plug issue. It will be returned for further repairs on the 2nd of Feb.
- The 2014 unmarked car sustained front bumper damage due to slippery conditions during routine patrols.
- A meeting with the PCCD resulted in no additional funding for the Technology Advancement Grant, the award remains at \$90k.
- The Chief met with the Civil Service Commission to discuss amendments to the hiring process. Those amendments were forwarded to Council for approval.
- Three employment applications were sent out to interested candidates, however none have been officially returned as of date.
- On January 12th 2023 all full-time officers received re certification on CPR/AED.

PUBLIC SAFETY:

- A motion was made by Jeff Fleming, 2nd by Andrew Detwiler to approve the following changes requested by the Civil Service Commission regarding the hiring process for a Police Officer: ACT 120 certified is preferred, enrolled in ACT 120 or another state equivalent training is needed to apply, Removal of the 21 years of age requirement, and amend the hiring requirements which will allow the position to remain open until filled. Chief Laidacker explained changing of the requirements to apply will help broaden the pool of applicants to choose from. All Aye

UTILITIES:

- Committee Chairman Jeff Fleming read the utilities report providing open and closed balances for electric/sewer accounts. Mr. Fleming also reported how many late notices were mailed for the month of January.

PARKS & RECREATION & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT:

- A motion BY Jeff Fleming, 2nd by Andrew Detwiler to approve Catawissa First United Methodist Church using Cara Park, pavilion and playground Saturday April 8th for an Easter Egg Hunt. All Aye
- A motion was made by Jeff Fleming, 2nd by Andrew Detwiler to approve Resolution 2023-02 regarding Banner Permit for 2023. All Aye
- A motion was made by Jeff Fleming, 2nd by Roy Klinger to approve Northeast Tree Service removing a tree from the pier by the park that is a safety issue at a cost of \$1,600. All Aye
- A motion was made by Jeff Fleming, 2nd by Andrew Detwiler to allow Mr. Zysset tape out lines for pickle ball in the tennis court and to approve investigating adding a pickle ball option to either the tennis court or basketball court. All Aye
- A motion to approve the following Summer Breeze Concert dates for 2023:
June 27th
July 11th
July 18th
July 25th
August 1st if enough funds remain.

FINANCE:

- A motion was made by Gary Steinruck, 2nd by AJ McKenney to approve the renewal of the Wright Flood Insurance Policy for Waste Water Treatment Plant Generator Building with an increased coverage of \$25,000 more for the building and \$5,000 more for the contents at an increased cost of \$43 for a new premium of \$1,437.00. All Aye
- A motion was made by AJ McKenney, 2nd by Gary Steinruck to approve the renewal of the Wright Flood Insurance Policy for the Waste Water Treatment Plant Building with an increased coverage of \$16,000 for contents at an additional cost of \$16 for a new premium of \$2,316.00. All Aye
- A motion was made by Gary Steinruck, 2nd by Roy Klinger to approve the sale of (2) porta potties, (1) air compressor and (1) tar buggy. All Aye

PERSONNEL COMMITTEE:

- A motion was made by Roy Klinger, 2nd by Andrew Detwiler to advertise to fill the part-time laborer position. All Aye
- A motion was made by Kevin Ferris, 2nd by Roy Klinger to approve AFSCME employees to attend the 1 day free AMP conference at Cabela's. All Aye

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

- A motion was made by Roy Klinger, 2nd by AJ McKenney to approve appointing Brior Environmental LLC as the Sewage Enforcement Officer for 2023. All Aye

NEW BUSINESS:

- A motion was made by AJ McKenney, 2nd by Jeff Fleming to approve adopting a new Code of Conduct for Organizational Representatives. All Aye
- A motion was made by Roy Klinger, 2nd by Jeff Fleming to approve the Memorandum of Understanding between the Columbia County Conservation District and Catawissa Borough. All Aye

FINANCE PAYMENT OF BILLS

- A motion was made by Roy Klinger, 2nd by Andrew Detwiler to accept bills as written and any others that may arise before the next council meeting. All Aye

GUESTS TO BE HEARD

- Councilman Gary Steinruck informed Council all CD renewals were complete with another .5% increase negotiated by Manager of Administration Connie Cole.

ADJOURNMENT:

- A motion was made by Roy Klinger, 2nd by Jeff Fleming to adjourn. All Aye

MEETING ADJOURNED

Submitted by:

Connie M. Cole
Manager of Administration