

CATAWISSA BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING
MONDAY March 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, AJ McKenney, Andrew Detwiler, Mayor Todd Burke, Roy Klinger, Anthony McDonald, and Kevin Ferris via phone

READING OF MINUTES:

- A motion was made by Roy Klinger, 2nd by Jeff Fleming to dispense reading of and approve minutes of the February 6th, 2023 Council Meeting. All Aye

PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

- Council President Sue Helwig read the following report;
- Manager of Administration Connie Cole has begun planning the Summer Breeze Concert Series. Council President Sue Helwig thanked Connie for doing the work.
- Public Works Employee Crystal Stoker and Parks & Recreation Committee are working on improving some recreation items for residents.
- Council is asking the public for help in finding a location to place the 4-sided ball return.
- Council is looking into the drainage issue at the basketball courts located at CARA Park.
- Council is also looking into adding pickle ball to the tennis court.
- The Catawissa Hose Company is holding its annual Fish Fry every Friday through lent.
- The United Methodist Church will be holding its annual Easter egg hunt on Saturday April 1st at 4:00 p.m.

GUESTS TO BE HEARD:

- No guests to be heard.

CORRESPONDENCE:

- Nothing to report.

MAYOR:

- Mayor Burke thanked everyone for attending 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 February the department responded to (309) calls for service. Chief Laidacker read his report which stated the following:
- The SUV repairs were completed at Independence Ford.
- The 2014 unmarked car was approved for repairs and we are waiting for the parts.

- The PCCD grant process continues. Clarifications were made on the application and we anticipate the award being forwarded shortly.
- An application was received for the full-time officer position. The candidate has completed the oral, written, and physical agility testing required.

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 February.
- A motion was made by Roy Klinger, 2nd by Jeff Fleming to approve Chase Petty to attend Staking School at a cost of \$2000.00 for the classes, \$500 for lodging, \$200.00 meal stipend and mileage reimbursement. Councilman Kevin Ferris asked if the Borough does much of the staking since the Borough is subcontracting out. Councilman Roy Klinger responded Chase will still need to do some staking and other duties covered in the schooling. All Aye

PARKS & RECREATION & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT:

- A motion was made by Roy Klinger, 2nd AJ McKenney to amend the agenda. All Aye
- A motion was made by Roy Klinger, 2nd by Jeff Fleming to approve Preferred Portables Danville LLC to clean the Borough's (4) porta potties bi-weekly for \$180.00/month. All Aye
- A motion was made by Roy Klinger, 2nd by Kevin Ferris to request an approval from FEMA to use vacant lots between Kline Ave. and South St. and also Railroad St. and First St. for parking and outdoor recreation. Attorney Anthony McDonald gave an explanation of what parking is allowed and gave examples of what types of recreation the property can be used for. Attorney McDonald reported he is still waiting on a return phone call to see what he needs to do for the request. All Aye
- A motion was made by Jeff Fleming, 2nd by Roy Klinger to deny the request to sell the public parking lot on Railroad St. from Main St. to Kline Ave. All Aye
- A motion was made by Andrew Detwiler, 2nd by Roy Klinger to approve the purchase of (10) commercial trash cans from Webstraurant at a cost of \$482.64 each for a total of \$4826.40. The funds were budgeted in the Capital Fund under GL# 430.32. 5 Aye, 1-Nay; Kevin Ferris Council President Sue Helwig asked if Ms. Stoker got other quotes. Councilman Jeff Fleming and Andrew Detwiler stated Ms. Stoker looked extensively for trash cans. Councilman Ferris stated they are cheaper on Amazon.
- A motion was made by AJ McKenney, 2nd by Roy Klinger to approve the purchase of a banner for the Community Yard Sale from Gillespie Signs at a cost of \$865. All Nay Motion did not pass.
- Council President Sue Helwig gave an update on the Pickleball Court. Ms. Helwig explained Mr. Zysset taped out the Pickleball Court lines and the tape did not hold up. The next step is to look into pricing to have the lines painted on. Councilman Kevin Ferris offered the use of his spray machine if Mr. Zysset would like to use it. Councilman Jeff Fleming asked Attorney Anthony McDonald if the lines for Pickleball were allowed to be painted on the tennis court since grant money was used to put the court in. Attorney Anthony McDonald asked if the court was still going to be used for tennis. If so, then yes, it is allowed. Councilman Andrew Detwiler stated if Mr. Zysset wanted to tape out the lines for Pickleball, they would get painted.

PROPERTY BUILDING & MAINTENANCE:

- Councilman Kevin Ferris stated the bee damage under the rafter at the Quaker Meeting House was no bigger than his hand. Mr. Ferris wanted to know if he should get quotes or hold off. Council agreed to hold off.

FINANCE:

- A motion was made by Roy Klinger, 2nd by Jeff Fleming to approve the \$99 membership fee to Columbia Montour Visitors Bureau. All Aye
- The sale of (2) porta potties ended at \$260, the portable air compressor ended at \$1550 and the tar buggy ended at \$260.00.
- Council President Sue Helwig reported Council is still waiting on some costs before decisions can be made on ear marking covid funds for projects. Ms. Helwig feels Council needs to make decisions on funds distribution at April's meeting.

PERSONNEL COMMITTEE:

- A motion was made by Roy Klinger, 2nd by AJ McKenney to approve continued advertising for a part-time laborer position due to lack of applicants utilizing social media where possible. All Aye
- A motion was made by Roy Klinger, 2nd by Jeff Fleming to approve a conditional offer of employment for Lance Cabaniss pending passage of the 200-question equivalency test required for ACT 120 and the MPOETC (Municipal Police Officers Education and Training Commission) certification exam. All Aye
- Chief Laidacker reported Mr. Cabaniss has completed all of the Borough required testing and has passed everything very well. Mr. Cabaniss did very well.
- A motion was made by Roy Klinger, 2nd by Jeff Fleming to approve a contract between Catawissa Borough and Lance Cabaniss regarding Cabaniss reimbursing Catawissa borough for all costs associated with hiring should he leave employment with the Borough within 24 months. All Aye

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

- No unfinished business to discuss.

NEW BUSINESS:

- A motion was made by Roy Klinger, 2nd by Jeff Fleming to approve advertising the scope of work for the road project on N. 3rd St. from North St. to Pine St. All Aye

FINANCE PAYMENT OF BILLS

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

GUESTS TO BE HEARD

- Guest Melanie Aikins asked what exactly is the staking training Chase Petty will be attending. Council President Sue Helwig read the description of what all was covered in the training.
- Guest Pat Hess asked how much of the covid funds are there. Council President Sue Helwig stated \$112,000. Ms. Hess asked what projects were being considered for the covid funds. Council President Sue Helwig stated the generator for the Police Station and Borough Hall, air conditioning for the Community Center, PPE for the Fire Company and 15% match for the Dry Hydrant grant. Water Authority Superintendent Cindy Bachman asked about radios. Ms. Bachman was informed

radios were not on the original list of projects. Ms. Hess asked the Borough to spend those funds wisely.

ADJOURNMENT:

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

MEETING ADJOURNED

Submitted by:

Connie M. Cole
Manager of Administration