

Catawissa Borough Council Meeting

DATE: April 10th – 6:30 p.m.

- CALL TO ORDER:
 - Council President Susan Helwig called the meeting to order.
- PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:
- ROLL CALL:
 - Present were: Sue Helwig, Kevin Ferris, Roy Klinger, Andrew Detwiler, Gary Steinruck, Jeff Fleming, AJ McKenney, Mayor Todd Burke.
- READING OF MINUTES:
 - A motion to dispense reading of and approve minutes of the March 6th, 2023 Borough Council Meeting was made by Roy Klinger, 2nd by Jeff Fleming. All Aye
- PRESIDENT REPORT:
 - Council President Susan Helwig thanked the 1st United Methodist Church and the American Legion for the Easter egg hunt they held for children from the area. Ms. Helwig thanked the Catawissa Fire Co. for holding their weekly fish fry during Lent.
 - Ms. Helwig informed all in attendance of upcoming events such as: Community Yard Sale on May 27th, Dumpster Day on June 3rd, Kid's Day on June 17th, Summer Breeze concert series every Tuesday evening from June 27th until July 25th with the exception of July 4th.
 - Ms. Helwig Informed Council Members of a webinar scheduled for Wednesday, April 12th, at 12:00 p.m. at Borough office on record retention. There are a lot of old borough records stored in the upstairs of Borough Hall that need to be disposed of in cooperation with Shred Day by First Columbia Bank in May. The bank will shred papers at no cost to us. Volunteers are needed to help go through the files and sort what can be disposed of and what must be kept. Ms. Helwig will reach out to council members with a time and coordinate with Connie Cole to complete this task.
- GUESTS TO BE HEARD: None
- CORRESPONDENCE:
 - Treasurer Judy Snyder reported that Catawissa Borough was allocated \$59,113.95 in Liquid Fuels funds. The check has not been received yet. President Sue Helwig addressed Crystal Stoker from the Street Department looking for some suggestions on other projects to do with the remaining \$30,000.00 in the Liquid Fuels account. Ms. Stoker suggested that a discussion be held after the opening of the bids for the street project for 2023 that has been approved already.
- MAYOR:
 - Mayor Todd Burke thanked everyone for being at the Council meeting and hoped everyone had a Happy Easter. Mayor Burke complimented the Police Department who have been working tirelessly since Officer Krape left. Mayor Burke thanks the police for doing an outstanding job in traffic stops and calls. Mayor Burke hopes we will be able to hire another officer soon which will hopefully alleviate some of the pressure the department is under, which will allow current officers to take some much-needed time off.

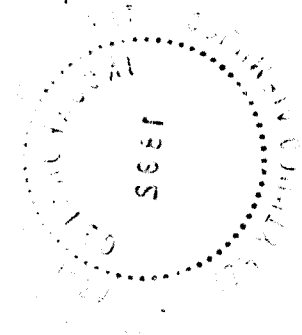
Staff and Authority Reports

- WATER:
 - Catawissa Water Authority Superintendent Cindy Bachman stated that May 8th will be fire hydrant flushing. Also, April bills will be sent in an envelope as it is time for the annual consumer confidence report and water supply report.
- CODE ENFORCEMENT REPORT:
 - Councilman AJ McKenney read the Code Enforcement report for March 2023 which included: (5) Complaints received; (16) Investigative site visits; (10) Violations & Warnings letters/emails; (0) Door hanger; (5) Verbal (phone and/or in person); (12) Violations to comply; (2) Meeting of noncompliance; (6) Previous month follow ups; (3) Permits issued; (1) Permits closed and (0) BIU packets received.
- POLICE:
 - Chief Laidacker read the police report for March 2023. Police responded to 289 calls during the month.
 - Repairs have been made to the 2014 sedan.
 - Final corrections were made to the PCCD Technology Grant
 - Chief Laidacker has started work on a COPS grant that if approved, will give the department money toward hiring another officer.
 - The Catawissa Legion has generously donated \$1,000.00 for the traffic camera project.
 - Chief Laidacker reported that the candidate proposed for the full-time officer position with the Police Department at the previous meeting will need to complete academy classes prior to certification. This could result in a delay until August. Last month council made a motion for a conditional employment offer to this candidate. It would seem that motion is no longer valid since he did not meet the requirement. Chief Laidacker suggested checking with Solicitor McDonald to make sure that is correct. A discussion was held on what happens if this candidate completes all requirements and then wants the job would it still be available to him? Chief stated that would be the case unless another candidate fills the open position earlier.
 - Officers have begun annual in-service training.
- PUBLIC WORKS:
 - Reports submitted. No questions.

Committee Reports

- PUBLIC SAFETY:
 - A motion to approve (1) handicap parking space for William Stellfox at 109 S 4th St. 1st floor apartment was made by Roy Klinger, 2nd by Jeff Fleming. All Aye.
 - A motion to approve opening the bids for the N 3rd St. paving project was made by Roy Klinger, 2nd by AJ McKenney. All Aye.
 - Bids were opened by council members and recorded on a master list, see attached. A motion was made to award the N 3rd Street project to the lowest bidder which is CH Paving and Sealing at a bid price of \$56,750.60 with condition that all parameters are met. Motion by Gary Steinruck, 2nd by Roy Klinger. All Aye.

- Gary Steinruck questioned if there would be another small project that could be done this year with Liquid Fuels monies since the bid for the N. 3rd Street project came in so low? Street Superintendent Crystal Stoker said there are other projects to be considered and it best to wait and see how the project goes and then go from there.
- UTILITIES:
 - Committee Chairman Jeff Fleming read the utilities report consisting of amounts owed for open past due electric and sewer accounts and closed past due electric and sewer accounts. Committee Chairman Fleming also noted the number of late notices mailed for March.
 - Council President Sue Helwig announced the motion to approve Resolution 2023-03 will be taken off the table due to already being approved at a previous meeting.
- PARKS & RECREATION & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT:
 - A motion to discuss the Band Shell at Wolfgang Park was made by Roy Klinger, 2nd by Jeff Fleming. All Aye. Chief Laidacker informed council of vandalism, assaults, knife fight, etc. happening by the youth of the area. It is becoming a hangout for illegal activity. Chief has charged at least 8 youth with crimes. It is out of camera range and therefore hard to watch easily. A fence that would close off the entire bandshell was suggested so that it could be removed for appropriate activity and locked when not in use. Council discussed removing the building but since it is concrete it would be quite expensive to remove. The current camera that is there does not cover the bandshell.
 - Council decided to get bids for an additional camera and a tall fence for next month's meeting.
 - Street Superintendent Crystal Stoker also reported on damage to the basketball backboard and tetherball being stolen at Cara Park.
 - A motion to approve reapplying for the Greenways Trails and Recreation Program grant for the replacement and enhancement of recreational equipment /facilities at Borough parks was made by Roy Klinger, 2nd by AJ McKenney. All Aye.
- PROPERTY/BUILDING MAINTENANCE:
 - A motion was made by Kevin Ferris, 2nd by Roy Klinger to increase the rental fee for the Community Center. All Aye.
 - A motion was made by Kevin Ferris, 2nd by Roy Klinger to increase the rental fee for non-residents to \$200.00 to help cover the cost of cleaning. All Aye.
 - A motion was made by Kevin Ferris, 2nd by Roy Klinger to secure bids for cleaning of all Borough properties. All Aye.
- PERSONNEL COMMITTEE:
 - Motion to approve hiring Jeremy Moyer for the part-time Police Officer position was made by Roy Klinger and 2nd by Jeff Fleming. All Aye



- UNFINISHED BUSINESS:
 - A Motion to discuss the following projects to earmark using Covid funds was made by Roy Klinger and 2nd by Jeff Fleming. The list of projects was discussed extensively and put into the following order to be considered:
 - 15% match for the Dry Hydrant Project - \$17,092.00
 - Employee expenses that weren't budgeted for. \$25,000.00
 - Borough Generator
 - Fire Co. PPE \$5,000.00
 - Heating & Cooling for the Police Station
 - Generator for Police Station
 - Air Conditioning for the Community Center was removed from consideration.
 - Kevin Ferris made a motion to get bids for next month from various suppliers for the above items. 2nd by Roy Klinger. All Aye.
 - Andrew Detwiler requested that the employee costs be added to next month's agenda.
- NEW BUSINESS:
 - A motion to approve Resolution 2023-03 regarding approving the Columbia County 2022 Hazard Mitigation Plan was made by Roy Klinger, 2nd by Jeff Fleming. All Aye.

FINANCE: Payment of Bills.

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

GUESTS TO BE HEARD:

- Lisa Wardigo from Lisa's Country Cuts & Spa introduced herself to the Council Members and received warm welcome to her new business from all members.

ADJOURNMENT:

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

Meeting adjourned.

Submitted by:

Judy Snyder
Judy Snyder, Treasurer

