

CATAWISSA BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING
MONDAY, APRIL 5, 2010
7:00 pm

CALL TO ORDER:

- The meeting was called to order by Council President Scott Keefer.
- The pledge of allegiance was recited.

ROLL CALL:

- Present were: Forest McClintock, Barb Reese, Linda Kashner, Scott Keefer, Barry Krum, Willard Helwig, Mayor Frank “Jeff” Achy, Attorney Anthony McDonald. Tim Benner and Jr. Councilperson Michael Gregorwicz were absent.

READING OF MINUTES:

- Forest McClintock made the motion to dispense with the reading of and approve the minutes of the previous months meeting. Linda Kashner seconded the motion. All aye, none opposed.

GUESTS TO BE HEARD:

- Pat Hess questioned the fact that stop signs had been placed on Creek Rd. before a vote from council.
- After a discussion of council and residents Forest made the motion to place temporary stop signs on Creek Rd. for safety concerns during the construction at the bridge over the Catawissa Dam. Barb Reese seconded the motion. All aye, none opposed.
- Penn Dot has requested additional stop signs and watch children signs on Shuman St. during the bridge construction project for safety reasons.
- Linda Neyer requested that the committee assignments be updated on the web site.
- At Linda’s request council has made the slate from the Union Cemetery wall available to the public.
- Harold Kitchen handed in a financial statement from the Fire Co.

CODE ENFORCEMENT:

- Code Enforcement Officer James Haney clarified a statement from “Catawissa Woman” in the “30 Second” section of the Press Enterprise. This person states that there is a property on S. Third St. that has hazardous material and structural damage. Mr. Haney inspected this property over one year ago asked the owner to board up the damaged windows (which he did) no hazardous materials were present at that time. Mr. Haney and Scott Keefer have inspected the property in question and have found NO hazardous material or structural concerns.

- Mr. Haney also addressed the “Catawissa Woman” that stated no one wants to move into Catawissa. Jim informed everyone that since the year 2000 there have been 142 houses sold in Catawissa by Realtors. That does not include private sales.

CORRESPONDENCE:

- The Area Agency on Aging did not receive the grant they applied for to repair the Sr. Center. The Agency would like to get together with someone regarding some improvements that will be needed to be done for safety reasons.
- The Catawissa Ministerium requested the use of the band shell at Ralph Wolfgang Park to provide some youth service and other activities. June 27th, July 25th, and August 22nd.

WATER AUTHORITY:

- Catawissa Water Authority Superintendent Cindy Bachman reported that they will be flushing Fire hydrants on May 3, 2010.
- The Water Authority will be staying with the Sensus system for the meter readings. During the month of August they will be performing updates to the Sensus system.

Barb Reese asked if council had to vote to allow the Ministerium use of the band shell. Attorney McDonald stated that the council did not need to vote but could just give permission to use the band shell. Linda Kashner asked Pastor Calvin (Pastor of First Church and member of Ministerium) if electricity would be needed. Pastor Calvin answered that electricity would be needed. Pastor Calvin will meet with Harry Young so Harry can show the Pastor what switches work the lights.

UTILITIES COMMITTEE:

- Committee Chairperson Forest McClintock made the motion to accept the contract with AT&T cell provided the approval of the Borough Solicitor. Barb Reese seconded the motion. All aye, none opposed. Mr. Haney will also provide a letter for the zoning approval.
- If the requested Little League concession stand could be moved to a different location the cost would go down dramatically. Forest would like to investigate a \$500-\$800 fix instead of a \$3,100 installation. Jim Haney will get in touch with Harry, Joe Benware and Walt Gosciminski to go over where the concession stand should be placed.

POLICE:

- Chief Anthony Kopitsky reported during the month of March there were 166 activities as reported by communications.

- Officer Weisman has turned in all of his equipment. So far Tony is doing ok with the scheduling. If any other officers resign this situation will have to be re-evaluated.
- Stop signs and caution children at play signs have been installed on Creek Rd. Chief will be conducting a traffic study regarding these signs.
- No Parking signs have been posted on Railroad St.
- Chief Tony thanked the United Methodist Church (Pastor Calvin) for refilling his supply of stuffed bears.
- Creek Rd. behind Showroom Shines has been shut down due to the construction at the bridge. This is a temporary closing and is on saw horses so the “Road Closed” signs can be moved in an emergency.
- Penn Dot has requested speed limit signs and extra stop signs to be placed on Shuman St. for safety reasons. These signs will be temporary.
- All officers are reminding children to play safe during the construction period.
- There will be more construction on Rt. 42 at the overpass of Rt. 11. There will be construction on both sides of the town. Drivers will be upset please try to be patient.
- Tony asked council to look into the trailer ordinance. Construction workers have trailers that they would like to leave at the work site and the ordinance forbids this practice. Tony McDonald will review the existing ordinance get together with Code Enforcement Officer and bring ideas to next council meeting.

POLICE & EMERGENCY RESPONSE CHAIRMAN:

- Committee Chairperson Willard “Skeeter” Helwig asked if council would like Chief to conduct a traffic study for Creek Road stop signs.
- Tony will contact Penn Dot for a how to guide.

MAYOR:

- Mayor Frank “Jeff” Achy would like to speak regarding dumpster day when that subject comes up later in the meeting.

COMMUNITY IMPROVEMENT, ACTIVITY CENTERS & RECREATION CHAIRPERSON:

- Committee Chairperson Barb Reese stated that the committee is continuing to work on the plans for “Kid’s Day”
- The next meeting is April 28th at 6:30 pm at the Borough Hall.

PROPERTY, SUPPLY & BUILDING MAINTENANCE CHAIRPERSON:

- Committee Chairperson Barry Krum and Forest McClintock will be meeting with the Area Agency on Aging regarding repairs needed at the Sr. Center. The agency was turned down for grant money.

PERSONNEL CHAIRPERSON:

- Committee Chairperson Scott Keefer read the work reports from the Street, Sewer and Electric Departments.

FINANCE CHAIRPERSON:

- Committee Chairperson Linda Kashner explained that the CBY entry fee of \$45 has been waived because the borough is a member of PSAB. Accounts are beings submitted for collection.
- The budget for this quarter looks great. The Borough is no longer in the red.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

- Forest McClintock stated that as of April 15th meters will be pulled for non payment of electric and/or sewer bills.
- Linda Kashner made the motion to set a date of September 11th for dumpster day in the Borough. Barb Reese seconded the motion. Volunteers are needed. Jeff's recycling will pay \$6-7 per pound for metal. The council will look into the best price for the next meeting. All aye, none opposed.
- Barb Reese made the motion to give \$2,000 toward the concert series including \$800 for "Battle of the Bands". Linda Kashner seconded the motion. There was a discussion regarding the motion. Roll Call Vote: Linda Kashner-yes, Forest McClintock-no, Willard Helwig-no, Barb Reese-yes, Barry Krum-no, Scott Keefer-yes, tie break vote Mayor Achy-no. Motion denied.
- Linda Kashner made the motion to purchase new utility billing software not to exceed \$10,000. The motion was seconded by Barb Reese. After much discussion council would like to have more information regarding the billing system. Scott Keefer motioned to table this until next months meeting. Willard Helwig seconded the motion to table. All aye, none opposed.
- Forest McClintock made the motion to donate \$100 to the Catawissa Creek Restoration Committee. Willard Helwig seconded the motion. Barry Krum asked what the Restoration was about. Forest responded that this is for the restoration of Catawissa Creek. They are cleaning the creek of limestone so fish life can survive and thrive. All aye, none opposed.
- Barb Reese made the motion to table the vote for the Ethics Code enactment. Barry Krum seconded the motion to table. All aye, none opposed.

FINANCE:

- Forest McClintock made the motion to accept the payment of bills as written. Barry Krum seconded the motion. All aye, none opposed.

GUESTS TO BE HEARD:

- Barb Savage asked that Mr. Haney address his statements to the Press Enterprise regarding the building on Third St. Mr. Haney stated he will not respond to 30 Seconds in the Press.

- Pat Hess asked if the building was safe. Mr. Haney replied that the building is safe. There is a leak in the roof which is being repaired.
- Willard Helwig suggested that anyone or anything needing concrete in the Borough should be ready because when the bridge project cement is being poured there will be rejected cement. The Borough would be able to get that cement for free if a form is ready.
- Forest McClintock suggested that the dug outs at the teener fields could use the cement.

ADJOURN:

- Forest McClintock made the motion to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Barb Reese. All aye, none opposed.

MEETING ADJOURNED.

Submitted by;
Kimberly Rhoades
Secretary