

CATAWISSA BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING
MONDAY, OCTOBER 5, 2009 7:00PM

CALL TO ORDER:

- The meeting was called to order by Vice President Forest McClintock.
- The pledge of allegiance was recited.

ROLL CALL:

- Present were: Dottie Linn, Barb Reese, Forest McClintock, Linda Kashner, Scott Keefer, Gary Steinruck, Atty. Anthony McDonald. Absent were: George Romania and Mayor Steve Atherton.

READING OF MINUTES:

- Dottie Linn made the motion to dispense with the reading of and approve the minutes of the previous months meeting. The motion was seconded by Barb Reese. All aye, none opposed.

GUESTS TO BE HEARD:

- Kristy Yohey asked if when hiring a part-time police officer there are stipulations regarding how many hours they work a week, when they leave our employee do they compensate for money spent on equipment, if they are unavailable for shifts for weeks at a time are they fired. Forest addressed the comment about reimbursement stating that if an officer leaves within the first year of employment that officer must reimburse the Borough 100% for the cost of their uniform and mental and physical health exams. Sergeant Kopitsky answered that under Chief Hardin officers were required to work 1-2 shifts per month. That is the only stipulation at this time.
- Barry Krum asked if there was going to be an open house at the new Borough Barn. Harry Young light department superintendent stated that there is more to be done to the barn but if Council would like an Open House that would be fine. Harry will get together with Gary Steinruck, Building Maintenance Chairperson, and decide on a date and time. Gary will also look at the phone and internet connection options.
- Gary Steinruck made the motion to add a "Guests to be Heard" item at the end of the agenda before adjournment. The motion was seconded by Barb Reese. All aye, none opposed.
- Barb Savage asked if council could look into networking the internet to provide cheaper rates. She also asked why the Sewer Plant was the only plant with caller ID on the phone. Gary Steinruck will look into these points and report back at next months meeting.

- Pat Hess asked if the Borough was going to be responsible for paying for the removal of the tree on Main St. Council answered this was a request for permission to remove the tree not for payment of removal of the tree. The reason the tree is being requested for removal is because of root growth damaging the sewer lines at the neighboring property.
- Pat Hess reported to Code Enforcement Officer James Haney that on the corner of Johnson Ave. and Pfahler St. the bushes cover the intersection and stop sign. In order to see oncoming traffic you must be in the middle of the intersection. Mr. Haney promised to look into the situation when he arrived on Tuesday afternoon.
- Anita Rose asked the council and audience to participate in the study she has to do for her Masters Degree. She is recording the health care needs of a small community. Such as the air quality from the fish plant, sidewalk maintenance, heart disease, cancer and etc. Please stay after the meeting to discuss your concerns with Anita.

CODE ENFORCEMENT REPORT:

- Code Enforcement Officer James Haney reported that he issued 6 permits and 23 issues in the Borough during the month of September.
- Mr. Haney will also take care of the concern brought up by Pat Hess.

CORRESPONDENCE:

- SCA Yearbook committee is seeking business wanting to place an add in the yearbook. The cost is \$35 for a 1/8th of a page.
- PennDot will begin the construction of the bridge on Rt. 42 across Catawissa Creek in March of 2010. Completion should be November 2010. Concessions will be made for the Bloomsburg Fair and the Catawissa Halloween Parade.
- A Thank You note from the Catawissa Township Girl Scouts is available for all to view.

WATER:

- Water Authority Superintendent Cindy Bachman had nothing new to report.

POLICE:

- Sergeant Kopitsky reported that during the month the police responded to 186 incidents.
- Officer Hagenmeyer has completed her Tazer training. Brandon Beck has also completed his training.
- Officer Weisman is still on Worker's Comp after sustaining an injury last month.
- 2 tires were replaced.
- Firearms qualification was postponed due to lack of time.
- The 102 annual Halloween Parade is set for October 31st. All permits are filed.

POLICE & EMERGENCY RESPONSE CHAIRMAN:

- Committee Chairperson Forest McClintock had nothing to add to Tonys' report.

MAYOR:

- Mayor Steve Atherton was absent.

COMMUNITY IMPROVEMENT, ACTIVITY CENTERS & RECREATION:

- Committee Chairperson Barb Reese announced that the Heritage Day Festival was well received. Approximately 50 people attended with others participating in the walking tour and the Quaker Meeting tour.
- Looking into the River Trails project. The project will connect Bloomsburg, Catawissa and Danville.
- Barb will also be sending out a thank you to the Girl Scouts for the wonderful job they did with the flowers at Eyer Park.

PERSONNEL CHAIRMAN:

- Committee Chairperson Forest McClintock had nothing to report at this time.
- Mr. McClintock did want to clarify the statement made last meeting regarding the non-uniform union not willing to give anything. The fact is the union did come back with an alternative health care plan. After review of the plan by the personnel committee there would have been no savings. Forest apologized for the error.

PROPERTY, SUPPLY & BUILDING MAINTENANCE CHAIRMAN:

- Committee Chairman Gary Steinruck stated that today or tomorrow the company will be in to install the frequency drives at the sewer plant.
- Some of the street lights outlined in last months proposal have been turned off. This will continue until the job is done.

FINANCE CHAIRMAN:

- Committee Chairperson Linda Kashner informed council that a \$100,000 CD came due. The electric company is \$70,000 in the red. Money was transferred to the general fund. Income was \$19,000 in the black. The Sewer Department is \$8,800 in the black.
- On October 7th Linda will have a meeting with the department heads to discuss their budget. On Saturday, October 24, 2009 at 8:30am budget meetings will begin. All council members should attend.

UTILITIES COMMITTEE:

- Committee Chairman Scott Keefer stated that work on the delinquent accounts has been progressing.
- Scott talked to Lori Gordner or the Redevelopment Authority. She instructed Scott that the Borough received the grant for the pumps at the sewer plant. Gary Steinruck will have Dale Shobert (Sewer Department Superintendent) to order the pumps needed.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

- Gary Steinruck made a motion to place an ad in the SCA Yearbook for \$35. Barb Reese seconded the motion. All aye, none opposed.
- Linda Kashner made the motion to place the flag stone out for bid. Dottie Linn seconded the motion. Gary Steinruck asked if citizens would have first choice for the flag stone. Clair asked Barry Shell about the worth of the slate it is not worth much because of the amount of cement attached to the stone. After further discussion Linda withdrew her motion until more information was available.
- Barb Reese made the motion to advertise the outdoor furnace ordinance. The motion was seconded by Dottie Linn. Atty. McDonald read from a study from DEP regarding the health hazards of the outside furnace. Ordinance does not outlaw the furnaces but regulates the usage and code regulations. All aye, none opposed. Atty. McDonald will advertise the ordinance.
- Scott is working on a policy regarding the handling of delinquent accounts.

NEW BUSINESS:

- Dottie Linn made the motion to appoint Linda Kashner to the Act 32 Tax Committee. Barb Reese seconded the motion. All aye, none opposed.
- Scott Keefer made the motion to allow Thomas Jaskiewicz to remove a tree at 128 Main St. because of roots blocking sewer line at 130 Main St. Linda Kashner seconded the motion. All aye, none opposed.
- Gary Steinruck made the motion to provide pizza for emergency volunteers after the Catawissa Halloween Parade. Motion was seconded by Dottie Linn. All aye, none opposed.
- Linda Kashner made the motion to accept George Romania's resignation. Seconded by Barb Reese. All aye, none opposed.
- Barb Reese made the motion to accept the retirement of Police Chief Mark Hardin. The motion was seconded by Dottie Linn. All aye, none opposed.
- Dottie Linn made the motion to recognize Sergeant Anthony Kopitsky as "Officer in Charge". Motion seconded by Barb Reese. Tony will not accept the Chief pay until Mark's official retirement date of November 11, 2009. All aye, none opposed.
- Barb Reese made the motion to appoint Forest McClintock as president of Council. Dottie Linn seconded the motion. All aye, none opposed.

- Barb Reese made the motion to appoint Scott Keefer as Vice President of Council. Forest asked Scott; would his work schedule allow his participation. Scott will try the best he can. All aye, none opposed.
- Barb Reese made the motion to advertise for a part-time police officer. Dottie Linn seconded the motion. After discussion. All aye, none opposed.
- Gary Steinruck made the motion to donate to the Catawissa Halloween Parade Committee. Dottie Linn seconded the motion. All aye, none opposed.
- Dottie Linn made the motion to donate \$1,000 to the committee. Gary Steinruck seconded the motion. All aye, none opposed.
- Dottie Linn made the motion to appoint Diane Holenda as treasurer. Gary Steinruck seconded the motion. All aye, none opposed.

FINANCE:

- Barb Reese made the motion to accept the payment of the bills as written. The motion was seconded by Linda Kashner. All aye, none opposed.

Gary Steinruck made the motion to add to the agenda a second “Guests to be Heard” section. Scott Keefer seconded the motion. All aye, none opposed.

GUESTS TO BE HEARD:

- Barry Krum expressed his concern to having Trick or Treat Night on a Friday night.
- Barry Krum asked if the Borough really needs 24/7 police protection. Forest McClintock cited House Bill-HR 1500. This bill is in committee with the House of Representatives and states that communities utilizing the State Police will pay a fee.
- Pat Hess remarked that even with the coverage we have now if our police are helping another town and something happens here the State Police will have to be called so some costs may be accrued.
- Barb Savage asked for 2 copies of the police report.
- Barb Savage asked Linda Kashner if she is still figuring how many residential homes are using 1000 KWH or more as she was doing in the past.
- Linda stated that she stopped doing the comparison because of budget preparations.

ADJOURNMENT:

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

Meeting adjourned
 Submitted by:
 Kimberly Rhoades
 Secretary