

CATAWISSA BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING
MONDAY, NOVEMBER 9, 2009 @ 7:00 pm.

CALL TO ORDER:

- The meeting was called to order by Council President Forest McClintock.
- The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.
- Council President Forest McClintock welcomed everyone and congratulated newly elected members of council.

ROLL CALL:

- Present were: Forest McClintock, Dottie Linn, Barb Reese, Linda Kashner, Scott Keefer, Gary Steinruck, Mayor Steve Atherton, Atty. Anthony McDonald.
- Forest McClintock introduced Michael Gregorowicz as the Junior Council Member. Mike is a high school student from Southern Columbia School and will be attending council meetings during the school year. He will be able to voice an opinion but will not have a vote.
- None were absent.

READING OF THE MINUTES:

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

GUESTS TO BE HEARD:

- Wayne Kashner spoke on behalf of the Central Pennsylvania Historic Preservation Committee. Mr. Kashner updated everyone on the progress being made at the Union Cemetery. Approximately 74-75 stones have been repaired or reset. A piece of the slate from the old wall on Church St has been made into a sign by Mike Wingate. The dimensions are approx. 3'h, 4'w, 2 1/2' t, the weight is around 400lbs. A site needs to be established for placing the stone. Council suggested that the C.P.H.P.C. get together with Mr. Haney, Code Enforcement Officer, to determine the placement of the stone.

CODE ENFORCEMENT REPORT:

- Code Enforcement Officer James Haney reported to council that there were 8 building permits and 16 complaints issued last month.

CORRESPONDENCE:

- A proposal for an add in the Press Enterprise supporting the Southern Columbia Football Team in the playoffs
- Newly appointed officials seminar in February presented by PSAB.
- An invitation to the Sr. Center Thanksgiving Dinner. November 17th beginning at 10:00am till 1:00pm
- PSAB meeting at Portabella's November 17th at 6:30pm

WATER:

- Water Authority Superintendent Cindy Bachman reported that the Handheld units company SENSUS has discontinued the support for the handhelds. Upgrades are available Cindy will contact the Borough with the price of upgrades. The software will be supported just the hardware support has been discontinued.

UTILITIES:

- Committee Chairman Scott Keefer updated council on the progress being made on the delinquent electric accounts.

POLICE:

- “Officer in Charge” Anthony Kopitsky reported that the police responded to 180 calls as documented by county dispatch.
- Officer Brandon Beck and Officer Jonna Hagemeyer have finished training and are now in the field.
- Officer Weisman is still on worker’s comp. due to injury.
- The vehicles have had the winter tires installed. The tires lost in the fire at Blass Garage have been replaced by insurance claim. The only cost to the Borough was the mounting cost.
- The Halloween Parade went well for the Borough. Sergeant Kopitsky thanked all of the volunteers for their work at the Parade.
- Bloomsburg will no longer be processing prisoners. (Such as fingerprinting, photographs for the FBI etc.) The officers will learn to process prisoners on their own.
- The state will no longer reimburse for education and training updates mandatory to be a police officer. The cost of the training and education is approx. \$60 per officer.

POLICE & EMERGENCY RESONSE CHAIRPERSON:

- Committee Chairperson Forest McClintock had nothing new to report at this time.

MAYOR:

- Mayor Steve Atherton had nothing new to report at this time.
- Mr. Atherton thanked everyone for their support during his hospital stay and recovery from his recent illness.

COMMUNITY IMPROVEMENT, ACTIVITY CENTERS & RECREATION CHAIRPERSON:

- Committee Chairperson Barb Reese had nothing new to report at this time.

PROPERTY, SUPPLY & BUIKDING MAINTENANCE CHAIRMAN:

- Committee Chairperson Gary Steinruck reported that the pumps approved last month have been ordered and will arrive sometime in December.
- The valve needs to be replaced on the speed pump this will cost in the neighborhood of \$1,900.

- Gary thanks everyone for attending the open house at the new borough barn. Dottie Linn stated that Gary was at the Open House from 8-12 and Barb, Dottie and Linda were there from 12-4.

PERSONNEL:

- Committee Chairperson Forest McClintock reported that negotiations for the non-uniform contract are ongoing.

FINANCE CHAIRPERSON:

- Finance Chairperson Linda Kashner reported that she met with Gar Thomas of ETA Benefits Group regarding health, life, disability insurance options.
- Linda and Barb also met with Doug of Thomas Anderson in regards to the pension plan. Doug explained the pension process.
- The committee also met with PLGIT (Pennsylvania Local Government Investment Trust) regarding finance issues such as checking, savings, money markets and CD's.
- Linda met with Gregg Dibble of PennDot regarding the grant we received for the Union Cemetery wall. We will be receiving the funds as soon as the paperwork is processed.
- The first budget meeting was Oct. 24 the next meeting will be held Saturday, November 14th at 8:30am. The council will work until the budget is complete and ready for approval at the next months meeting.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

- Dottie Linn made the motion to approve the Outdoor Furnace Ordinance prepared by Atty. McDonald. Barb Reese seconded the motion. This ordinance regulates the things allowed to be burned in an outdoor furnace. All aye, none opposed.
- No motion was made to turn the street lights back on.
- Barb Reese made the motion to hire Jeffrey Price as Part-time police officer pending back ground check by Sergeant Kopitsky. Gary Steinruck seconded the motion. All aye, none opposed.
- Council discussed the possibility of a street light tax or a \$2 increase to the light bill. The ideas will be advertised in the newspaper so residents can come to the next council meeting to speak regarding the increase.

NEW BUSINESS:

- Linda Kashner made the motion to renew the Evans Disposal contract at \$150.00. Dottie Linn seconded the motion. All aye, none opposed.
- Linda Kashner made the motion to remove the "Killed in Service" portion of the insurance premium. The State is now covering this benefit so the Borough would be duplicating a benefit. Scott Keefer seconded the motion. All aye, none opposed.
- Scott Keefer made the motion to revise the purchase policy now requiring employees to submit a purchase order for approval by the Finance Committee of

any purchase over \$50. The previous policy stated that purchases above \$200 must be approved. Barb Reese seconded the motion. All aye, none opposed.

- Barb Reese made the motion to place the 1999 Crown Vic Police cruiser for sale after the police equipment has been removed. The motion was seconded by Dottie Linn. After discussion all aye, none opposed.
- Dottie Linn made the motion to allow The Academy of Little Learners to decorate the Christmas tree. The motion was seconded by Scott Keefer. All aye, none opposed.

FINANCE:

- Scott Keefer made the motion accept as written the payment of the bills. Gary Steinruck seconded the motion. All aye, none opposed.

GUESTS TO BE HEARD:

- Barb Savage asked if the street light tax will be advertised so residents are aware of the increase.
- Forest McClintock said that it will be placed in the Southside Beat.
- Barry Krum asked if he could run wires across the alley for his mothers' garage so that the meter can be removed. Harry Young, Light Department Superintendent, stated that wires must have 18' clearance.
- Barry reported that the lights at the pavilion on 3rd street were on. They turned them off but wanted someone aware of the situation. Council instructed Harry to turn them off at the breaker.

Garry Steinruck informed council again that the valves at the sewer plant will cost \$1,900.

Forest McClintock announced to council he needed to discuss a personnel issue after the meeting.

ADJOURNMENT:

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

MEETING ADJOURNED

Submitted by:
Kimberly Rhoades
Secretary