

CATAWISSA BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING MONDAY, DECEMBER 7, 2009 AT 7:00 PM

CALL TO ORDER:

- The meeting was called to order by Council President Forest McClintock.
- The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

ROLL CALL:

- Present were: Forest McClintock, Barb Reese, Linda Kashner, Scott Keefer, Gary Steinruck, Jr. Council Michael Gregorowicz, and Attorney Anthony McDonald.
- Absent were: Dottie Linn, Mayor Steve Atherton.

READING OF THE MINUTES:

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

GUESTS TO BE HEARD:

- Wayne Kashner of the Zoning Hearing Board addressed council regarding the mandatory yearly meeting held December 1, 2009 members are Linda Haines, Wayne Kashner and Donald Long. During the zoning hearing board meeting Wayne Kashner was appointed Chairman of the Board and because it is his turn for a 3 year term asked council to vote to appoint Kashner to the 3 year term. Mr. Kashner also informed council that Alice Dawn Linn's term as alternate board member has expired and does not feel the need to fill the position.
- Diane Grieser, representing the Area Agency on Aging, spoke to council regarding the availability of grants for the Sr. Center. Would council like any projects done to the Center? Large or small projects are available. Council suggested Gary get together with Diane and Harry to compile a repair list. They decided to meet Tuesday, December 15th at 9:00 am. The grant stipulates that for every \$5,000 awarded the Borough must allow the Sr. Center to operate for 1 year.
- Jody Bachman, a resident of the Borough, would like to place containers in the recycling area for tabs from aluminum cans to benefit the Ronald McDonald House. Jody would take care of the containers maintenance. She will also take tabs to the Ronald McDonald House.
- Cindy Bachman will check into the meeting of the Catawissa Creek Watershed Rivers Conservation Plan Project to ascertain if a council member should attend.
- Gail Hummer complained about the cost of her electric bill.
- Linda Neyer also questioned the increase in her electric usage.
- Barb Savage questioned the increase in her electric usage.

CODE ENFORCEMENT OFFICER:

- Code and Zoning Officer James Haney reported to council his office issued 7 building permits and investigated 16 complaints.
- The Verizon tower is on schedule. They will be laying a concrete pad this month to move the transformers as per the contract. The remaining is scheduled to be completed in April.

CORRESPONDENCE:

- PSAB annual conference date is April 22-25 in Pittsburg.

WATER:

- Water Authority Superintendent Cindy Bachman is investigating the price of upgrading and updating the handhelds.

UTILITIES COMMITTEE:

- Committee Chairman Scott Keefer reported that work continues on the delinquent electric account. Progress is being made but it will take some time.
- A lien has been placed on Hillside Village for \$6,244 for past due electric bills from tenants that have moved out of the area.

POLICE:

- “Officer in Charge” Anthony Kopitsky reported to council that during the month of November the police responded to 136 dispatches as recorded by communications.
- Officer Weisman continues to be on Worker’s Comp. from an injury sustained in the line of duty. He is scheduled for evaluation by his doctor in January.
- New hire Jeffrey Price has passed his certification test. The police are still waiting on the psychiatric evaluation before he can be put in uniform.
- The communication center has announced that they are going to a narrow band frequency. After the 1999 Crown Vic is stripped the radio is compliant and will be able to be used. So no costs should be incurred. Communications will be doing a frequency upgrade on Thursday (12/10/09). Tony is not sure if this will affect anyone with a scanner or other devices.
- New rotors and brakes were installed on the 2006 Crown Vic. The 1999 has not been stripped because there is a problem with the lighting control on the 2003. A part will have to be ordered.
- Mandatory updates will begin in January. The borough will have to pay for these updates because of state budget cuts. Even though they are mandatory Governor Rendell did not budget for these upgrades.
- Representatives of the Fire Company spoke to council with the certainty the narrow band change will also affect the Fire Company greatly. They will need financial help in the future when the change goes into affect. The cost is not known at this time.
- EMA will also be affected but at a smaller scale. Michael Lindenmuth EMA Coordinator will look into this for the next council meeting.

POLICE & EMERGENCY RESPONSE CHAIRMAN:

- Committee Chairman Forest McClintock had nothing new to report.

MAYOR:

- Mayor Steve Atherton was not in attendance.

COMMUNITY IMPROVEMENT, ACTIVITY CENTERS & RECREATION
CHAIRMAN:

- Committee Chairperson Barb Reese is looking into several companies to possibly move into Catawissa. The Catawissa Lumber building would be a possible site for a new business.

PROPERTY, SUPPLY & BUILDING MAINTENANCE CHAIRMAN:

- Committee Chairman Gary Steinruck did not have much to report due to the number of vacations being taken this time of year. The Halloween decorations have been replaced with Christmas decorations.
- Harry is having difficulty getting phone service to the new barn.

PERSONNEL CHAIRMAN:

- Committee Chairman Forest McClintock had nothing new to report. Negotiations for the Non-Uniform contract are on going.

FINANCE CHAIRMAN:

- Committee Chairperson Linda Kashner gave information about interest rates for the CD that has come due.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

- Gary Steinruck made the motion to sign the resolution absolving the police from contributing to the pension plan. Scott Keefer seconded the motion. After discussion Gary Steinruck made a motion to table until more information is available. Barb Reese Seconded the motion to table.
- There was a discussion regarding the recycling program. Mike Gregorowicz suggested a newspaper article to explain the situation. We will make signs and put information in the newspaper and try the recycling program for another month or two. If people continue to dispose recyclable improperly council will discontinue the program.
- Barb Reese made the motion to reinstate the “Killed in Service” insurance benefit for the police officers. Linda Kashner seconded the motion. All aye, none opposed.

NEW BUSINESS:

- Linda Kashner made the motion to accept the rent agreement from the Area Agency on Aging for the Sr. Center at a 3% increase. Barb Reese seconded the motion. All aye, none opposed.
- Linda Kashner made the motion to raise the sewer rates \$3 from \$28.00 to \$31.00. The motion was seconded by Gary Steinruck. Forest McClintock explained that the increase was due to the need of a study to receive grant money. The cost of the study will be approx. \$30,000. The study will list the repairs and updates needed to the Sewer plant. All aye, none opposed.
- Linda Kashner made the motion to raise the electric base rate \$5. Gary Steinruck seconded the motion. The raise will only affect the residents and business not a residential garage. All aye, none opposed.
- Barb Reese made the motion to approve the 2010 budget. The motion was seconded by Gary Steinruck. All aye, none opposed.
- Scott Keefer made the motion to renew CET Engineering service agreement. Gary Steinruck seconded the motion. All aye, none opposed.
- Council had a discussion of the forgiving of the electric bills to the fire company. Council asked to have a meeting with the Fire Company to discuss ways to reduce the usage.
- Skeeter Helwig offered to apply and test for the pesticide license.
- Barb Reese made the motion to accept the Herring & Roll audit agreement. Scott Keefer seconded the motion. All aye, none opposed.
- Council directed Attorney McDonald to advertise the PLGIT ordinance. Council would like to place \$250,000 in First Columbia for 18 months and \$350,000 in PLGIT.
- Gary Steinruck made the motion to accept the revised MMO Pension report. Scott Keefer seconded the motion. All aye, none opposed.
- Forest McClintock read the resolution to deem Michael Gregorowicz as Jr. Councilperson for 1 year. All aye, none opposed.
- Barb Reese made the motion to appoint Wayne Kashner to a 3 year term to the Zoning Hearing Board. Gary Steinruck seconded the motion. All aye, none opposed.

FINANCE:

- Gary Steinruck made the motion to pay the bills as written. Barb Reese seconded the motion. All aye, none opposed.

GUESTS TO BE HEARD:

- Linda Neyer asked council to reinterpret Roberts Rules and allow comment from the audience during the meeting.
- Pat Hess wanted to make sure the agenda was going to be displayed either on the web site and/or on the door.
- Gary Steinruck made the motion to accept the changes to the next years meeting dates. The July and September meetings will be moved to the following Monday because of holidays. The meeting in January is the 4th because this year being a

reorganization year. Reorganization meeting must be held on the first Monday of the year. Scott Keefer seconded the motion. All aye, none opposed.

ADJOURNMENT:

- Barb Reese made the motion to adjourn. Scott Keefer seconded the motion. All aye, none opposed.

Meeting adjourned.

Submitted by
Kimberly Rhoades
Secretary