

**CATAWISSA BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING
MONDAY, JULY 7, 2008 7:00 PM.**

CALL TO ORDER:

- The meeting was called to order by Council President George Romania.
- The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by all in attendance.

George Romania announced that there was an executive session to discuss personnel and negotiation matters.

ROLL CALL:

- Roll call was as follows: Present were George Romania, Deneen Casey, Dottie Linn, Barb Reese, John Sabol, Forest McClintock, Linda Kashner, Mayor Patrick Sinclair, Borough Manager Jane Graham, Atty. Anthony McDonald. None were absent.

READING OF THE MINUTES:

- Deneen Casey made a motion to dispense with the reading of and approve the minutes of the previous months meeting. Seconded by Dottie Linn. All aye, none opposed.

SOLICITOR:

- Atty. McDonald addressed the oversight of last months meeting not being advertised in the public notices section of the paper and the necessity for a re-vote of June's meeting.

GUESTS TO BE HEARD:

- Mr. Larry Santora, a service representative, from Service Electric Cablevision, addressed council regarding a proposal for offering the Borough phone and internet service. The proposal would save the Borough about \$212.36 per month. This would be on a monthly basis unless council decides to sign a yearly contract. Service Electric only offers static IP for internet security.
- Barb Reese introduced Pastor Calvin Rich. Pastor Rich is the new pastor for First Church in Catawissa and is very interested in a youth program. Mr. Rich spoke to the council indicating an interest in involving the church with the community.
- Angeline Emmons addressed council about the planting project the Girl Scouts are working on. The Girl Scouts have been planting flowers at the Eyer Park. They have used the \$50 donated by Mayor Patrick Sinclair. A motion was made by Barb Reese to donate \$100 to the Girl Scouts for supplies needed for the project. The motion was seconded by Dottie Linn. All aye, none opposed.

- Linda Kashner spoke as representative of the Catawissa Preservation Historic Group. The Quick Crete Company will donate 42 bags of quick-crete for the project of fixing the Union Cemetery. The Group had a work session with Mr. Singley from the monument company. After a work session a community work day will be held.

CODE ENFORCEMENT REPORT:

- Mr. Haney reported the Code Enforcement Office responded to 22 incidents, issued 11 permits and wrote 3 letters concerning the condition of properties.
- Jim expressed an interest in speaking to Atty. McDonald regarding working on writing an Ordinance about outside furnaces. An outside furnace is a heating unit for your home that goes outside and is capable of using a variety of fuel sources. Some of the sources cause an unpleasant odor. Jim would like to have the ordinance restrict the fuel sources to eliminate the odor issue.
- Sunoco has signed a sales agreement. Jim, and Forest McClintock will meet with Sunoco regarding the condition of the curbs and sidewalks of the property. They are in disrepair.

MANAGER'S REPORT:

- DCED has approved a grant to help pay for the fire siren in the amount of \$10,500.
- Clair, Bill and the prisoners have been working on the parks with mulching and fixing up of the band shell.
- The paving will begin soon for the Borough streets. Quinn Ave. will be part of the paving project.
- ADA ramps cost will come out of Liquid Fuels.
- The Rt. 42 paving project will begin about July 17, 2008.
- The Diffuser Digester project for the Sewer Plant has been completed. The final inspection will be held on Wed. July 9, 2008 with CET, Lori Gordner, Jane and Dale. The next grant project will be for the belt press. Jane and Dale Shobert will decide the best solution for the grant process.
- The Electric Department has been working on rewiring of Walnut St. They are working on replacing wires and poles. This is a maintenance job.
- Kid's Day, the brain child of Forest McClintock, was a great success. Hopefully this will be an annual event.
- The Summer Breeze series has also been doing well. The Wolfgang family was very appreciative of the park dedication.

WATER:

- The water authority had nothing to report at this time due to Cindy Bachman's absence.

POLICE:

- Chief Harding thanked every one for their support during his absence and expressed his happiness to be back at the job.
- The Police department received a grant for \$65,000 for cameras for the cruisers. These cameras cover both the front and rear view of the police cruiser. A demonstration of these will be held Tuesday at 10:30 am for any of council that would like to attend.
- Forest McClintock made the motion to accept the resignation of Officer Joseph Eister to take effect on July 31. The motion was seconded by Deneen Casey. All aye, none opposed.
- Forest McClintock made the motion to advertise for a part-time police officer. Seconded by Barb Reese. The applicants that were interviewed previously will be contacted to reapply. All aye, none opposed.

POLICE & EMERGENCY RESPONSE CHAIRMAN:

- John Sabol reported that the police responded to 203 incidents in the month of June.

MAYOR:

- The Mayor reported about the PSAB conference he and other members of council attended in June at Seven Springs. Mayor Sinclair considered this a very good learning experience and encourages more people to attend in the future.
- On July 11 and July 25 there will be a meeting of the youth committee at the Borough Hall at 7:00 pm. Pastor Calvin Rich was also encouraged to attend this meeting and to invite youths of the community to attend.
- The Summer Breeze Concert Series has been well attended. He has asked the street department to place a more solid barrier at the alley entrances to keep vehicles from entering the alley.
- Please announce before the concert begins that there are no pets allowed in the park area.

COMMUNITY IMPROVEMENT, ACTIVITY CENTERS & RECREATION CHAIRMAN:

- Chairman Barb Reese thanked Linda Kashner for the organization of the Ralph Wolfgang Memorial Park Dedication. The Wolfgang family truly appreciated the recognition to Mr. Ralph Wolfgang.
- The Summer Breeze Series is going very well. The non-profit vendors are pleased with the result. They are not making a lot of sales but they are establishing a presence in the community.
- The Battle of the Bands will be held on Friday, July 18, 2008 starting at 6:00 pm at CARA Park. A strong council presence would be appreciated.
- The Farmers Market is progressing slowly. The farmers do not have enough product as of yet. We will keep trying.

PROPERTY, SUPPLY & BUILDING MAINTENANCE CHAIRMAN:

- Forest McClintock asked that next year for kid's day volunteers are greatly needed. People to move tables, help with games, do other tasks.
- Something needs to be done to the stone wall on Church St. at the cemetery. There was a discussion among council to figure the best solution to the problem. Forest will join with Jim Haney and Clair Kingston to see what the best solution will be.
- Forest asked if there was an ordinance in the books regarding blowing grass out onto the street or on the sidewalk. Jim Haney stated that there is an ordinance pertaining to this problem. Mr. Haney has already dealt with this complaint and the person has been warned.

PERSONNEL CHAIRMAN:

- Personnel Chairman George Romania had nothing to report at this time.

FINANCE CHAIRMAN:

- Linda Kashner had nothing to report at this time.

NEW BUSINESS:

- Barb Reese made the motion for the Borough to no longer accept payment deals with Hillside Village residence. The motion was seconded by Dottie Linn. This action was taken due to the lack of co-operation from the Hillside Village residence and because of a request from Hillside Village Management. All aye, none opposed.
- Linda Kashner made the motion to accept the bid from Evans Disposal Service for Dumpster day on September 13, 2008. Catawissa Township will be joining in the Dumpster day and will pay for one half of the cost. The motion was seconded by Forest McClintock. All aye, none opposed.
- Barb Reese made a motion to appoint Jane Graham as the "Public Records Official" who is responsible for providing requested materials or forwarding denials to our Solicitor. Kim Rhoades was chosen as the alternate. The motion was seconded by Dottie Linn. All aye, none opposed.
- Linda Kashner made the motion to adopt a Public Comment Policy. The policy will be available at the Borough Hall for public review. The motion was seconded by John Sabol. All aye, none opposed.
- The vote regarding First Columbia Bank and Trust to accepting credit card payments was tabled until next meeting. I was the consensus of the group the ACH would be a better way to go.
- The vote regarding the Sirius Group in conjunction with Gaul's would like the Borough to renew its' service agreement at a cost of \$2,782 was tabled until Gaul's could be consulted as to whether this agreement was needed.
- Linda Kashner made the motion to change our phone service from Verizon to Service Electric to save approx. \$200 per month. The motion was seconded by Deneen Casey. This will be on a 6 month trial basis. All aye, none opposed.

- Dottie Linn made the motion to hire Diane Holenda as a consultant for the office of Treasurer. The motion was seconded by Barb Reese. The starting salary will be \$13.15 per hour. All aye, none opposed.

FINANCE:

- Linda Kashner made the motion to pay the bills. Seconded by Forest McClintock. All aye, none opposed.

ADJOURNMENT:

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