

**CATAWISSA BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING
MONDAY AUGUST 11, 2008 7:00 P.M.**

CALL TO ORDER:

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

ROLL CALL:

- 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 MINUTES:

- Linda Kashner made a 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:

- Linda Kashner updated council regarding the Catawissa Historic Preservation Group's project of fixing up the Union Cemetery. Quikrete donated a palate of Quikrete cement for the project and volunteers worked to replace headstones.

CODE ENFORCEMENT REPORT:

- James Haney had nothing to report at meeting time.

CORRESPONDENCE:

- Joe Benware of the Little League organization had a complaint regarding the home owned by Donna Snyder that is near the Little League field. The complaint was taken care of immediately. The property is now cleaned and presentable.
- First Church has a request to purchase the paper alley behind the church. The request is on the agenda for vote and discussion under New Business.

MANAGERS REPORT:

- Due to the Street Department asphalt index doubling, some of the street projects may not be able to be completed this year. Bill Toomey and Clair Kingston attended a Street Bonding conference recently. Because of storm damage, the street department is picking up limbs. Anyone in need of limb pick up should call the Borough Office.

- The final inspections and payments have been made for the Diffuser Digester Project at the Sewer Plant. Next year, Dale Shobert and Jane Graham are looking into replacing the pumps in that section of the Sewer Plant.
- The Electric Department workers have been replacing lines and poles on Walnut St. The pole barn project is going well under Forest McClintock's supervision.
- Jane is working with First Columbia to set up the Auto Pay program for interested residents to pay their bill electronically. Interested residents will sign up at the Borough Office. A mass mailing with details will be included with the electric and sewer bill.
- The budget plan program has been installed to the billing program. A policy for eligibility for this program is being drawn up by Jane Graham. The program will allow residents to pay their estimated average monthly bill all year. This means during the summer and winter months, residents would pay the same budgeted amount. A letter explaining the budget plan will also be included in the mass mailing.
- PMEA annual electric conference is in October. Jane has requested that Kim Rhoades, Harry Young and any interested council member attend the event.

WATER:

- Cindy Bachman had her first meeting with DEP regarding the Source Water Protection Plan. Forest McClintock and George Romania, who volunteered to be part of the committee, are requested to arrange an available date in September for Cindy to set up the meeting.
- Cindy asked council if the tower from Verizon would interfere with water lines.
- Tony suggested the Water Authority reviews the flood mitigation ordinance. He did not see anything that would affect the Water Authority but advised that it would be better to have the attorney review the ordinance.

POLICE:

- The police department is running short staffed because of Joe Eister's resignation.
- The police log will be submitted to the press after the council meeting.

MAYOR:

- Mayor Patrick Sinclair expressed his appreciation for the fine work from the police department.
- Mayor Sinclair shared his concern about safety issues regarding the kids climbing the tree to the pillar at the creek by the CARA Park. Barb Reese made the motion to have Don Brown remove the tree in the creek at the railroad trestle for \$700. The motion was seconded by John Sabol. After a discussion Barb Reese withdrew her motion until further information could be obtained.

At this time, the meeting protocol was broken temporarily for Mayor Patrick Sinclair and Chief Mark Hardin to present commendation medals and commendation letters to Sergeant Anthony Kopitsky and Corporal Scott Fronk for their life saving measures.

COMMUNITY IMPROVEMENT, ACTIVITY CENTERS & RECREATION CHAIRMAN:

- Committee Chairman Barb Reese reported that the Music Series was a great success. Joe Gaughan's efforts made the concerts series something the community can view with pride. We are looking forward to a continuation of the series next year.
- Parks and Recreation meetings will begin again in October to start planning for next year.

PROPERTY, SUPPLY & BUILDING MAINTENANCE CHAIRMAN:

- Committee Chairman Forest McClintock thanked Barb Reese for all she has done this year for the Parks and Recreation.
- Mr. McClintock had nothing new to report at this time.

PERSONNEL CHAIRMAN:

- Personnel Chairman George Romania reported that the committee will be meeting soon to discuss Jane Graham's contract and Bill Toomey's status.

FINANCE CHAIRMAN:

- Finance Chairman Linda Kashner reported that the finance committee will begin budget meetings in September.

OLD BUSINESS:

- Council discussed the possibility of placing parking meters on Main St. After much discussion, the council decided to direct the police to enforce the ordinance by marking tires with chalk.

NEW BUSINESS:

- Forest McClintock made the motion to adopt the floodplain management ordinance within Catawissa Borough. The Ordinance is on file at the Borough Office for review. The motion was seconded by Dottie Linn. All aye, none opposed.
- Linda Kashner made the motion to contract with Penn DOT to renovate ADA ramps along Main Street for an estimated cost of \$31,536.20. This can be paid out of our Liquid Fuels fund. The motion was seconded by Deneen Casey. All aye, none opposed.

- A motion was made by Forest McClintock to allow Verizon wireless to place a cell tower on Borough property. One or two council members, Jane and a Verizon representative will get together to review possible locations for the tower. The monthly Verizon fee will be negotiated at that time. The motion was seconded by Dottie Linn. All aye, none opposed.
- Dottie Linn made the motion to sponsor a pizza party for the Catawissa Girl Scout Troop as a thank you gift for their beautification activities. Also a \$100.00 check will be sent to Joe Gaughan and \$50.00 to Charlie Mausteller for their extensive work with the Summer Breeze Concert Series. The motion was seconded by Linda Kashner. All aye, none opposed.
- Forest McClintock made the motion to hire William Toomey as a full time employee. The motion was seconded by Dottie Linn. After a discussion Forest rescinded his motion to say that council should wait until Mr. Toomey's six month evaluation. The motion was seconded by Dottie Linn. All aye, none opposed.
- Forest McClintock made a motion to advertise an ordinance mandating landlords to provide the Borough and the Tax Collector with a quarterly registration form identifying tenants. The motion was seconded by Linda Kashner. All aye, none opposed.
- Dottie Linn made the motion to transfer the paper alley behind First Church on South Street to First Church. Atty. McDonald will handle the paperwork in the most efficient way possible. The motion was seconded by Deneen Casey. Barb Reese abstained. All aye, none opposed.

FINANCE:

- A motion was made by Linda Kashner to pay the bills as written. The motion was seconded by Forest McClintock. All aye, none opposed.

ADJOURNMENT:

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

Meeting adjourned.

Submitted by
Kimberly Rhoades
Secretary