

CATAWISSA BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING
MONDAY, OCTOBER 6, 2008
7:00 PM AT THE BOROUGH HALL

CALL TO ORDER:

- The meeting was called to order by Council President George Romania
- The pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Council President George Romania announced to the audience there was an executive meeting prior to the regularly scheduled meeting to discuss personnel and legal matters.

ROLL CALL:

- Present were: George Romania, Deneen Casey, Dottie Linn, Barb Reese, John Sabol, Forest McClintock, Mayor Patrick Sinclair, Borough Manager Jane Graham, Atty. Anthony McDonald. Absent was Linda Kashner.

READING OF MINUTES:

- Forest McClintock made the motion to dispense with the reading of and approve as written the previous months minutes. The motion was seconded by Dottie Linn. All aye, none opposed.

GUESTS TO BE HEARD:

- Pat Hess asked if before hiring Mr. Toomey as a full time employee: Should the full time position have been advertised in the newspaper?
- Forest McClintock questioned whether Kim's position was advertised when she was hired as part time and when she transferred to full time? Council informed Forest that Kim was not hired as part time but was hired as a Temporary employee and when the full time position became available applied and was interviewed.
- Sharon Krum asked if the landlord meeting was rescheduled. Jane informed Ms. Krum the meeting was rescheduled for Wednesday, October 29, 2008 at 6:00 pm at the Borough Hall.

CODE ENFORCEMENT REPORT:

- James Haney reported that in the month of September he issued 7 permits and dealt with 18 issues.

CORRESPONDENCE:

- Borough Manager Jane Graham informed council that our liquid fuels allotment has decreased by about \$1,000.

- Jane Graham received a fax from Danville Borough stating that all requests for fire police should come from council. George Romania needs to sign the request and Jane will fax the request back to Danville Borough.

MANAGERS REPORT:

- Borough Manager Jane Graham asked Sewer Department Superintendent Dale Shobert report for his department.
- Dale reported to council that the Catawissa Monument company would like to tie into the sewer line for an apartment. The Diffuser Digester is working properly.
- Jane reported that the street department and the light department will be picking up leaves and limbs this month. Residents should read Southside Beat or call the Borough office for more information. The street department will continue mowing until the first frost. Quinn Ave. has been paved. The work is only temporary and will need to be done properly at a later date. This will hold it off for a while. The paving was \$2800 over the original project. Because Mr. Achy was so adamant about paving Quinn Ave. it was added for this project.
- The electric department hung the witch and moon on the bluff. They have also hung the banners purchased by the Halloween Parade Committee. The workers will be focusing on the pole barn during the winter months. The building committee is still waiting for the bids for a heating for the new pole barn.
- The first of a series of budget meetings was held on October 1st. The next meeting will be October 15th at 2:00 pm. They will continue every other Wednesday at 2:00 pm. The public is invited to observe the meetings.
- The end of October is the annual PMEA conference.
- Deneen Casey asked about the red barn she has been reading about in the newspaper. Jane explained that the red barn has received flood damage and can no longer be FLOOD insured. It is still insured for liability. The only thing stored in this building is free cinders.

WATER:

- Water Authority Superintendent Cindy Bachman reported that the first meeting of the Water Conservation Committee was Monday, September 29th. The next meeting will be Monday October 27th at 7:00 pm at the Borough Hall. Cindy will check with the Borough Secretary to make sure the date is open and let committee members know. Attendees included: The Conservation District, Catawissa Township, Borough Council, the Water Authority and a gentleman from DEP. The first meeting was mostly a getting to know you meeting. The next meeting will be more informational.
- On the November ballot there will be a referendum regarding water and sewer funding.

George Romania commented on the meeting he and Forest McClintock attended. George did not realize how good the Borough water is and what you can do to keep the quality of water.

POLICE:

- Chief Hardin did not have a prepared report for council due to an incident.
- Chief Hardin asked council to approve the use of area fire police for the Halloween Parade. He also asked council to approve \$350 to Vito's Pizza for food service for parade volunteers.
- Julie Holtzapple has found a full time job and has been instated as limited part time.

POLICE & EMERGENCY RESPONSE CHAIRMAN:

- Committee chairman John Sabol had nothing to report at this time.

MAYOR:

- Mayor Patrick Sinclair offered his services to the Halloween Parade Committee.
- Trick or Treat will be 2 nights this year. Thursday, October 30th and Friday, October 31st from 6-10pm.

COMMUNITY IMPROVEMENT, ACTIVITY CENTERS & RECREATION:

- Committee chairman Barb Reese announced that there will be a Parks and Recreation meeting on October 13th beginning at 7:00 pm at the borough hall to plan events for the 2009 season. The committee will be working with the Finance Committee regarding funding.

PROPERTY, SUPPLY & BUILDING MAINTENANCE CHAIRMAN:

- Committee Chairman Forest McClintock had nothing to add to the Borough Managers update.

PERSONNEL CHAIRMAN:

- Committee Chairman George Romania stated that the only item to report on will be discussed later in the meeting.

FINANCE CHAIRMAN:

- Committee Chairman Linda Kashner was not in attendance so Jane Graham reported that the committee has begun budget meetings. Meetings will be every other Wednesday beginning on Wednesday, October 1st. The second meeting will be Wednesday, October 15th. Meetings begin at 2:00 pm and are held at the Borough Hall.

Deneen Casey asked about items she read in the newspaper claiming the Sewer Department workers were sleeping in their truck in the Weis parking lot. Dale Shobert,

Sewer Department Superintendent responded by stating that on the date he was reported to be sleeping in the truck he was attending conference in State College. The next date Jonathon was out on a personal day. After further discussion both council and employees felt the accusations were not only untrue but hurtful to the employees and the Borough as a whole.

NEW BUSINESS:

- Forest McClintock made a motion to hire William Toomey as a full time employee. The motion was seconded by John Sabol. Deneen Casey was satisfied with the answers to her questions during the executive session. Forest McClintock raised the inquiry of legal ramifications regarding the question made by Pat Hess.
- On advice by Attorney McDonald Dottie Linn made the motion to suspend the hiring policy regarding hiring William Toomey John Sabol seconded the motion. Roll call vote: Forest McClintock NO, Deneen Casey NO, Barb Reese NO, Dottie Linn NO, John Sabol NO.
- Forest McClintock withdrew his motion to hire William Toomey as a full time employee until council can discuss the situation. The motion died for lack of second.
- After a review of the hiring policy and discussion between council and Atty. McDonald Barb Reese made the motion to suspend the hiring policy for this instance only by resolution. The motion was seconded by Dottie Linn. Forest asked for clarification on the motion. Atty. McDonald clarified the motion is for a resolution to suspend the hiring policy for this instance only. Roll Call Vote: George Romania Yes, John Sabol Yes, Dottie Linn Yes, Barb Reese Yes, Deneen Casey Yes, Forest McClintock No. Majority rules motion passed.
- John Sabol made the motion to hire William Toomey as a full time employee. Seconded by Forest McClintock. All aye, none opposed.
- After a discussion a motion was made by Dottie Linn to table the plans for renovation of the upstairs of the Borough Hall. Seconded by Barb Reese. All aye, none opposed. The motion was tabled until a future meeting.
- Forest McClintock made the motion to advertise for bids drop off location recycling. The motion was seconded by Barb Reese. The containers would be lockable so that people could not dump their garbage in the bins. The elderly could call the borough hall for pick up. Guide lines will be drawn up. All aye, none opposed.
- Dottie Linn made the motion to adopt the Open Records Act Ordinance. The motion was seconded by Deneen Casey. All aye, none opposed.
- Deneen Casey made the motion to utilize area fire police for the Halloween Parade. Seconded by Dottie Linn. All aye, none opposed.
- Dottie Linn made a motion to pay Vito's Pizza \$350 for providing a meal for the volunteer fire police during and after the Halloween Parade. Seconded by Forest McClintock. Forest asked how the amount was determined. Chief Mark Hardin responded that Alfredo set the price based on the estimated 30-40 people that will participate. All aye, none opposed.

FINANCE:

- Forest McClintock made the motion to accept the payment of bills as written. The motion was seconded by Barb Reese. Forest asked which of the vehicles was in an accident. The answer was the sewer plant truck was in a small fender bender. 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