

CATAWISSA BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING
MONDAY, MAY 11, 2009 7:00 PM

CALL TO ORDER:

- Council President George Romania called the meeting to order.
- The pledge of allegiance was recited.

ROLL CALL:

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

READING OF THE MINUTES:

- Dottie Linn made the motion to dispense with the reading of and approve the minutes of the previous months meeting. Seconded by Forest McClintock. Linda Kashner asked that the announcement about the May 20th meeting and Tony McDonald's reminder that the Borough would not raise rates again without notifying the public be part of the minutes. With the amendment all aye. None opposed.

GUESTS TO BE HEARD:

- Sharon Babb, Frederick Barklow, and Steve Atherton were in attendance. Sharon Babb is part owner of the Cracker-barrel along with Mr. Barklow. Steve Atherton is the manager of the Cracker-barrel. Sharon spoke to council to ask for the open container ordinance to be amended to allow patrons to dine at the tables on the sidewalk and be able to have alcohol. She has trained wait staff and experience with café style dining. Residents expressed concern about having open glass bottles near the day care. Marnie Yeik asked if alcohol could be placed in glasses during day care hours. Sharon was open to the idea. Skeeter Helwig asked if other restaurants were allowed to have BYOB. Atty. McDonald informed everyone that they would still need a liquor license.
- Forest McClintock made the motion to have Atty. McDonald review the ordinance amendment provided by Jane Graham from Danville Borough, advertise and have for next meeting. The motion was seconded by Linda Kashner. Council restricted the allowance to alcohol in glasses only before 6:00 pm. No restrictions on the weekends. All aye, none opposed.
- Gary Steinruck expressed his concern about the employee's salary and other spending in the Borough. Mr. Steinruck also stated his concern that the when he stopped in at the Borough Office the newspaper was open to the funnies page. Council President George Romania commented that in the secretary job description it is required to cut out all articles referring to Catawissa even the 30

seconds postings no matter how stupid they may be. Linda Kashner recited some of the electric figures.

- Pat Hess asked council what happened to the meeting proposed for May 20th. George Romania announced that council had not voted on the proposed meeting and the majority of council did not want to have another meeting to discuss raising electric rates. That could be done at a regularly scheduled meeting. Skeeter Helwig, a resident of the Borough, also expressed his displeasure about the cancelation of the May 20th meeting.
- Barb Savage told council that there are many ways to cut costs.
- Dawn Krum spoke about a give and take relationship between the town and the workers.
- Sharon Krum asked about the web site not being updated. Kimberly Rhoades responded that the computer expert will be coming this month to work with her on the web site.
- Stuart Hartman announced that June 2nd there will be a presentation about the trees on Main St. The meeting will begin at 7:00 pm.

CODE ENFORCEMENT:

- Code Enforcement Officer James Haney was not present to present a report.

CORRESPONDENCE:

- There was no correspondence at meeting time.

MANAGER'S REPORT:

- Borough Manager Jane Graham thanked Sharon Babb for producing the lovely sign advertising the Borough Wide Yard Sale. It will be placed on the lawn at the Borough Hall. There were 40 people signed up for the yard sale at meeting time. There are still a few weeks until the deadline for sign ups.
- The bid for the Belt Press was presented to council.
- Street Superintendent Clair Kingston, along with the help of Harry Young and other Borough worker's have been removing the curb at the Union Cemetery. They will be replacing the curb soon.
- An advertisement for bids for street paving will have to be approved.

WATER:

- Water Authority Superintendent Cindy Bachman was not available to give a report.

POLICE:

- Police Chief Mark Hardin had nothing new to report at meeting time.

POLICE & EMERGENCY RESPONSE CHAIRMAN:

- Committee Chairman John Sabol report that the police responded to 160 dispatches from the com-center during the month of April.

MAYOR:

- Mayor Patrick Sinclair was not available to give a report at meeting time.

COMMUNITY IMPROVEMENT, ACTIVITY CENTERS & RECREATION CHAIRMAN:

- Committee Chairperson Barb Reese reported that the preparations for “Kid’s Day in the Park” are well underway. The committee is ready to go for the June 13th date beginning at 10:00 am thru 2:00 pm. Donations have been generous and vendors have also volunteered their services.
- Battle of the Bands will be June 12th.

PROPERTY, SUPPLY & BUILDING MAINTENANCE CHAIRMAN:

- Committee Chairman Forest McClintock had nothing new to report at meeting time.

PERSONNEL CHAIRMAN:

- Committee Chairman George Romania had nothing new to report at meeting time.

FINANCE CHAIRMAN:

- Committee Chairman Linda Kashner had nothing new to report at the time of the meeting.

OLD BUSINESS:

- Forest McClintock made the motion to raise the electric rates to the proposal from James Havrilla Utility Engineers. The alternate 2 is the increase proposed in the motion that would keep the Borough at revenue neutral. Revenue neutral means the Borough raises the rates only enough to pay the bills. No amount will be placed in savings. Dottie Linn seconded the motion. All aye, none opposed.

NEW BUSINESS:

- Linda Kashner made the motion to accept the bid for the belt press at the sewer plant. Barb Reese seconded the motion. Linda Kashner verified that we have a grant to pay most of the \$38,335 cost for the belt press refurbishment. All aye, none opposed.

- Barb Reese made the motion to advertise for bids for paving selected streets in the Borough. Seconded by Linda Kashner. All aye, none opposed.
- Forest McClintock made the motion to hire Jason A. Gotskien on the condition he sign a waiver to reimburse the Borough for uniform costs if he left before one year was up. Deneen Casey seconded the motion. Linda Kashner questioned that the Council did not vote on a policy about uniform reimbursement. Attorney McDonald stated that a voted policy would be best but since this person signed a written agreement that is also legal and binding. A written policy will be presented at the next meeting. All aye, none opposed
- Forest McClintock asked Chief Hardin about the COPS grant progress. Chief Hardin responded that the grant application was accepted but nothing will be done until the money is released. This will be a full time officer paid for three years by the grant. After that the Borough will be responsible. Linda Kashner stated that the council must have a retirement letter from an officer before the 3 year deadline. Mark responded that Linda was referring to a different grant than the one he applied for. Linda will check her copy.
- Pat Hess asked where the money will come from after the 3rd year. Forest McClintock stated that a free full time officer will save money by eliminating part time officers.
- Linda Kashner made the motion to utilize the Intern program at Bloomsburg University at no salary. Forest McClintock seconded the motion. After some discussion. All aye, none opposed.

PAYMENT OF THE BILLS:

- Barb Reese made the motion to pay the bills as written. The motion was seconded by Dottie Linn. Linda Kashner asked if we have enough to pay the electric bill. Jane replied there would not be enough after payroll. Jane will be taking money out of the money market. All aye, none opposed.

ADJOURNMENT:

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

MEETING AKJOURNED:

SUBMITTED BY
Kimberly Rhoades
Secretary