

CATAWISSA BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING  
MONDAY, MAY 10, 2010  
7:00PM

CALL TO ORDER:

- The meeting was called to order by Council President Scott Keefer.
- The pledge of allegiance was recited.

ROLL CALL:

- Present were: Scott Keefer, Barry Krum, Barb Reese, Linda Kashner, Tim Benner, Mayor Frank "Jeff" Achy, and Attorney Anthony McDonald. Absent were: Willard Helwig, Forest McClintock Jr. Councilmember Michael Gregorowicz.

READING OF MINUTES:

- Barry Krum made the motion to dispense with the reading of and approve the minutes of the previous months meeting. Linda Kashner seconded the motion. All aye, none opposed.

GUESTS TO BE HEARD:

- Gail Hummer asked the status regarding the handicapped parking spot she requested. The issue will be brought up during the Mayor's report.

CODE ENFORCEMENT:

- Code Enforcement Officer James Haney was not available.

CORRESPONDENCE:

- There was no correspondence at this time.

WATER:

- Water Authority Superintendent Cindy Bachman was not in attendance. Council President Scott Keefer read a note from Cindy regarding the Sensus meter reading equipment.

UTILITIES COMMITTEE:

- Utilities Committee Chairman Forest McClintock was not in attendance.

**POLICE:**

- Police Chief Anthony Kopitsky reported that the police responded to 146 dispatches in the month of April.
- An Officer has resigned effective the end of May. In order to proceed with 24/7 police coverage at least one part time officer will need to be hired. Another officer status is pending.
- Traffic is still bad to terrible due to construction at the Catawissa dam.
- Tony has completed his traffic study of Creek Road stop signs. The Mayor can report regarding this situation.
- Cruisers are working fine now after work has been done
- Tony has decided not to apply for a grant due to the fact that it is a matching grant and the Borough would have to pay 65% of the cost and the Borough can not afford that at this time.
- The Catawissa Alumni Association has taken the trophies that were at the police station for display.
- Pat Hess asked who the officer was that resigned. Tony Kopitsky stated that Officer Brock has handed in his resignation.

**POLICE & EMERGENCY RESPONSE CHAIRMAN:**

- Committee Chairman Willard Helwig was not present to report.

**MAYOR:**

- Barry Krum made the motion to provide a handicap parking spot at 153 N. Second St. requested by Gail Hummer. The motion was seconded by Tim Benner. All aye, none opposed. Atty. McDonald reminded Gail that the parking spot was not hers. The handicap parking is available to anyone eligible.
- Barry Krum made the motion to remove the handicap parking spot at 142 S. Fourth St. Barb Reese seconded the motion. All aye, none opposed.
- Amber Klinger is putting an adult day care on Main St. and would like a handicap parking spot at 338 Main St. Chief Kopitsky informed council that there are already 2 handicap parking spots on Main St and another is not needed.

**COMMUNITY IMPROVEMENT, ACTIVITY CENTERS & RECREATION  
CHAIRPERSON:**

- Committee Chairperson Barb Reese informed that the Borough wide yard sale is set for May 29<sup>th</sup>.
- Kid's Day is June 19<sup>th</sup> from 11am until 2pm. Council is encouraged to attend.
- Concerts are scheduled for June 28<sup>th</sup> will be the Catawissa Military Band, Double Shot will be July 6<sup>th</sup> and a band to be announced will be at the band shell on July 13<sup>th</sup>. Double Shot is sponsored by the VFW and the last band will be sponsored by the Lions Club.

- Battle of the Bands will be held June 11<sup>th</sup>. The Borough has received some sponsorship but more is needed.
- Barb thanked Linda and Wayne Kashner for planning and implementing “Tom Bucher Day”. Tom Bucher did a lot for the kids of the Borough. It was great to recognize his many years of service.

#### PROPERTY, SUPPLY & BUILDING MAINTENANCE CHAIRMAN:

- Committee Chairperson Barry Krum reported that the foyer floor at the Sr. Center has been replaced at no cost to the Borough.
- Jeff’s Auto will be picking up the metal from the Borough property as soon as the ground dries out.
- There is an outfit that will provide labor for free through the Area Agency on Aging. The Borough must provide the materials for the job. Tony McDonald suggested council checks with the union steward to make sure there is no conflict of interest with the union workers.

#### PERSONNEL CHAIRMAN:

- Committee Chairperson Scott Keefer read the department work reports.
- Council President Scott Keefer announced that he is implementing an open door policy at the Borough. Anyone wishing to speak to him must call the Borough Office to set up an appointment.

#### FINANCE CHAIRMAN:

- Committee Chairperson Linda Kashner announced that the finance committee met last week to discuss the electric budget plan. The finance committee will make recommendations each month to the utility committee regarding budget amounts and delinquent accounts. A policy will be written in regards to the delinquent and budget plans.
- The electric and sewer accounts are showing a positive balance as of this month.
- Money from liquid fuels was placed in a CD with PLIGT.
- First Columbia has increased our interest rate by .50% in accounts that have a balance of \$50,000 or more.
- Linda had a meeting with a representative of Paychex regarding health care offered by Paychex including GMC. There is paperwork that needs to be filled out before a quote can be obtained.
- The Borough was informed by David Millard’s Office that the Borough will receive a \$30,000 grant for a back hoe. This grant was applied for in January of 2009. One third of the cost can be taken out of Liquid Fuels. There is some money in the rolling stock reserve account for the street department. About \$10,000 will be needed. Clair is also looking into more grants.
- Linda is speaking to Pauline of First Columbia regarding credit card payments. First Columbia is willing to forgo the \$300 price of the credit card machine. There is also a machine that will automatically post deposits to individual

accounts. If someone pays sewer and electric on one check this will not work but for single payments this will save time.

#### UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

- Barb Reese made the motion to purchase new billing software from Diversified Technology at a cost less than from \$10,000. Tim Benner seconded the motion. All aye, none opposed. Tony McDonald reviewed the contract with IBM (Serious) a 30 day termination notice is required.
- Barb Reese made the motion to adopt the PA State Ethics Code for Council/Employees. Barry Krum seconded the motion. All aye, none opposed.
- Linda Kashner made the motion to use Evans Disposal for dumpster day on September 11<sup>th</sup>. Barb Reese seconded the motion. Barry explained that Evans will supply dumpsters and empty them when they become full and replace with empty dumpsters. A tire fee will have to be implemented. They will only charge a drop off fee for metal there will be no fee for dumping. Catawissa Township would like to participate in dumpster day and will pay half of the cost. All aye, none opposed.
- Barry Krum made the motion to charge \$3 per tire. Tim Benner seconded the motion. All aye, none opposed. Barry Krum suggested for next year having dumpster day in the spring or having a two dumpster days one in spring and one in the fall. This is just something to think about for next year.
- The flagstone is gone. There are some very small pieces left but no larger ones.

#### NEW BUSINESS:

- Linda Kashner made the motion to approve \$1,000 for “Battle of the Bands” (competition for teenagers). Barb Reese seconded the motion. After discussion a roll call vote was as follows: Linda Kashner-yes, Tim Benner-yes, Barb Reese-yes, Barry Krum-no, Scott Keefer-yes.
- Tim Benner made the motion to advertise to hire a part time police officer. The motion was seconded by Barb Reese. All aye, none opposed.
- Linda Kashner made the motion to accept Willard Helwig’s verbal resignation from council. Barry Krum seconded the motion. Pending written verification all aye, none opposed. The position will be a 2 year term.
- Barb Reese made the motion to advertise to fill the open council seat. Tim Benner seconded the motion. All aye, none opposed.

#### FINANCE:

- Linda Kashner made the motion to accept the payment of bills as written. Barry Krum seconded the motion. All aye, none opposed.

#### GUESTS TO BE HEARD:

- Gail Hummer asked how many dogs are allowed to be in one residents. Because Code Enforcement Officer was not there the tentative answer was 5. Ms. Hummer complained that her next door neighbor has 7 small dogs and they are causing a problem. Council President Scott Keefer stated he would have Mr. Haney check into the complaint Tuesday or Thursday. The address in question is 145 N. Second St.
- Scott Keefer asked Gail about a “30 Seconds” comment in the Press Enterprise regarding missing money in the Borough. Scott read the comment and asked Gail what she meant by it and if she know of anyone taking money from the Borough. Gail answered that it was not her intention to accuse anyone of stealing. She was just questioning the fact that a few years ago the Borough had \$2 million and now we are almost broke. Where did the money go? Council stated that the Borough never had \$2 million dollars it was \$1.2 million. Atty. McDonald reminded the audience that in 2007 council gave back to the residents over \$200,000 after that time the Borough was \$200,000 in the red. That will account for the money.
- Barry Krum suggested that a different auditing firm may be something to look into also. Linda Kashner informed council that we did try to get a new audit firm but they quoted a much higher price.
- Pat Hess asked that the properties next to her daughters home at 625 Pfahler St. be checked by Mr. Haney for dog feces.
- Linda Neyer asked if the ethics resolution could be put on the web site. Linda will email a digital copy for web readiness. The resolution must be done yearly. Atty. McDonald reminded everyone that the employees have a contract agreement. Unless this is part of the agreement they do not have to sign. Council will have to make that part of the next bargaining unit.
- Barry Krum said that an officer is willing to mow the gun range at no cost to the Borough. An employee said that he would file a grievance because the officer would be taking work away from the employee. Scott will look into the situation. Scott will also look into the possibility of using prisoners and other volunteers for work in the borough.
- Harold Kitchen asked if the audit report is filed with the IRS. Someone on council will ask Herring & Roll.
- Barb Savage made the comment that the issue with the billing system should say less than \$10,000. The motion was amended.

ADJOURN:

- Barb Reese made the motion to adjourn. Linda Kashner seconded the motion. All aye, none opposed.

SUBMITTED BY:

Kimberly Rhoades  
Secretary