

CATAWISSA BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING
MONDAY May 8th 2023 - 6:30 p.m.

CALL TO ORDER:

- The meeting was called to order by Council President Sue Helwig.

ROLL CALL:

- Present were: Sue Helwig, Jeff Fleming, AJ McKenney, Kevin Ferris, Roy Klinger, Mayor Todd Burke, Anthony McDonald, and Andrew Detwiler via phone.

READING OF MINUTES:

- A motion was made by Roy Klinger, 2nd by Jeff Fleming to dispense reading of and approve minutes of the April 10th, 2023 Council Meeting. All Aye

PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

- Council President Sue Helwig made the following report:
- An executive session was held at 5:30 p.m. before the regular council meeting regarding personnel issues.
- Ms. Helwig reminded folks of Borough events that are coming up soon, which included, Community Yard Sale on May 27th, Dumpster Day June 3rd, and Kids Day June 17th.
- Council Members were asked to volunteer some of their time to help sort and get rid of documents that need disposed of. Council would like to get rid of as much as possible before 1st Columbia Bank's Shred Day.
- In 2024 will be the Borough's 250th Anniversary, Ms. Helwig feels it is important to start some planning to get the community involved.

GUESTS TO BE HEARD:

- Guest Nancy Wilson requested Council allow the residents of Riverview Apartments to use Borough flood property across from the VFW to set up for the Community Yard Sale and use a gas grill on the property the day of the event. Borough Solicitor Anthony McDonald told Council he feels they can do this with no worries of liability. A motion was made by Kevin Ferris, 2nd by Roy Klinger to add the motion to allow Riverview residents to use the empty Borough flood property for the Community Yard Sale. All Aye
- A motion was made by Kevin Ferris, 2nd by Jeff Fleming to allow Riverview residents to use the empty Borough flood property for the Community Yard Sale. All Aye

CORRESPONDENCE:

- Catawissa Borough received a settlement payment in the amount of \$17,414.03 from the class action suit City of Long Beach, vs Monsanto Company.
- Catawissa Borough's Hazard Mitigation Plan was approved by FEMA. Catawissa Borough is now eligible to participate in Hazard Mitigation Assistance grant programs.
- The Charles B. Degestein Foundation awarded a grant in the amount of \$1,000 to be used for the Summer Breeze Concert Series.
- PIRMA provided the results from the review of Catawissa Borough's procedures related to Liability and Property loss controls. It was determined that previous recommendations have been completed and no new recommendations were made.
- The Chapter 94 reports were accepted by DEP and the borough is now compliant with Chapter 94 reports.

MAYOR:

- Mayor Burke thanked everyone for attending the meeting.
- Mayor Burke thanked Chief Laidacker on the great job he did on a traffic stop that yielded drugs, alcohol, and weapons. Mayor Burke stated our department is not only protecting our Borough but also surrounding areas that these confiscated items could have made it to. Council applauded Chief Laidacker and told him good job.

WATER:

- Water Authority Superintendent Cindy Bachman had nothing to report.

CODE ENFORCEMENT REPORT:

- Councilman AJ McKenney read the code enforcement report.

POLICE:

- Chief Laidacker thanked Mayor Burke for his kind words. Chief informed Council the weapons that were confiscation in the case the mayor was referring to were fully automatic so there are other concerns. Chief Laidacker is working on this case with ATF and the U.S. Attorney's Office as well.
- Chief Laidacker reported for the month of April the department responded to (297) calls for service. Chief Laidacker read his report which stated the following:
- The Police Department received notice of pending payment for the PCCD Technology Grant.
- The work on the COPS grant progresses.
- The VFW has generously donated \$4,100 to the department. Funds were used to complete and install the security camera at Hollingshead Square. Approximately one week later, camera footage obtained was used to prosecute suspects involved in the illegal weapons and drug charges.
- Officer Moyer has completed his field training and certification and is now able to work as his schedule allows.
- Officer Reedy attended mandatory annual JTAC training.

PUBLIC WORKS:

- A motion was made by Gary Steinruck, 2nd by Jeff Fleming to approve CH Paving & Sealing to do the road paving project on Dent Ave. from N. 3rd St. to Fox Ave. at a cost of \$5,316.00 as long as all parameters are met. All Aye
- Streets Superintendent Crystal Stoker brought to Council issues that are ongoing with brush pick up. Ms. Stoker mentioned piles being too big, residents insisting on the chipper being used at resident's properties, bags of brush being 100lbs or more and animal feces in the bags of the brush. DPW Robert Dunkelberger mentioned residents are having trees topped then placing the limbs at the curb for the Borough to pick up. Ms. Stoker provided Council with a copy of revised guidelines she would like to have in place. A motion was made by Roy Klinger, 2nd by Kevin Ferris to add a motion to the agenda to discuss brush pick up guidelines. All Aye
Council discussed possible solutions or stopping the service completely. Ms. Stoker made Council aware of the time it is taking for (2) people to pick up brush. Council President Sue Helwig stated she feels the Borough should not stop the service because some people can't follow the guidelines. After a lengthy discussion a motion was made by Roy Klinger, 2nd by Jeff Fleming to approve new brush pick up guidelines provided by Streets Superintendent Crystal Stoker. Any brush that does not follow the guidelines will not be picked up. All Aye

UTILITIES:

- Committee Chairman Jeff Fleming read the utilities report providing open and closed balances for electric/sewer accounts. Mr. Fleming also reported how many late notices were mailed for the month of April.

- A motion was made by Roy Klinger, 2nd by AJ McKenney to approve the purchase of (12) Cutout 15KV 100 A TY Polymer Switches at a cost of \$974.04. All Aye
- A motion was made by Roy Klinger, 2nd AJ McKenney to approve Larson Design to prepare and submit Catawissa Borough's NPDES Permit renewal. All Aye

PERSONNEL COMMITTEE:

- A motion was made by Roy Klinger, 2nd by AJ McKenney to add a motion to the agenda regarding extending Judy Snyder's probation. All Aye
- A motion was made by Roy Klinger, 2nd by AJ McKenney to extend Judy Snyder's probationary period through June with a follow up review. All Aye
- A motion was made by Roy Klinger, 2nd by Kevin Ferris to approve hiring George Budman to fill the part-time Street Department laborer position for \$13.00/hour with a max of (29) hours per week. All Aye

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

- Councilman Gary Steinruck reported the contractor is waiting on a 4 x 6 cross valve to start the Waste Water Treatment Plant Remediation Project. The cross valve is projected to be delivered in June.

NEW BUSINESS:

- A motion was made by AJ McKenney, 2nd by Roy Klinger to approve Resolution 2023-04 regarding INTENT TO FOLLOW THE SCHEDULES AND PROCEDURES FOR DISPOSITION OF RECORDS AS SET FORTH IN THE MUNICIPAL RECORDS MANUAL APPROVED DECEMBER 16, 2008. All Aye
- A motion was made by Roy Klinger, 2nd by Kevin Ferris to approve Resolution 2023-05 regarding AUTHORIZING THE DISPOSITION OF RECORDS IN ACCORDANCE TO THE MUNICIPAL RECORDS MANUAL APPROVED DECEMBER 16, 2008. All Aye

FINANCE PAYMENT OF BILLS

- A motion was made by Kevin Ferris, 2nd by Jeff Fleming to accept bills as written and any others that may arise before the next council meeting. All Aye

GUESTS TO BE HEARD

- Council President Sue Helwig spoke about (2) items she was asked to touch on. Dena Snyder suggested highlighting new businesses in town. A suggestion was new business Saturday, which will highlight a new business and other business in town could participate. Ms. Helwig suggested coordinating with Summer Breeze Concert Series.
- Tara Timpanelli suggested on a local level making some borough buildings historical buildings. Ms. Helwig asked Borough Solicitor Anthony McDonald to look into the process on the local level.

ADJOURNMENT:

- A motion was made by Roy Klinger, 2nd by Jeff Fleming to adjourn. All Aye

MEETING ADJOURNED

Submitted by:

Connie M. Cole
Manager of Administration