

CATAWISSA BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING
MONDAY August 7th 2023 - 6:30 p.m.

An executive session was held before the regular meeting.

CALL TO ORDER:

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

ROLL CALL:

- Present were: Sue Helwig, Kevin Ferris, Roy Klinger, Andrew Detwiler, Gary Steinruck, Jeff Fleming, AJ McKenney, Mayor Todd Burke, Attorney Anthony McDonald.

READING OF MINUTES:

- A motion was made by Roy Klinger, 2nd by Jeff Fleming to dispense reading of and approve minutes of the July 11th, 2023 Council Meeting. All Aye

PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

- Council President Sue Helwig made the following report:
- Ms. Helwig announced the 5 weeks of the Summer Breeze Concert Series has been completed. There was a nice showing for most of the concerts. Ms. Helwig thanked Manager of Administration Connie Cole for planning the concert series, getting the bands, organizing the food donations and scheduling people to help serve. Ms. Helwig thanked Borough Employees, Council Members and various vendors for donating food.
- Ms. Helwig stated GoJoe was big success with a great turn out despite the rain. Ms. Helwig thanked Mayor Burke for putting together GoJoe in such a short time period. Ms. Helwig also thanked the VFW for their donation and help with organization.

GUESTS TO BE HEARD:

- Guest Gary Roberts announced the committee for semiquincentennial has chosen the name Catawissa 250 for their committee. The committee will be getting a tax ID and opening a checking account. The VFW has donated \$1000.00 towards the celebration. At the next meeting, teams will be formed for various events.

CORRESPONDENCE:

- Manager of Administration Connie Cole reported the following correspondence:
- Borough Council would like to thank Crest Haven for donating ground beef, Judy Snyder for making bbq, Numidia Dragway for donating italian ice, Crystal Stoker for donating pierogies, the Catawissa Police Officers Benevolent Association for donating Rita's Italian Ice and Sue Helwig for donating baked beans.
- Ms. Cole would like to thank Mayor Todd Burke and wife Dorie, Borough Treasurer Judy Snyder, Civil Service Commission Member Trish Bauman, Officers David Kistner and Cristian Vazquez, Councilman Kevin Ferris and Councilman AJ McKenney for helping serve food at the Summer Breeze Concert Series.
- The Borough received donations of \$48.00 from anonymous donors and \$25.00 from Doug Krum to be used for Winterfest.
- The Borough would like to thank the Kingston Reunion for their \$35.00 donation and the Kitchen Family Reunion for their \$50.00 donation to be used for the Parks.
- Councilman Kevin Ferris donated \$100.00 for Winterfest.

MAYOR:

- Mayor Burke thanked everyone for attending the meeting.
- Mayor Burke reported there was a better turn out for GoJoe than expected. Mayor Burke thanked Lori Smith for donating chips and getting other donations. Mr. Burke also thanked Borough Employees for all their help, Sharon Krum, Weis, the Catawissa VFW for their donations and the Catawissa Military band for playing at the event.

WATER:

- Water Authority Superintendent Cindy Bachman reported we are still under a drought watch.
- A motion was made by Gary Steinruck, 2nd by Kevin Ferris to approve appointing Harry Young to the Catawissa Borough Water Authority Board to serve the remainder of the term that expires December 31st 2024. All Aye

CODE ENFORCEMENT REPORT:

- Councilman AJ McKenney read the code enforcement report.
- Mr. McKenney also read the procedure for property violations. Council President Sue Helwig told guests a copy would be available if anyone would like one.

POLICE:

- Chief Laidacker reported for the month of July the department responded to (326) calls for service. Chief Laidacker read his report which stated the following:
- The new station computers have been installed; bugs are being worked out.
- Other equipment from the grant has been ordered.
- Officer Vazquez is doing very well and is currently covering shifts.
- Officer Vazquez is scheduled for ENRADD and ROBIC Training on the 23rd of August.

PUBLIC SAFETY:

- A motion was made by AJ McKenney, 2nd by Roy Klinger to approve the electronic vote on 7-14-2023 for the removal of a dead tree and dead limbs on other trees located in Quaker Cemetery and the removal of a dead tree located in Greenwood Cemetery, as per specifications provided to the bidders. The bid was awarded to Northeast Tree Service, which is \$10,500: \$ 5,250 to be paid from the American Rescue Funds and \$5250 to be paid from the Eyer Fund. Motion carried with All-Aye votes. All Aye

UTILITIES:

- Councilman Jeff Fleming read the electric report.

PARKS & RECREATION & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT:

- A motion was made by Andrew Detwiler, 2nd by Roy Klinger to approve the purchase of the Senior Day meal from Woody's Place. All Aye

FINANCE:

- A motion was made by Roy Klinger, 2nd by Gary Steinruck to approve Heating and A/C for the Community Center with funds being used from the American Rescue Funds. All Aye
- A motion was made by AJ McKenney, 2nd by Roy Klinger to approve advertising for sealed bids for the Heating and A/C for the Community Center. All Aye

PERSONNEL COMMITTEE:

- A motion was made by Roy Klinger, 2nd by Gary Steinruck to approve the Memorandum of Understanding between Catawissa Borough and the Catawissa Borough Police Officers' Association regarding a mutual mistake in the publication of the contract when the Labor Day holiday was inadvertently omitted. All Aye
- A motion was made by Roy Klinger, 2nd by Andrew Detwiler to approve the agreement between The AFSCME Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees District Council 86, Local 208 and Catawissa Borough with the understanding that both parties are satisfied with the language contained within the final document. Councilman Jeff Fleming abstained from voting on this motion. Councilman Gary Steinruck stated he feels the AFSCME Employees are real well paid with excellent benefits. Council President Sue Helwig stated she agrees. 5 Aye; 1- Nay, Gary Steinruck. Motion carries. Please see attached Conflict of Interest Abstention Memorandum.

FINANCE PAYMENT OF BILLS

- A motion was made by Roy Klinger, 2nd by AJ McKenney to accept bills as written and any others that may arise before the next council meeting. All Aye

GUESTS TO BE HEARD

- Guest William Gregorowicz Jr asked if the Boy Scouts were contacted regarding the semiquincennial. Guest Gary Roberts stated he has spoken with the boy scouts. Mr. Gregorowicz proceeded to provide his health and safety concerns on the effects of the smoke coming into our area from the Canadian wild fires.

ADJOURNMENT:

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

MEETING ADJOURNED

Submitted by:

Connie M. Cole
Manager of Administration