

CATAWISSA BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING

MONDAY October 9th 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, Kevin Ferris, Andrew Detwiler, Gary Steinruck, Jeff Fleming, AJ McKenney, Mayor Todd Burke. Absent Roy Klinger and Attorney Anthony McDonald

READING OF MINUTES:

- A motion was made by Andrew Detwiler, 2nd by Jeff Fleming to dispense reading of and approve minutes of the August 8th, 2023 Council Meeting. All Aye

PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

- Council President Sue Helwig made the following report:
- The Witch has been placed on the bluff.
- The Halloween Parade is scheduled for Saturday October 28th followed by Trick or Treating on Monday October 30th. Both events have rain dates.
- Ms. Helwig thanked Borough Police for holding a Child Seat Safety Check.
- Ms. Helwig announced the open public Special Meeting to work on the 2024 budget has been rescheduled for Friday October 27th at 1:00 p.m.

GUESTS TO BE HEARD:

- Guest Gary Roberts reported the 250th Committee will be selling t-shirts for \$15, yard flags and food items for the 250th anniversary at the Halloween Parade. The stand will be set up in the alley by Weis Markets. The Committee is checking with First Columbia Bank to see if t-shirts can be sold inside the Bank. A cash bingo will be held on March 17th 2024 at the Bloomsburg Fire Company to raise funds for the 250th celebration.
- Guest Jen Zarko with Inclusion, Respect and Equality nonprofit association spoke regarding the association's 3rd annual Columbia Montour Pride OUTFEST celebration on October 21st, 2023 at Bloomsburg Town Park. Ms. Zarko explained what the association stands for and what is the purpose of OUTFEST. Ms. Zarko asked Mayor Todd Burke to consider signing a proclamation recognizing October as LGBTQ History Month and the Month of OUTFEST, the Pride Event of Columbia Montour Counties in the Borough of Catawissa, Pennsylvania. Mayor Burke took time to read and sign the proclamation.
- Guest Brian Zysset asked Council to have the lights on for the tennis court so pickle ball can be played after dark. Council stated they would need to review the ordinance in place regarding everyone must be out of the park by sundown. Council President asked Mr. Zysset if he could give them some time to bring something back to the next meeting.

CORRESPONDENCE:

- The Borough would like to thank Weis Markets for their donation for Senior Day.
- The Borough received a \$200.00 donation from the Catawissa Police Benevolent Association for Winterfest.

MAYOR:

- Mayor Burke thanked everyone for attending the meeting.
- Mayor Burke reported the police officers are all doing well and he is very pleased with the job they are doing. Burke also reported the new officer is progressing well.

- Mayor Burke announced his excitement for Trick or Treating which will be held on Monday Oct 30th from 6 pm – 8 pm with a rain date of Oct 31st from 6 pm – 8 pm. Mayor Burke will be out with the police working on traffic control and handing out candy.
- Mayor Burke also invited everyone to stop by the stand for the 250th Anniversary and check out all the items for sale.

WATER:

- Water Authority Superintendent Cindy Bachman asked to speak when Council gets to the motion regarding the parcel.

CODE ENFORCEMENT REPORT:

- Councilman AJ McKenney read the code enforcement report.
- Guest Gary Roberts inquired about Saint Johns Church's interest in selling the church's rental house. The property is located right next to the church separated only by a sidewalk. Mr. Roberts wanted to know if there are set backs required in order to sell the property. Council Members stated it would be grandfathered in. Council President Sue Helwig state Mr. Roberts should call Code Enforcement Officer Robert Jones to confirm.

POLICE:

- Chief Laidacker reported for the month of September the department responded to (297) calls for service. Chief Laidacker read his report which stated the following:
- The new body cameras are installed and programmed.
- The new radios from the grant are ordered.
- The Chief is currently working on the next Quarterly Report for the grant.
- Parade planning continues, the necessary permits are applied for.
- The CPOBA hosted a child safety seat check event. Officer Moyer conducted checks on 11 vehicles.
- Corporal Hayes attended MDIT training.
- All officers will be attending Motorola Training for the new systems.

PUBLIC WORKS:

- A motion was made by Jeff Fleming, 2nd by Kevin Ferris to discontinue weekly brush pick up effective 12/31/2023 with the Borough providing a spring and fall brush disposal event along with fall leaves only and Christmas tree pick up. Gary Steinruck asked if tree trimmings and brush can be taken to the dump by residents. Streets Superintendent Crystal Stoker provided pictures of the issues already happening at the brush site and expressed her fears if dumping continued with no control. Ms. Stoker also presented Council with guidelines other municipalities follow for brush pick up. After a brief discussion, the motion carries with 4 Aye, 2 Nay; Gary Steinruck, AJ McKenney

PUBLIC SAFETY:

- A motion was made by Andrew Detwiler, 2nd by Jeff Fleming to approve EMC Sean Richendrfer to join a regional rescue task force team for the local counties while being covered under Catawissa Borough's Workmen's Compensation insurance. All Aye
- A motion was made by Andrew Detwiler, 2nd by AJ McKenney to approve the opening of the sealed bids for the Dry Hydrant Project, and awarding the project to the lowest responsible bidder providing all parameters are met. All Aye
Councilman Andrew Detwiler opened the bid from Mitchell Knorr Contracting for \$343,000.
- A motion was made by Jeff Fleming, 2nd by Andrew Detwiler to table awarding the bid. All Aye
- A motion was made by Jeff Fleming, 2nd by Andrew Detwiler to approve the reading of bids for the Kline Ave. Culvert Project and awarding the project to the lowest responsible bidder providing all parameters are met. All Aye
The following bids were read:

CJ Contractors - \$9,899.00
Potter Construction - \$32,625.00
Timothy Simmons - \$9350.00

- A motion was made by Jeff Fleming, 2nd by Andrew Detwiler to approve awarding the Kline Ave Project to Timothy Simmons at a cost of \$9,350.00 as long as all parameters are met. All Aye

UTILITIES:

- Councilman Jeff Fleming read the electric report.
- A motion was made by Kevin Ferris, 2nd by Jeff Fleming to approve reducing the Catawissa Hose Co #1 sewer rate to half rate. Councilman Kevin Ferris explained why the Hose Company was looking to pay nothing for sewer, so half rate was a compromise. Councilman Gary Steinruck expressed his concerns with businesses being charged full rate for their sewer. Ms. Bachman also mentioned the fire company was covered under the ordinance because they are not a resident. After more discussion with councilmembers and guests expressing their opinions on lowering the rate a vote was taken. 1 – Aye; Kevin Ferris, 5 – Nay motion failed

PARKS & RECREATION & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT:

- A motion was made by AJ McKenney, 2nd by Gary Steinruck to approve Roth Cemetery Services to repair (1) fallen tombstone in Greenwood Cemetery for a cost of \$750.00 with funds coming from GL# 441.10. All Aye

PROPERTY/BUILDING MAINTENANCE

- A motion was made by Jeff Fleming, 2nd by Kevin Ferris to approve research to place Catawissa Borough parcel # 08 03 00300000 on Old Ferry Road up for bid. Council President Sue Helwig explained the location of the parcel in question. Steet Superintendent Crystal Stoker asked what she was supposed to do with all the stuff still located on the property? Various Council Members asked why sell it when we pay no taxes and have supplies stored there. All Nay motion dies

FINANCE:

- A motion was made by Andrew Detwiler, 2nd by Jeff Fleming to approve \$2,657.62 for extra materials needed for the N. 3rd Street paving project which was completed by C & H Paving with funds coming from Liquid Fuels. All Aye
- A motion was made by Andrew Detwiler, 2nd by Jeff Fleming to approve Resolution 2023-09 regarding Reducing Police Officers Contributions to the Uniform Pension Plan for the year 2024. All Aye
- A motion was made by Andrew Detwiler, 2nd by Jeff Fleming to approve revised Non-Uniform Pension Plan Minimum Municipal Obligation in the amount of \$82,625.00 for 2024 Budget. It was explained when the MMOs were accepted last month the actuarial study was not complete. The revised MMOs are a result of the Completed study. All Aye
- A motion was made by Andrew Detwiler, 2nd by Jeff Fleming to approve revised Police Pension Plan Minimum Municipal Obligation in the amount of \$ 78,123.00 for 2024 Budget. All Aye

PERSONNEL:

- A motion was made by Andrew Detwiler, 2nd by Jeff Fleming to approve Resolution 2023-08 regarding Non-Uniform PSAB Municipal Retirement Trust. All Aye
- A motion was made by Andrew Detwiler, 2nd by Jeff Fleming to approve the Joinder Agreement for the Borough of Catawissa Non-Uniform Employees' Pension Plan. All Aye

FINANCE PAYMENT OF BILLS

- A motion was made by Andrew Detwiler, 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

- No guests to be heard.

ADJOURNMENT:

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

MEETING ADJOURNED

Submitted by:

Connie M. Cole
Manager of Administration