

CATAWISSA BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING
MONDAY November 6th 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, Attorney Anthony McDonald. Absent Roy Klinger

READING OF MINUTES:

- A motion was made by AJ McKenney, 2nd by Jeff Fleming to dispense reading of and approve minutes of the October 27th, 2023 Council Meeting. All Aye

PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

- Council President Sue Helwig made the following report:
- The Halloween parade was bigger than last year and trick or treating was nice.
- The first budget workshop was held on October 27th with a follow up meeting to be held on Friday Nov 17th at 1:00 p.m.
- Ms. Helwig introduced candidates that were running for the election on November 7th.
- An explanation of the availability of the 2024 AMP Scholarship Program was made.

GUESTS TO BE HEARD:

- Guest Gary Roberts announced the booth for the 250th celebration at the Halloween parade did well and 25 t-shirts were sold. The Committee will hold a cash bingo on March 17th in Bloomsburg. Starting in January the committee will be looking for sponsors. The committee is also looking into organizing a Memorial Day parade. There will be no meeting in December.

CORRESPONDENCE:

- Nothing to report.

MAYOR:

- Mayor Burke thanked everyone for coming to the meeting.
- Mayor Burke reported he helped the police with traffic control on trick or treat night. Mr. Burke enjoyed passing out candy on behalf of the Benevolent Association as well.
- Mayor Burke spoke about the fire that took a resident's life over the weekend. Mr. Burke expressed how grateful he is for the Catawissa volunteer firefighters, other fire companies and our Police Department.

WATER:

- Water Authority Superintendent Cindy Bachman had nothing to report.

CODE ENFORCEMENT REPORT:

- Councilman AJ McKenney read the code enforcement report.

POLICE:

- Chief Laidacker reported for the month of October the department responded to (264) calls for service. Chief Laidacker read his report which stated the following:
- The Chief is working with Penn Strategies to complete an LSA no match grant.
- Quarterly report was completed for the 2022 PCCD Grant.

- Officers assisted in the 116th Halloween Parade.
- Officers participated in a traffic detail for the Trick or Treat Night.
- New part-time application from Daniel Patel was received.
- Officers completed Firearms Training for 2023.
- All officers received Axon Taser re-certification.

PUBLIC SAFETY:

- A motion was made by Andrew Detwiler, 2nd by Jeff Fleming to reject Mitchell Knorr Contracting Bid for the dry hydrant project. All Aye
- A motion was made by Andrew Detwiler, 2nd by Jeff Fleming to approve readvertising the Dry Hydrant Project in January 2024. All Aye

UTILITIES:

- Chairman Jeff Fleming read the electric report.
- A motion was made by Andrew Detwiler, 2nd by Jeff Fleming to approve Catawissa Christian Church to use Catawissa & Cara Park for Winterfest with the Borough donating the electric. All Aye
- A motion was made by Kevin Ferris, 2nd by AJ McKenney to discuss trash removal for all Borough properties. Councilman Ferris explained D.A. Davenports Disposal proposed they empty all the trash cans and dumpsters for the Borough. This will give his business free advertising and will free up time that the Borough workers spend driving to empty the trash cans on Main St and in the parks. Mr. Ferris read a letter submitted by Mr. Davenport. Mr. Ferris asked Streets Superintendent Crystal Stoker her thoughts. Ms. Stoker expressed she felt it would have to be financially smart and now that we have done away with weekly brush pick up, it is not crucial to have trash picked up.
- A motion was made by Jeff Fleming, 2nd by Andrew Detwiler to add a motion to the agenda. All Aye
- A motion was made by Kevin Ferris, 2nd by Jeff Fleming to approve getting quotes for trash removal. All Aye

PARKS & RECREATION & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT:

- A motion was made by Jeff Fleming, 2nd by Gary Steinruck to approve a Holiday Light Contest to be held in the month of December with the (4) category winners receiving a \$50.00 credit on their electric account and a designed yard award sign. All Aye

PROPERTY/BUILDING MAINTENANCE

- A motion was made Jeff Fleming, 2nd by AJ McKenney to approve a payment request from Environmental Service Corp. for the work completed on the WWTP Remediation project. All Aye
- A motion was made by AJ McKenney, 2nd by Gary Steinruck to approve the change order requested in the amount of \$7,500 for the WWTP Remediation Project. All Aye
- A motion was made by AJ McKenney, 2nd by Kevin Ferris to approve the additional work for the WWTP Remediation Project. All Aye

FINANCE:

- A motion was made by Andrew Detwiler, 2nd by Jeff Fleming to approve the purchase of a laptop for the Sewer Plant at a cost of \$1379.00 with funds being paid out of sewer budget GL# 427.24. All Aye
- A motion was made by Andrew Detwiler, 2nd by Jeff Fleming to approve the purchase of a Honeywell Multi-Gas Detector for confined space for a cost of \$1,638.47 with funds being paid out of the sewer budget GL# 427.24. All Aye
- A motion was made by Andrew Detwiler, 2nd by Kevin Ferris to approve the purchase of an Underground Inspection Camera with auger for a cost of \$10,027.60 being paid out of sewer budget GL# 427.24. All Aye
- A motion was made by AJ McKenney, 2nd by Kevin Ferris to approve Penn Strategies as Grant Writers for Catawissa Borough from December 1, 2023 to December 1, 2024 for a cost of \$2000.00/month. All Aye

PERSONNEL COMMITTEE:

- A motion was made by Andrew Detwiler, 2nd by Jeff Fleming to approve hiring Daniel Patel for a part-time Police Officer position. All Aye

NEW BUSINESS:

- A motion was made by Jeff Fleming, 2nd Kevin Ferris to approve appointing Terry Hartman to the open seat on the Zoning Hearing Board for the unexpired term that will end on 1/31/2026. All Aye
- A motion was made by Jeff Fleming, 2nd by Andrew Detwiler to approve Catawissa Borough 2024 Council Meeting Schedule. All Aye

FINANCE PAYMENT OF BILLS

- A motion was made by Andrew Detwiler, 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

- No guests to be heard.

ADJOURNMENT:

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

MEETING ADJOURNED

Submitted by:

Connie M. Cole
Manager of Administration