

Catawissa Borough Council Meeting

DATE: March 11th – 6:30 p.m.

- CALL TO ORDER:
 - Council President Andrew Detwiler called the meeting to order.
- PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:
- ROLL CALL:
 - Present were: Andrew Detwiler, Kevin Ferris, Ernie May, Gary Steinruck, Jeff Fleming, John Mensch, Sue Helwig via phone and Mayor Todd Burke.
Absent Anthony McDonald
- READING OF MINUTES:
 - A motion to dispense reading of and approve minutes of the February 6th, 2024 Borough Council Meeting was made by Jeff Fleming, 2nd by Ernie May. All Aye
- GUESTS TO BE HEARD:
 - Guest Gary Roberts gave a full report on the activities scheduled for the 250th anniversary celebration. The 250th Committee would like to have fireworks. Mr. Roberts asked if there was an ordinance pertaining to fireworks. Mr. Roberts was told yes and he should speak with the Code Enforcement Officer.
 - Guest Wayne Levan explained he is trying to purchase a piece of property and put storage units on the property. But the setbacks will not allow this without a variance. Mr. Levan feels it benefits the Borough and it would be in the borough's best interest to change the ordinance. Council has agreed to consult the Borough Solicitor and get back to him.
 - Guest Linda Kashner read various mistakes she sees in the Profit & Loss report compared to the budget. Council President Andrew Detwiler invited Ms. Kashner to come to a Finance Committee meeting so her concerns can be discussed.
 - Guest Rick Unger inquired if any progress was made having more than one building code inspector. Mr. Unger was informed the Borough Solicitor will need to review the BIU contract the Borough has already signed.
 - Guest Cindy Bachman, Water Authority Superintendent inquired about unresolved issues with the Borough and the engineer for the Dry Hydrant project. Ms. Bachman made Council aware the project needs to be readvertised, so someone needs to keep on it.
- CORRESPONDENCE:
 - Catawissa Borough received notice of a water base rate increase starting March billing cycle.
 - A report has been included in the agenda packet from Penn Strategies regarding the Borough's current grant projects, grant applications submitted and new possible opportunities.
 - Catawissa Firemen Relief Association sent a reminder letter that it is time for the biannual contribution to the Catawissa Hose CO #1 and thanked the Borough for their support.

- MAYOR:
 - Mayor Todd Burke thanked everyone for being at the Council meeting and announced he will not be present for the next meeting.

Staff and Authority Reports

- WATER:
 - Catawissa Water Authority Superintendent Cindy Bachman inquired if Council President Andrew Detwiler spoke with the engineers for advertising the culvert project again. Council President Andrew Detwiler said he would speak with them again.
- CODE ENFORCEMENT REPORT:
 - Councilman Gary Steinruck read the code enforcement report.
- POLICE:
 - Chief Laidacker read the police report for March 2024. Police responded to 187 calls during the month.
 - The battery was replaced in the 2014 Sedan.
 - Officer Reedy returned to duty on the 13th of February. The department is once again fully staffed.
 - The Chief attended a prosecution seminar hosted by Columbia County DA's Office.
 - Officers have begun working on mandatory updates, as required per MPOETC.
- PUBLIC WORKS:
 - Reports submitted. No questions.

Committee Reports

- PUBLIC WORKS:
 - A motion to approve an increased cost of \$1075.00 for the purchase of a new lawn mower died due to no 1st or 2nd. A motion was made by Ernie May, 2nd by John Mensch to table the purchase of a new lawn mower. All Aye
 - A motion was made by John Mensch, 2nd by Jeff Fleming to approve Altec Service to repair the self-leveling cable on the electric bucket truck at a cost of \$7,406.40 coming from Capital Fund. All Aye Councilwoman Sue Helwig requested for future agendas the GL# that the expense is coming from is listed in the motion.
- PARKS & RECREATION & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT:
 - A motion was made by Gary Steinruck, 2nd by Jeff Fleming to approve the following Borough Events:
 - Community Yard Sale May 25th
 - Dumpster Day June 1st with a rain date of June 8th
 - Kids Day June 15th
 - Summer Breeze Concert Series July 2nd, 9th, 16th & 23rd
- FINANCE/UTILITIES:
 - A motion was made by Jeff Fleming, 2nd by Sue Helwig to approve Larson Design as the engineer for the new Wastewater Treatment Plant project. All Aye

- A motion was made by Ernie May, 2nd by Jeff Fleming to approve writing off account # 000317-08 Linda Mowery in the amount of \$1,172.44. All Aye
- A motion was made by Jeff Fleming, 2nd by John Mensch to award the Borough Hall server upgrade to Kinn Computers Inc. at a cost of \$10,892.00. All Aye
- A motion was made by Ernie May, 2nd by Sue Helwig to approve ending the repurchase agreement with Journey bank and move to platinum prime with Journey Bank. All Aye
- A motion was made by Jeff Fleming, 2nd by Ernie May to approve renewing Geisinger Health Plan for Non-Uniform Employees at a cost of \$4192.78 that is a \$2.33 savings per month with no change in benefits. All Aye
- A motion was made by Jeff Fleming, 2nd by Sue Helwig to approve closing the Sewer ARPA savings account. All Aye
- A motion was made by Jeff Fleming, 2nd by Ernie May to approve signing the affidavit to support Nextera Energy Resources in its efforts to appeal a decision assessing Pennsylvania Gross Receipts Tax on sales of electricity made to AMP for the benefit of AMP's Pennsylvania Members after consulting the Borough Solicitor. Borough Manager of Administration explained to Council we do have one customer that lives outside the Borough limits. All Aye
- **PERSONNEL COMMITTEE:**
 - A motion was made by Jeff Fleming, 2nd by John Mensch to approve making Treasurer Judy Snyder full-time with benefits. After a 1st and 2nd was made Councilwoman Sue Helwig asked to table the motion until next month to research where the money for the extra costs will be coming from. Council was asked to vote on the motion already on table since the first and second was made. 1-Aye; Andrew Detwiler, 6 Nay Motion does not carry.
 - A motion was made by Jeff Fleming, 2nd by Ernie May to approve the job description for Public Works/Laborer. After a discussion about discrepancies in the job description, the motion was approved with a change of lifting requirement from 150lbs to 65 lbs. 4-Aye, 3-Nay Motion carries
 - A motion was made by Jeff Fleming, 2nd by Ernie May to approve advertising for a full-time Department of Public works Employee. Councilman Ernie May stated he would like to subcontract out the cemetery mowing. Street Superintendent Crystal Stoker reminded Councilman May they must remember the contractor will need a license and their own insurance. After a discussion on funding for a full-time employee. A vote was taken on the motion on the table. 2; Aye & 5; Nay Motion does not carry.
 - A motion was made by Ernie May, 2nd by John Mensch to approve advertising for a part-time seasonal Public Works Employee with the possibility of going to permanent part-time. All Aye
- **PROPERTY BUILDING & MAINTENANCE:**
 - A motion was made by Jeff Fleming, 2nd by Gary Steinruck to approve Traffic Signal Maintenance agreement with Kuharchik Construction. All Aye
 - The Borough received a request from the Borough's Emergency Management Coordinator to look for funding to get a generator for an emergency shelter. The Emergency Coordinator confirmed he would like to see the Community Center used as the emergency shelter since it has handicap accessibility.
- **UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**
 - No unfinished business to attend to.

- NEW BUSINESS:
 - A motion was made by Jeff Fleming, 2nd Ernie May to approve the Memorandum of Understanding between Catawissa Borough and the Columbia County Conservation District. All Aye

FINANCE: Payment of Bills.

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

GUESTS TO BE HEARD:

- No guest to be heard.

ADJOURNMENT:

- A motion for adjournment was made by Ernie May, 2nd by Jeff Fleming. All Aye

Meeting adjourned.

Submitted by:

Connie Cole, Manager of Administration