

Catawissa Borough Council Meeting

DATE: August 5th, 2024 – 6:30 p.m.

- CALL TO ORDER
 - Meeting called to order by Vice President Jeff Fleming.
- PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
- ROLL CALL: Andrew Detwiler, Jeff Fleming, Sue Helwig, Kevin Ferris, Ernie May, John Mensch, Paul Hulse
Attorney Anthony McDonald, Mayor Todd Burke.
- READING OF MINUTES:
 - A motion to dispense reading of and approve minutes of the previous month's meeting was made by Jeff Fleming, 2nd by Ernie May. All Aye
- GUESTS TO BE HEARD:
 - Gary Roberts reported set up for the 250th Anniversary celebration has begun and everything is coming into place. Mr. Roberts presented Mayor Burke with the first postal cancellation stamp commemorating the 250th Anniversary Celebration. Council President Andrew Detwiler and Council Vice President Jeff Fleming thanked Mr. Roberts and the 250th Committee for all of their commitment and hard work.
- CORRESPONDENCE:
 - The Borough received donations from Tammy's Shear Madness, Catawissa Chiropractor, Woody's Place and Cracker Barrel for Senior Day.
 - The Borough received a \$35.00 donation from the Kingston Family and \$60 in donations from the Walter Family for the use of Cara Park Pavilion.
 - The Borough's revised flood plain ordinance is in compliance with FEMA as required and has been approved.
- MAYOR: Absent

Staff and Authority Reports

- WATER AUTHORITY:
 - Water Authority Superintendent Cindy Bachman reported on the progress of the dry hydrant project and what is still to come.
 - Ms. Bachman requested the motion for the Water Authority truck rental be amended to include utilizing parts the borough has on hand and the water authority will replace them. Council agreed.
- CODE ENFORCEMENT REPORT:
 - Councilman Jeff Fleming read the code enforcement report.
- POLICE:
 - Chief Laidacker read the police report for July 2024. Police responded to 218 calls during the month.
 - A tie rod, two tires, brakes, A/C blower and PA state inspection for the 2019 SUV was completed.
 - Officers assisted with Summer Breeze concert.
 - Residents are reminded to lock their vehicles at night. Individuals have been breaking into open vehicles in neighboring jurisdiction.

****All guests will have a (3) minute limit for all issues to be heard. ****

- The department received notice to begin preparation for the 117th Halloween Parade.
- The grant applications are still pending approval.

Committee Reports

• FINANCE/UTILITIES:

- Councilwoman Sue Helwig read the utilities report.
- A motion was made by Jeff Fleming, 2nd by Paul Hulse to approve the purchase of the Senior Day meal from Woody's place. All Aye Borough Solicitor Anthony McDonald stated he will pay for the Senior Day meal. Council thanked Attorney McDonald.
- A motion was made by Sue Helwig, 2nd by Ernie May to approve the donation of electric usage at Catawissa Park and the use of the Borough Street Department dumpster for the 250th Anniversary Celebration. All Aye
- A motion was made by Sue Helwig, 2nd by Kevin Ferris to amend the agenda to add in the Water Authority truck rental motion utilizing parts the borough has on hand and the water authority will replace them. All Aye
- A motion to approve the Water Authority renting the Borough's bucket and line trucks and the necessary tools on the trucks at \$500/per truck with a total of \$1,000.00/day and the Water Authority will replace any borough parts utilized for the project. The Water Authority will place the truck under their insurance. Operator will provide his own accidental death insurance and will sign a waiver release form. All Aye
- A motion was made by Sue Helwig, 2nd by Paul Hulse to approve the purchase of (12) 240V 200A meters and (12) 240V demand meters for a cost of \$1186.27 with funds coming from GL# 442.20 in the electric fund. All Aye
- A motion was made by Sue Helwig, 2nd by Jeff Fleming to approve a Pole Attachment Agreement between Pioneer Internet and Catawissa Borough. All Aye
- A motion was made by Jeff Fleming, 2nd by Paul Hulse to approve donating \$1400 to the Catawissa Halloween Parade with funds coming from GL# 452.10 in General Fund. All Aye

• PERSONNEL:

- A motion was made by John Mensch, 2nd by Jeff Fleming to approve the resignation of Sean Richendrfer as Emergency Management Coordinator and Flood Plain Administrator. All Aye
- A motion was made by John Mensch, 2nd by Jeff Fleming to approve appointing Robert Jones as the Emergency Management Coordinator. All Aye
- A motion was made by Sue Helwig, 2nd by Jeff Fleming to appoint Kevn Ferris as Flood Plain Manager. Councilman Kevin Ferris abstained from voting. All Aye
- A motion to approve a rate increase of \$1.00/hr for Crystal Fleming with increase coming from the street department salaries budget. Councilwoman Sue Helwig expressed her concerns about going against the contractual agreement. Councilman Jeff Fleming Abstained. Roll call: Andrew Detwiler, Aye, Sue Helwig, Nay, Paul Hulse, Aye; Kevin Ferris, Aye; Ernie May, Aye; John Mensch, Aye Motion carries
- A motion was made by John Mensch, 2nd by Jeff Fleming to approve hiring Bruce Snyder for the Department of Public Works at \$18.00/hr. with a start date of August 21st, 2024. All Aye

• PROPERTY/BUILDING MAINTENANCE:

- A motion was made by Jeff Fleming, 2nd by John Mensch to approve Spaid's LLC to Coat and Seal the Borough Hall lower roof in addition to the repairs already in progress for a cost of \$2,275.00 using Capital Funds GL# 409.20 All Aye
- A motion was made by John Mensch, 2nd by Jeff Fleming to approve Spaid LLC to repair the Borough Hall upper metal roof for a cost of \$3,485 with the funds coming from Capital Fund GL# 409.20. All Aye
- A motion was by Sue Helwig, 2nd by Paul Hulse to approve Summer Breeze 2025 to start June 3rd and end with the Military Band and Quilts of Valor on July 1st 2025. All Aye

****All guests will have a (3) minute limit for all issues to be heard. ****

- A motion was made by Sue Helwig, 2nd by Jeff Fleming to approve the Garden Club to create a memorial garden from the right side of Eyer Park to the water spigot. Councilman Kevin Ferris abstained. All Aye
- A motion was made by Ernie May, 2nd by Paul Hulse to approve the donation of (1) set of bleachers from the softball field to Catawissa Little League. All Aye
- UNFINISHED BUSINESS:
 - No unfinished business to discuss.
- NEW BUSINESS:
 - A motion was made by Jeff Fleming, 2nd by Sue Helwig to approve Worship to be held at the Quaker Meeting House on August 11th, 2024 with Gary Roberts being responsible for opening and locking up the Quaker Meeting House. All Aye
- FINANCE Payment of Bills.
 - A motion to accept bills as written and any other that may arise before the next council meeting. motion was made by Jeff Fleming, 2nd by Sue Helwig. All Aye.
- GUESTS TO BE HEARD:
 - Guest Linda Kashner inquired about the \$350,000 cd the borough reinvested. Ms. Kashner stated on a report it showed only \$348,128.50 and wanted to know what the \$1871.50 was spent on. Council President Andrew Detwiler said the Finance Committee will look into it but none of the money has been spent. Ms. Kashner also inquired about the electric increase and the reasoning for the increase. Councilmembers were discussing the question among themselves, when Ms. Kashner stated Council wasn't even listening. Ms. Kashner abruptly left the meeting. Councilwoman Sue Helwig stated if Council does need to look into the increase they surely can.
 - Guest Sewer Plant Operator Robert Dunkelberg suggested Council look at the replacement of the infrastructure that will surely need to happen in the future. Council Members asked Mr. Dunkelberger who can they get quotes from. Mr. Dunkelberger listed off the companies that do that line of work.
- ADJOURNMENT:

Respectfully submitted,

Connie Cole
Manager of Administration, Catawissa Borough