

Catawissa Borough Council Meeting

DATE: April 7th, 2025 – 6:30 p.m.

- CALL TO ORDER
 - Meeting called to order by Vice President Jeff Fleming.
- PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
- ROLL CALL: Jeff Fleming, Kevin Ferris, Ernie May, John Mensch, Mayor Todd Burke, Solicitor Jonathan Dewald, via phone: Sue Helwig, Paul Hulse Absent: Andrew Detwiler
- READING OF MINUTES:
 - A motion to dispense reading of and approve minutes from the March 10th, 2025 meeting was made by Ernie May, 2nd by John Mensch. All Aye
- GUESTS TO BE HEARD FOR AGENDA ITEMS ONLY:
 - None to be heard.
- CORRESPONDENCE:
 - Nothing to report.
- MAYOR:
 - Mayor Todd Burke thanked everyone for attending the meeting. Mayor Burke reported the police are doing an outstanding job with patrols in the borough and Catawissa Township. Mayor Burke also read a proclamation making May 1st, 2025 National Prayer Day in the Borough.

Staff and Authority Reports

- WATER AUTHORITY:
 - Water Authority Superintendent Cindy Bachman reported next month's water bills will come in an envelope with the water quality report. Monday May 5th hydrants will be flushed. Ms. Bachman warned everyone not to do laundry that day. Ms. Bachman also reminded everyone the Borough is still in a drought.
 - 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.
- POLICE:
 - Chief Laidacker read the police report for March 2024. Police responded to 545 calls during the month.
 - SUV was taken for repairs on the struts.
 - The application for the 2025 Firehouse Grant was not submitted due to the portal only being open for a short period of time because of the many applications received.
 - The department is short staffed due to an officer being out on medical leave.

Committee Reports

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

- FINANCE/UTILITIES:
 - A motion was made by Paul Hulse, 2nd by Ernie May to approve selling the 2002 GMC 7500 dump truck on Municibid. All Aye
 - A motion was made by Ernie May, 2nd by John Mensch to approve the Pension Plan Joinder Agreement change for determining the amount of a Participant's Normal Retirement Benefit as follows: non-union participants hired after January 2024 to receive 50% of the Participant's Average Monthly Compensation. Councilwoman Sue Helwig expressed her concern with what the change will impact the pension plan and the Borough. Councilman Ernie May explained he figured out the numbers and feel the change will not impact the borough and would like for things to be fair across the board. Councilman John Mensch answered question Ms. Helwig had. Councilman Kevin Ferris had some concerns as well. After a lengthy discussion the motion was made by Ernie May, 2nd by John Mensch to table the motion. All Aye
- PERSONNEL:
 - A motion was made by John Mensch, 2nd by Ernie May to approve a rate increase to \$21.50/hr. for Trisha Bauman, Borough Treasurer. Councilwoman Sue Helwig expressed her concerns with giving a big raise. Councilman Ernie May and John Mensch shared they felt the raise is well deserved and if the Borough would like to keep good employees it is time to come in line with the wages of today. After a lengthy discussion 4; Aye, 2; Nay – Sue Helwig and Kevin Ferris Motion carries
 - A motion was made by John Mensch, 2nd by Ernie May to table Crystal Fleming's title as Depart of Public Works Foreman to be tabled. All Aye
 - A motion was made by John Mensch, 2nd by Ernie May to approve Resolution 2025-01 regarding the Schedule with American Power Inc. for participation in Safety and Training Programs. All Aye
 - A motion to approve hiring Fred Kessler as a part-time Department of Public Works Employee with a starting rate of \$15.00/hr. working no more than 29 hours per week. All Aye
- PROPERTY/BUILDING MAINTENANCE:
 - A motion was made by Kevin Ferris, 2nd by John Mensch to approve advertising Catawissa Borough's Paving Project. All Aye.
 - A motion was made by Paul Hulse, Kevin Ferris to approve opening sealed bids for the Dry Hydrant Project. All Aye
 - A motion was made by John Mensch, 2nd by Kevin Ferris to award the Dry Hydrant Project to the lowest responsible bidder upon Borough Solicitor's review of submitted documents. All Aye
 - A motion was made by Sue Helwig, 2nd by Kevin Ferris to approve Kappe Associates Inc's proposal for the Blower Project in the amount of \$160,270.00. All Aye
 - A motion was made by Kevin Ferris, 2nd by John Mensch to approve signing a lease agreement with Columbia County Traveling Library for the lease of Catawissa Borough's property located at 319 Pine St. for the amount of \$1200/month with all utilities included. All Aye
 - A motion was made by John Mensch, 2nd by Kevin Ferris to approve the Columbia County Traveling Library to store their items at 319 Pine St. from June 9th, 2025 until the commencement of the lease agreement. All Aye
- NEW BUSINESS:
 - A motion was made by John Mensch, 2nd by Paul Hulse to approve the yearly updated Memorandum of Understanding between Catawissa Borough and Columbia County Conservation District. All Aye
 - A motion was made by John Mensch, 2nd by Ernie May to approve the Catawissa Hose Co. #1 to hold a Corgie Race Fundraiser in the Catawissa Park on Saturday June 28th, 2025 with fire department doing all clean up and Borough providing electric if needed. 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 John Mensch, 2nd by Ernie May. All Aye.

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- GUESTS TO BE HEARD:
 - Guest Gary Roberts reported Catawissa Celebrates 250 Plus Committee has new T-shirts for sale. The committee will also hold a cash bingo fundraiser at the Bloomsburg Fire Hall. Mr. Roberts distributed flyers with information for the cash bingo.
- ADJOURNMENT:
 - A motion was made by John Mensch, 2nd by Ernie May to adjourn. All Aye

Respectfully submitted,

Connie Cole
Manager of Administration, Catawissa Borough