

Catawissa Borough Council Meeting

DATE: December 8th, 2025 – 6:30 p.m.

- CALL TO ORDER
 - Meeting called to order by President Andrew Dewiler.
- PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
- ROLL CALL: Andrew Detwiler, Jeff Fleming, Sue Helwig, Kevin Ferris, Ernie May, John Mensch, Paul Hulse and Mayor Todd Burke.
- READING OF MINUTES:
 - A motion to dispense reading of and approve minutes from the November 10th, 2025 meeting was made by Jeff Fleming, 2nd by Sue Helwig. All Aye
 - Council President thanked Councilwoman Sue Helwig for her service on Council for the last 4 years.
- GUESTS TO BE HEARD FOR AGENDA ITEMS ONLY:
 - None to be heard.
- CORRESPONDENCE:
 - Treasurer Trish Bauman reported for Water Authority Cindy Bachman the income surveys to determine the CDBG grant eligibility will be mailed out at the beginning of the year.
- MAYOR:
 - Mayor Todd Burke thanked everyone for coming. The mayor reported a large drug bust that Chief Laidacker had last month and an arrest of an alleged rapist on South Street. Mayor Burke said the department is doing a great job. Mayor Burke expressed Chief Laidacker leads by example. The Mayor and Council thanked Chief Laidacker for the great job he is doing.

Staff and Authority Reports

- POLICE:
 - Chief Laidacker thanked everyone for their support and kind words.
 - Chief Laidacker read the police report for October 2025. Police responded to 284 calls for service.
 - The 2014 sedan has been repaired and put back in service. The SUV will be going in for repair.
 - The department participated in a DUI Roving Patrol held on Nov. 27th, resulting 2 DUI arrests.
 - The department is still short-staffed due to an office being out on medical issues.
 - MPOETC re certifications are ongoing.

Committee Reports

- FINANCE/UTILITIES:
 - A motion was made by John Mensch, 2nd by Sue Helwig to approve the 2026 proposed budgets. All Aye
 - A motion was made by Paul Hulse, 2nd by John Mensch to approve the purchase of (10) \$100.00 Christmas Walmart gift cards for full-time employees and (5) \$50 Christmas Walmart gift cards for part-time employees. 6 Aye, Abstain Jeff Fleming
 - A motion was made by Jeff Fleming, 2nd by Ernie May to approve General Code to codify Catawissa Borough new ordinances, resolutions and update codes for years 2019- 2025. All Aye

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

- A motion was made by Jeff Fleming, 2nd by Paul Hulse to approve advertising the 2026 monthly Council Meetings dates. All Aye
- A motion was made by Sue Helwig, 2nd by Ernie May to approve a transfer from Sewer Fund up to \$10,000.00 to the sewer reserve. All Aye
- A motion was made by Sue Helwig, 2nd by Ernie May to approve a payment from Electric Fund up to \$84,000.00 to the Uniform & Non-Uniform Pension Plan. All Aye
- A motion was made by Jeff Fleming, 2nd by Paul Hulse to approve a transfer from General Fund up to \$50,000.00 to General Fund Reserve. All Aye
- PERSONNEL:
 - A motion was made by John Mensch, 2nd by Jeff Fleming to approve hiring Jason Brown as part-time Department of Public Works working up to 29 hours per week at \$16.00/hr. with a start date of December 15th, 2025. All Aye
 - A motion was made by John Mensch, 2nd by Jeff Fleming to approve hiring William Swank as part-time Department of Public Works working up to 29 hours per week at \$16.00/hr. with a start date of January 5th, 2026. Councilman Kevin Ferris asked for a discussion regarding the reasoning. Councilman John Mensch expressed his concerns with only hiring one. Councilwoman Sue Helwig stated she feels 2 part-time are better than one 1 full time person. Councilman Ernie May stated he felt 2 employees were not necessary at this point in time. 5 Aye, 2 Nay Jeff Fleming and Ernie May. Motion carries
- NEW BUSINESS:
 - A motion was made by Jeff Fleming, 2nd by Ernie May to approve Robert R. Fugate Jr. as primary Sewage Enforcement Officer and William C. Brior Alternate Sewage Enforcement Officer for 2026. All Aye
 - A motion was made by Ernie May, 2nd by Paul Hulse to approve Eric Brown as the Borough Labor Attorney for the year 2026 with a rate of \$230/hr. 6 Aye, Nay Jeff Fleming
 - A motion was made by Ernie May, 2nd by Kevin Ferris to approve appointing Anthony McDonald as Borough Solicitor for 2026 at a rate of \$225/hr. with a \$2500.00 retainer. All Aye
 - A motion was made by John Mensch, 2nd by Sue Helwig to appoint Linda Kashner as tax collector auditor. 4 Aye, 3 Nay Jeff Fleming, Ernie May and Kevin Ferris. Motion carries
- FINANCE Payment of Bills.
 - A motion was made by Jeff Fleming, 2nd by Ernie May to accept bills as written and any other that may arise before the next council meeting. All Aye
- GUESTS TO BE HEARD:
 - Guest Gary Roberts reported Catawissa Celebrates America 250th will be held June 18th-20th, 2026. Mr. Roberts reported entertainment will be Muck Dogs, Lucky Afternoon and the Catawissa Military Band. There will be a fireworks display as well. The committee will be holding a bingo fundraiser on March 7th, 2026.
- ADJOURNMENT:
 - A motion was made by Sue Helwig, 2nd by Jeff Fleming to adjourn. All Aye

Respectfully submitted,

Connie Cole
 Manager of Administration
 Catawissa Borough

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