

Catawissa Borough Council Meeting

DATE: January 6th, 2026 – 6:30 p.m.

- CALL TO ORDER
 - Meeting called to order by Mayor Todd Burke.
- PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
- ROLL CALL: Andrew Detwiler, Jeff Fleming, AJ McKenney, Kevin Ferris, John Mensch, Paul Hulse and Mayor Todd Burke, Ernie May via phone
- Mayor Burke asked for nominations and election of Council President. A nomination for John Mensch was made by Jeff Fleming, 2nd by Andrew Detwiler. All Aye
- Mayor Burke asked for nominations and election of Council Vice President. A nomination was made for Ernie May by Jeff Fleming, 2nd by Andrew Detwiler. All Aye
- Mayor Burke asked for nominations and elections for Council President Pro Tem. A nomination was made for Jeff Fleming by John Mensch, 2nd by Andrew Detwiler. All Aye
- READING OF MINUTES:
 - A motion was made by Andrew Detwiler, 2nd by AJ McKenney to dispense reading of and approve minutes from the previous month. All Aye
- GUESTS TO BE HEARD FOR AGENDA ITEMS ONLY:
 - None to be heard.

Staff and Authority Reports

- WATER:
 - Water Authority Superintendent Cindy Bachman reported the income survey for CBDG grant eligibility will be mailed on Monday January 12th and due to be returned on Thursday January 22nd.
 - A motion was made by Jeff Fleming, 2nd by AJ McKenney to approve the reappointment of Tim Rodenhaver to a five-year term on the Water Authority Board. All Aye
- POLICE:
 - Chief Laidacker thanked everyone for their support and kind words.
 - Chief Laidacker read the police report for December 2025. Police responded to 257 calls for service.
 - Winter tires were put on Car #1; Car #2 had two tires replaced.
 - The department participated in a DUI Roving Patrol held on the 31st, resulting in a DUI arrest.
 - The department was awarded \$116,000 from an LSA Grant from an application submitted in 2024.
 - The department is short staffed due to an officer being out on medical leave.
 - MPOETC re-certifications are complete.

Committee Reports

- FINANCE/UTILITIES:

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

- A motion was made by Andrew Detwiler, 2nd by Jeff Fleming to approve online payment portal for electric and sewer services. All Aye
- A motion was made by Jeff Fleming, 2nd by Andrew Detwiler to deny the LSA grants funds for a UTV. All Aye
- A motion was made by Jeff Fleming, 2nd by Andrew Detwiler to approve diverting the UTV funds to vehicle improvements and traffic enforcement. Councilman AJ McKenney asked if this was possible seeing it is a grant. Manager of Administration Connie Cole explained this motion is allowing permission for Chief Laidacker with the assistance of our grant writers to ask the LSA Board if we can change the scope of work. All Aye
- PERSONNEL:
 - A motion was made by Andrew Detwiler, 2nd by AJ McKenney to approve a 3% wage increase for Code Enforcement Officer Robert Jones effective January 1/1/2026. All Aye
 - A motion was made by Jeff Fleming, 2nd by Andrew Detwiler to approve a \$1.00 wage increase for Trish Bauman, Treasurer effective 1/1/2026. All Aye
 - A motion was made by Jeff Fleming, 2nd by Andrew Detwiler to approve a \$1.00 wage increase for Connie Cole, Manager of Administration effective 1/1/2026. All Aye
- FINANCE Payment of Bills.
 - A motion was made by Paul Hulse, 2nd by AJ McKenney 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 250+ is selling t-shirts, a bingo fundraiser will be held on March 7th and the festival in June. Mr. Roberts congratulated John Mensch on his presidency and thanked Council for all of their support.
- ADJOURNMENT:
 - A motion was made by Jeff Fleming, 2nd by Andrew Detwiler to adjourn. All Aye

Respectfully submitted,

Connie Cole
 Manager of Administration
 Catawissa Borough