

President Smith called the regular meeting of the Catasauqua Borough Council to order at 7:05 PM with the Pledge to the Flag.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Mr. Smith, Ms. Kroope, Ms. Mellish, Mr. McKittrick, Mr. Schlegel and Ms. Weaver.

ALSO PRESENT:

Mayor Schlegel, Manager Eugene Goldfeder, Solicitor Anewalt, Police Chief Doug Kish, Public Works Supervisor Mac Hose and Treasurer Hein.

ABSENT:

Mr. Bartholomew.

MINUTES:

A motion to approve the minutes of the March 6, 2017 regular meeting was made by Ms. Mellish, seconded by Ms. Weaver. Motion passed six to zero.

A motion to approve the minutes of the March 27, 2017 Special meeting was made by Ms. Weaver, seconded by Ms. Mellish. Motion passed six to zero.

HEARING OF PERSONS PRESENT:

Downtown Parking Concerns

Joe Tognoli, 1153 American Street, North Catasauqua, approached Council. He said he was representing the Catasauqua Area Thrift Shop and is concerned with the lack of parking and the removal of more parking in the business district. He said that with the opening of the Malvern Institute facility many of their people park on the street and there is no parking for any of the businesses or their customers. He said their business is down significantly from past years due to the lack of parking. He is concerned that Council is now considering removing more parking as part of the Two-Way Front Street project. He feels we are “putting the cart before the horse”, that we should have more businesses and make sure of the need before we start changing the traffic patterns.

He said that with the Fed Ex building and other developments occurring there will be more trucks and traffic coming into the Borough creating further problems and we still do not know what Penn DOT will be doing at Race and Lehigh Streets and its impact.

He said that years ago he worked at the Fuller Plant and there were over two hundred (200) people working there and there were lots of stores all occupied and there was still ample parking for everybody because the two-hour parking was enforced.

President Smith responded that Borough Council has been working for years on the downtown plan, working with Tom Comitta, a nationally recognized expert in the field, on parking and traffic. Council is trying to take a global view working with many groups and others to find parking. Often times there is parking in the rear of the properties that is not used because it is not as convenient. President Smith said that downtown is not as bad as Mr. Tognoli said. It is also not unique Catasauqua. With the suburban sprawl and the shopping centers, all the urban downtowns have experienced the loss of businesses.

Ms. Mellish said that we will lose some parking spots with two-way Front Street. She said another issue is the need to enforce the two-hour parking restrictions.

The Police Chief said that he had been asked by several businesses not to enforce the two-hour parking, since it created problems for their customers. He said also, with the Borough staff needing parking and the loss of our off-street parking at the Syrian Club, he is holding off on enforcement until our building is completed and we can relieve some of the on-street issues.

740 Third Street Complaints

Mr. Don Hunter, 738 Second Street, said that he is approaching Council again with the same concerns for his neighboring property at 740 Third Street. He questioned whether anyone had seen the video of the dog attack on a little girl recently. He said there are now nineteen (19) police calls to the property, including a dog attack and a gunshot. He said the focus is not on what occurred, but why it is still being allowed to occur. He wants to know what Council is doing. President Smith said that we are aware of the problems and that the proper officials are handling them. The police calls, dog and shooting incidents are being handled by the police and the Mayor could comment on them. The Manager said that Code Enforcement has received notice that the eviction process has started, not just with the Office sending the owner a letter, but with his following up and beginning the procedure at the District Magistrate.

Ms. Kroope said that some of the concerns and issues raised by Mr. Hunter are the same that have been coming up at a blight task force meeting that she has been attending. There are a number of ordinances and programs that could be established that would help going forward.

Mr. Hunter said the Borough indicates it is worried about the tax base and he said the taxpayers are the tax base. Tenants are not taxpayers and we need to concern ourselves with our residents. He also said there is a significant problem with drug paraphernalia and needles on the sidewalk and in neighboring properties.

Virginia Lichtenwalner, 135 Canal Street, regarding the dog incident asked whether the person's parole officer had been notified. She suspects this is a drug related situation and the person is probably on parole. In response to a question from the Police Chief she said she has no evidence of this, she just assumes it. The Chief said that the proper people have been notified about the dog and other issues, and the police are handling it.

Ms. Lichtenwalner also said that there are dirt bikes all over Canal Street and the canal property. She thinks three of the bikers are dealing drugs, based on what she has observed with their pattern of driving to the canal property and back. The Police Chief said that two dirt bikes were confiscated this week and the police are monitoring the issue. He suggested that Ms. Lichtenwalner call the police whenever she sees this occurring. She does not have to be a witness, but the police cannot be down there all the time, if she sees something, she should call.

Heather Woodside, 738 Third Street, said that she is a tenant of Mr. Hunter. She moved in just a few months ago, and has a seven month old child. This past Saturday, her child picked up a bag of heroin which was thrown out by the residents of 740 Third Street. Ms. Woodside did not want to have it so she threw it back over the fence. Chief Kish said that if this occurs again, please call the police and let them know. If she does not want to be observed talking to the police she can make arrangements to meet elsewhere to provide the information.

Matthew Silberg, 742 Third Street. He said that he is the neighbor on the other side of the same house. He moved from Wilson Borough due to issues and problems in that community. It seems that the same problems are now creeping up in Catasauqua. SWAT was called to the house this summer and now there are heroin needles all around. He also has a video of the dog attacking the young girl. With respect to the gun shot and he said his was the house that was hit by the bullet.

Mr. Silberg also said that there is an issue of a vehicle being parked there through the entire snow storm without being moved and that the license plates seemed to be swapped from car to car. The Chief said he is aware of this issue, but at least one car had the proper transfer of tags.

Jessica Cassidy, 734 Third Street, said that she concurs with what was said before about this property, but she is also concerned with the safety of her children. She has found needles in her yard also.

Alfred Regits, 745 St. John Street, said that he agrees with Mr. Tognoli. Parking is a premium in the Borough and now Council is taking away more of it on Union Street also.

ORDINANCES & RESOLUTIONS:

ORDINANCE: #1347

AN ORDINANCE REMOVING A HANDICAP PARKING SIGN FROM 501 KURTZ STREET.

Mr. McKittrick moved, seconded by Ms. Weaver. On a roll call vote the motion passed six to zero, with one absent.

RESOLUTION: #6-17

A RESOLUTION APPROVING AND AUTHORIZING THE SUBMISSION OF AN APPLICATION UNDER THE LEHIGH COUNTY 2017 CDBG GRANT PROGRAM.

Ms. Weaver moved, seconded by Mr. Schlegel. The motion passed six to zero, with one absent.

COMMENDATION RESOLUTION

A RESOLUTION COMMENDING STEVEN R. HENNING FOR HIS YEAR OF SERVICE AS ENGINEER FOR THE BOROUGH OF CATASAUQUA.

The resolution was approved by unanimous acclamation and presented to Mr. Henning.

SECRETARY/MANAGER:

Eugene L. Goldfeder, Borough Manager/Secretary reported.

- WATER & SEWER:** There were 23,300,000 gallons of water pumped to the system in March 2017 for a daily average of 752,000 gallons. There were 24,460,000 gallons of sewer treated for a daily average of 790,000 gallons.
- CDBG Window Project** The Manager reported that on Wednesday they opened the bids for the restoration of the George Taylor House windows. The only bid received was almost \$100,000 over budget. Upon reviewing the bid and the recommendation of Tom Jones the Manager is recommending that we reject all bids received, speak with the one vendor who submitted a bid and re-advertise as soon as possible.
- Community Yard Sale** The Manager said that he had forwarded to Council two (2) requests for the use of the Fire Training field for yard sales. The Mayor said she thought Council had given the Manager authorization to approve these types of requests in the past. Ms. Kroope and Council agreed with the Mayor's recollection. Based on that the Manager said he would handle both of these requests himself and they could be removed from the Council Agenda.
- Front Street Clean-up** The Manager said that given the continuing unsightly debris pile on Front Street and the inability to obtain good prices to remove it without extensive bidding, he is requesting permission to hire a contractor and spend no more than \$19,000, just below the bidding threshold, to remove the debris above grade and a few feet below grade so that it may be brought back up, leveled and at least made clean. He said that he is proposing to remove the rest of the debris and pave the lot for parking as part of the CDBG application.
- Mr. Schlegel asked if the Manager was able to find the Tree Cee application or not. The Manager said he looked, but it does not appear that we submitted one this year. Usually he and Mr. Bastian get together in December and work on the application. He cannot remember doing that and cannot find a copy of an application which we would have submitted.
- Mr. Schlegel questioned whether it is legal for the Borough to install speed bumps on certain streets. Based on the complaint last month on drag strip racing on Limestone, between Church and Bridge, he was wondering if installing speed bumps would be helpful. The Manager said that he would check on the legality of speed bumps and report back.
- TREASURER'S REPORT:** A motion to approve the Treasurer's Report was made by Ms. Weaver and seconded by Mr. McKittrick. The motion passed six to zero.
- MAYOR:**
Yard Sales The Mayor reported that there will be a yard sale on May 6, at the Fire Training field to benefit the K9 program.
- She reported that there will be yard sale on May 27, sponsored by the Fire Police. Tables for both events are \$10.
- Third Street Issues** The Mayor said that the Police are taking the Third Street issues extremely seriously. She said there were certain issues that they are investigating that cannot be discussed publicly.

Two Hour Parking

The Mayor reported that several businesses had approached Council and her asking that the two-hour parking not be enforced since it would harm their business.

JUNIOR COUNCIL PERSONS:

None.

SOLICITOR:

Mr. Anewalt reported.

Mr. Anewalt said that he has no report to distribute this evening, but he was willing to accept questions.

Ms. Mellish asked what the status of the business registration program was. Mr. Anewalt said that he would check with his partners and let her know.

ENGINEER'S REPORT:

Mr. Henning reported.

Mr. Henning thanked Council and the Mayor for their Resolution of Appreciation.

Mr. Henning said that the contract documents for bidding for the repairs to the subsidence at the Administration building at the sewer plant have been completed. The advertisement has been placed and the bids will be received on April 25, 2017.

Mr. Schlegel stated that the School District Lot Consolidation plan has been recorded and can be taken off their report list.

Plans have been submitted for the Walnut Street Bridge permit.

Mr. Schlegel said that he saw on the Agenda that there will be action this evening on the proposal from A.C. Schultes to lower the pump in Well #1.

Mr. Schlegel said that Mr. Regits had called him to say that Hanover Township is installing larger sewer lines. He wondered whether this would be any concern for the Borough. The Manager responded by saying that the original lines installed by Hanover Township were sized to accommodate the maximum flow they are permitted under the inter-municipal agreement. What they do internally within their community is up to them and how they want to manage their collection system. Ultimately there will be, or should be, no impact on the Borough's system.

GENERAL GOVERNMENT:

Ms. Mellish Reported.

Refuse Bill Adjustment Request

Ms. Mellish said that she had received the request for relief from a garbage bill since the property was unoccupied for an entire year during renovations. She said that the Ordinance is specific and there is no waiver possible just because a property was unoccupied. It is her recommendation, and she moved, to deny the request of Jessica Tirado, 221 Front Street, for relief of paying the 2016 refuse bill, the motion was seconded by Mr. McKittrick. The motion passed six to zero.

Demolition Debris

Ms. Mellish moved, seconded by Ms. Weaver to authorize the Manager to hire a contractor at a price not to exceed \$19,000 to remove the demolition debris from the Front Street properties to grade and level the site. Mr. Smith said that he had received two (2) proposals from a vendor, one for each of the properties at an amount below the bidding threshold. He was wondering if this could be

considered. The Manager said that he had previously spoken with the Solicitor about this. It is the Solicitor's opinion that even though they are two separate properties they were attached to each other forming a common structure. As such it would be an evasion of the bidding requirements to separate and accept a proposal to clean each one individually. The motion was approved six to zero.

PUBLIC SAFETY:

Mr. McKittrick reported.

Civil Service Commission Appointees

Mr. McKittrick moved seconded by Ms. Mellish to appoint Mr. Wade Hubert, Jr, 515 4th Street, to a the Civil Service Commission to a term expiring December 31, 2017. Ms. Kroope questioned why all of Council did not receive a bio or background information on this applicant. She was informed that only Committee members usually receive the bios on candidates for Boards and Commissions that the Committee oversees. It is possible she received the bios on previous appointees since she had previously been on the Public Safety Committee. The motion carried six in favor, none opposed.

Mr. McKittrick moved, seconded by Ms. Weaver to appoint Ron Lippman, 547 Pine Street, to be an alternate on the Civil Service Commission. The motion carried six in favor, none opposed.

Mr. McKittrick said that in reviewing the Rules and Regulations the alternates to the Civil Service Commission are also supposed to be appointed for staggered terms. The Manager said he will review the recent appointments and determine what the appropriate term is for each of them.

At this point the Mayor swore in Mr. Haubert as a member of the Civil Service Commission.

Fire Truck

Mr. McKittrick reported that the new fire truck is in New Jersey getting the punch list items taken care of. It is due to be in service on April 17, 2017. He reported that the Fire Chief had provided photographs of the old rescue truck to the Borough Manager so that it can be placed out to bid for disposal.

In response to a question from Mr. Schlegel, Mr. McKittrick said that they have not had an opportunity to coordinate the test of having two (2) fire trucks pass each other on Front Street to see if there is sufficient room for both to pass.

PUBLIC UTILITIES:

Mr. Schlegel reported.

Well #1

Mr. Schlegel moved, seconded by Mr. McKittrick to accept the proposal of A.C. Schultes to lower the pump on Well #1 at a price of \$9, 905, pending unforeseen conditions. The motion carried six in favor, none opposed.

Shade Tree Commission

Mr. Schlegel moved that the Shade Tree Commission meetings be moved to the fourth (4th) Tuesday of every other month, beginning in January 2017. Ms. Weaver seconded the motion which carried six to zero.

Arbor Day/Earth Day

Mr. Schlegel reported that the Shade Tree Arbor Day celebration will be on April 22, at 10 AM at the large pavilion in the Catasauqua Park. He also reported that on that same day the Borough will be celebrating Earth Day. Participants in that event should meet at the Deily Coal Yard, at 1 PM.

PLANNING & ZONING:

Ms. Weaver reported.

- Furniture Purchase Ms. Weaver moved, seconded by Ms. Mellish, to award the contract to Tanner Furniture Company for the purchase of furniture for the new Municipal Building at the cost of \$96,569.83. The motion carried six in favor none opposed.
- Planning Commission – Resignation Ms. Weaver moved, seconded by Ms. Mellish to accept the resignation of Sean McHugh from the Catasauqua Planning Commission. Motion carried six in favor, none opposed.
- Planning Commission – Appointment Ms. Weaver moved, seconded by Mr. Schlegel, to appoint Brett Butler to an unexpired term on the Planning Commission, the term expiring May 1, 2017.
- Ms. Weaver said that Mr. Butler is interested in taking the Lehigh Planning Commission courses on planning and related activities. Mayor Schlegel said that Mr. Butler was a very good Junior Council Person when he served in that capacity.
- Ms. Weaver said that there is still one more vacancy on the Planning Commission. A gentleman expressed interest, but had not yet turned in a letter of interest.
- Front & Pine Traffic Signal Ms. Weaver moved, seconded by Ms. Kroope to authorize the Borough Engineer to go out for bids for modifications to the traffic controller at Front and Pine Streets. The motion carried six in favor, none opposed.
- Ms. Weaver said that she is also a member of the Lehigh County Planning Commission. She encourages all of Council to look at the LVPC website and the brochure of projects and courses they have available. She also said that they have recently done an update to the Lehigh Valley population projection. She said that the Valley will grow significantly in the future. We have a chance at this time to get ahead and plan for the growth and we should take that opportunity.
- RECREATION:** Ms. Kroope reported.
- Cedarbrook Sportsmen Club Ms. Kroope moved, seconded by Ms. Weaver, to approve the request of the Cedarbrook Sportsmen’s Club for a donation of \$500 for stocking of the Catasauqua Creek with trout. The motion carried six in favor, none opposed. Ms. Kroope said we approve their request each year.
- GTH Window Restoration Ms. Kroope moved, seconded by Ms. Mellish to reject all bids received for the restoration of the windows at the George Taylor House. She said that the prices were excessive, far beyond the budget and grant funding available. The motion carried six in favor, none opposed.
- Tom Jones Proposal Ms. Kroope said that since we are not awarding the contract for the windows at this time, there is no need to take action on the proposal of Mr. Jones to supervise that work.
- In response to a question from Mr. McKittrick, the Manager said that Mr. Jones works on several projects relating to the George Taylor House, all of which are primarily funded through grants.
- PUBLIC WORKS:** Mr. Schlegel reported.

Race Street Bridge Sidewalk

Mr. Schlegel moved, seconded by Ms. Weaver, to inform Plenary Walsh that the Borough would accept responsibility for sidewalk maintenance, and that sidewalks should be installed on the north side of the Race Street Bridge, over the Catasauqua Creek. Motion carried six in favor, none opposed.

The Manager reported that he hopes to have the specifications for the 2017 Street Program to Penn DOT for their review later this week.

BILLS & ACCOUNTS:

<u>General Fund</u>	<u>Water</u>	<u>Sewer Plant</u>
\$1,844,658.85	\$59,181.81	\$181,495.53
<u>Sewer Collection</u>	<u>Community Development</u>	<u>Gross Payrolls</u>
\$213,981.11	\$128.93	\$135,053.09

Bills and Accounts were approved on a motion by Ms. Mellish, seconded by Ms. Kroope. The motion passed six to zero.

Ms. Mellish commented that it seems that the bills in the general fund were extremely high this month. The Manager responded that over \$1.5 million of the total bills were related to the new municipal complex.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Mr. McKittrick said that Union Street no parking Ordinance will be coming up next month.

The Mayor informed the Manager that she is still having issues getting her Borough email on the computer in her office. She also reported that there are four (4) street lights out on the Pine Street Bridge. She asked that the Manager inform the County. She also requested that Penn DOT be notified about the large potholes on the Race Street Bridge.

NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Schlegel stated that he heard Hill’s Restaurant is reopening under new management.

Ms. Mellish said that HCPA is starting the Walking Tours in the Borough. The first tour is this week, and will be in the Downtown Historic Area. Participants will meet at Pies On Pizzeria at 4 PM and conclude there with food provided by Pies On. There is a \$20 admission charge, half of the fee will go to HCPA, and the other half will go the cost of food.

HEARING OF PERSONS PRESENT: Mr. Regits questioned what the new fire apparatus is classified as. The Manager said it is classified as a pumper/rescue vehicle.

CLOSED SESSION:

NONE

ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business, the regular meeting of Council adjourned at 8:50 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Eugene L. Goldfeder
Secretary/Manager