

CALL TO ORDER:

President Smith called the regular meeting of the Catasauqua Borough Council to order at 7:00PM, with the Pledge of Allegiance.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

President Smith, Ms. Kroope, Ms. Mellish, Mr. McKittrick, and Mr. Schlegel (via telephone)

ABSENT:

Mr. Bartholomew, Ms. Weaver

ALSO PRESENT:

Mayor Schlegel, Solicitor Dinkelacker, Police Chief Kish, Fire Chief Hertzog and Engineer Gawlik.

MINUTES:

A motion to approve the minutes of the November 5, 2018 regular meeting was made by Ms. Mellish, seconded by Mr. McKittrick. The motion passed five in favor, two absent.

ADJOURNMENT:

President Smith adjourned the Council Meeting for a Public Hearing

PUBLIC HEARING:

President Smith asked for any input and/or comments regarding the 2019 Budget.

There were none.

President Smith re-opened the Council Meeting.

HEARING PERSONS PRESENT:

NONE

ORDINANCES & RESOLUTIONS:

RESOLUTION #18-2018:

A RESOLUTION ADOPTING THE 2019 BUDGET OF THE BOROUGH OF CATASAUQUA.

Ms. Mellish moved, seconded by Mr. Schlegel, the Ordinance passed five in favor, two absent.

ORDINANCE 1377:

AN ORDINANCE OF THE COUNCIL OF THE BOROUGH OF CATASAUQUA, LEHIGH COUNTY, COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA, FIXING THE TAX RATE FOR FISCAL YEAR 2019.

Mr. McKittrick moved, seconded by Ms. Mellish, the Ordinance passed on a roll call vote, five in favor, two absent.

Mr. McKittrick stated for the record that there is no tax increase for 2019.

ORDINANCE 1378:

AN ORDINANCE PRESCRIBING THE MANAGER'S SALARY FOR 2019.

Ms. Mellish moved, seconded by Ms. Kroope, the motion passed on a roll call vote, five in favor, two absent.

ORDINANCE 1379:

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING SECTION 260-8 OF THE CATASAUQUA CODE OF THE BOROUGH OF CATASAUQUA, AS AMENDED, ESTABLISHING ADDITIONAL ONE-WAY STREETS: TUNNEL ALLEY FROM AMERICAN STREET TO MILTON STREET, DIRECTION OF TRAVEL WEST; MILTON STREET FROM TUNNEL ALLEY TO PEACH STREET, DIRECTION OF TRAVEL NORTH.

Mr. McKittrick moved, seconded by Ms. Mellish, the motion passed five in

favor, two absent.

 RESOLUTION 19-2018:

A RESOLUTION APPOINTING THE FIRM OF DIMMICH, DINKELACKER AND ANEWALT, P.C. TO SERVE AS THE DELINQUENT TAX COLLECTOR FOR BOROUGH OF CATASAUQUA REAL ESTATE TAXES AND RE-AFFIRMING THE FEES TO BE PAID FOR THOSE SERVICES

Ms. Mellish moved, seconded by Mr. Schlegel, the motion passed five in favor, two absent.

RESOLUTION 20-2018:

A RESOLUTION SETTING THE RATE AND ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS FOR A SENIOR CITIZEN REFUSE ASSESSMENT DISCOUNT BEGINNING JANUARY 1, 2019.

Ms. Mellish moved, seconded by Mr. McKittrick, the motion passed five in favor, two absent.

SECRETARY/MANAGER:

Mr. Travers reported.

WATER & SEWER

Mr. Travers reported that there were 18,038,000 million gallons of water pumped to the system in November 2018 for a daily average of 601,000 gallons. There were 52.97 million gallons of sewage treated for a daily average of 1.77 million gallons.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

A motion to approve the Treasurer's Report was made by Mr. McKittrick, seconded by Ms. Kroope. The motion passed five in favor, two absent.

MAYOR:

Mayor Schlegel reported.

TREE LIGHTING:

The Mayor thanked Ms. Kroope and all the volunteers for their help with the Tree Lighting at the George Taylor House on December 2nd. She said there was a good turnout despite the rainy weather. She also thanked Mr. Ken Serfass and the Antebellum Marine Band for their performance.

The Mayor said approximately 600 flyers were distributed in the schools and the event had even made the radio that morning.

JUNIOR COUNCIL:

Not present.

SOLICITOR:

The Solicitor's Report was distributed.

IRON WORKS:

The Solicitor reported that the Agreement of Sale (AOS) for the Iron Works property was getting closed to the end of negotiations. He believes that it should be ready for presentation/discussion at an executive session in January, and for public discussion at the February 4th Council meeting. He said that based on the required time line for advertising the Sale a Special Meeting may be necessary for March 11, 2019 to discuss and approve the Sale.

He said all of Council would have a copy of the AOS prior to the January Workshop meeting. The Engineer is also working on the construction provisions of the Agreement and necessary Memorandums.

 BRIDGE STREET:

Ms. Mellish asked the status of the AOS for the old Borough Hall, 118 Bridge Street. The Solicitor said it should be on the January Agenda as a Resolution for approval. In response to a question from President Smith he said Resolutions do

not need to be advertised. A draft Resolution had been sent to the Manager and the Lehigh County Housing Authority representative.

ENGINEER'S REPORT:

Mr. Gawlik reported.

A written report was issued. Mr. Gawlik addressed the highlights of the report.

FL SMIDTH TRAIL:

The Manager said that N. Catty has obtained ownership of their portion of the land and has an application into DEP. The Borough is moving forward to obtain ownership of our portion.

PEARL STREET:

The Pearl Street subdivision is scheduled to be reviewed at the January Planning Commission meeting.

RACE STREET BRIDGE:

In response to a questions from Council the Engineer said the Race Street Bridge project was on track for spring, but is not sure of the duration of the project, and that they have proposed closing the bridge in both directions allowing the project to be completed quicker.

GENERAL GOVERNMENT:

Ms. Mellish reported.

ON-LINE PAYMENTS:

Ms. Mellish thanked the Manager and office staff for implementing on-line payments. She said the Facebook response has been very positive.

MAIN STREETS:

Ms. Mellish reported that the Main Streets mixer last week was a success.

PINE ST. BRIDGE WREATHS:

Ms. Mellish thanked Main Streets for providing the wreaths on the Pine Street Bridge.

PUBLIC SAFETY:

Mr. McKittrick reported.

NEW OFFICERS:

Mr. McKittrick moved, seconded by Ms. Kroepe, to conditionally approve Richard Reiss and Anthony Buckland, Jr. as police officers. The motion passed five in favor, 2 absent.

Mr. McKittrick read a short bio of the two officers, and extended a welcome to the officers.

SANCTUARY AT HAAFSVILLE:

Mr. McKittrick moved, seconded by Ms. Mellish, to approve the 2019 Contract with the Sanctuary at Haafsville for stray animal assistance. The motion passed five in favor, two absent.

CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION:

Mr. McKittrick moved, seconded by Ms. Mellish, to accept the resignation of Mr. Wade Haubert from the CSC. Mr. Haubert is moving out of State. The motion passed five in favor, two absent.

Mr. McKittrick moved, seconded by Ms. Mellish, to appoint Mr. Charles Bennicoff to fill a vacancy on the Civil Service Commission with a term expiring December 31, 2023. The motion passed five in favor, two absent.

Mr. McKittrick, on behalf of the Public Safety Committee, expressed his thanks to the Commission and the Manager for their hard work.

PUBLIC UTILITIES:

Mr. Schlegel had no report.

SHADE TREE COMMISSION:

Mr. Schlegel said there will be a Shade Tree Commission meeting on Tuesday, December 11, at 7 pm.

BOROUGH AUTHORITY:

There are two openings on the Borough Authority with terms expiring December 31, 2018 and December 31, 2020. If anyone is interested in applying for these positions please contact the Borough Manager.

PLANNING & ZONING:

Mr. McKittrick reported.

REZONING:

Mr. McKittrick moved, seconded by Ms. Mellish, to begin the process to rezone approximately 5.6 acres of the 13 acres of CN-Conservation to R-2-Residential Zoning District on the west side of 14th Street, owned by the Catasauqua Area School District. The motion passed five in favor, two absent.

The Solicitor said the Ordinance has been drafted and all exhibits are prepared and will be sent to LVPC and the Borough Planning Commission for review.

Ms. Mellish encouraged Council look at replacing the CN-Conservation acres. Mr. McKittrick said this will not take all of the CN acreage, and that it is for housing which develops tax dollars.

RECREATION:

Ms. Kroope reported.

YMCA AGREEMENT:

Ms. Kroope moved, seconded by Ms. Mellish, to approve the Management Agreement for the YMCA to operate the Borough Swimming Pool for 2019. The Motion passed five in favor, two absent.

Ms. Mellish asked if the pool will be ready and operational for the 2019 season.

ORNAMENTS:

Ms. Kroope thanked the 3rd graders and Mr. Kotran the art teacher from Sheckler Elementary School for the decorations they made for the tree in Borough Hall. She also thanked the Manager for decorating the tree.

TREE LIGHTING:

Ms. Kroope thanked the Mayor and all the volunteers who helped with the Tree Lighting at the George Taylor House on December 2nd. She also expressed her thanks to the Borough Public Works crew for their help.

POOL REPAIRS:

Mr. Schlegel said there had been discussion last year about closing the pool in the future for repairs, and asked if the pool was in good enough shape for next summer. President Smith said "band aids" could be applied to the slide and pool for the 2019 season. The Manager will follow up and keep Council aware of the status of the pool.

CONCESSION STAND:

Ms. Kroope said that Blondies has agreed to operate the Concession Stand for 2019. An agreement is being drafted.

GEORGE TAYLOR HOUSE:

The Manager said a new tarp would be put on the George Taylor House this week to contain the leaks. Once the CDBG Grant funds are awarded in January replacing the roof will be addressed.

PUBLIC WORKS:

Mr. Mr. Schlegel reported.

LEAF COLLECTION:

In response to a question from Ms. Mellish the Manager said that leaf collection will continue through this week. Jeff MacHose and Chief Kish have posted the streets that will be done.

BILLS & ACCOUNTS:

General Fund
\$295,875.23

Water
\$36,809.88

Sewer Plant
\$87,699.18

Sewer Collection
\$6,286.18

Community Development
\$0.00

Gross Payrolls
\$138,857.61

Bills and Accounts were approved on a motion by Ms. Mellish, seconded by Ms. Kroope. The motion passed five in favor, two absent.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

COOKIES WITH THE COPS:

The Mayor said there will be a Cookies and Cocoa event with the Cops on Thursday, December 20th from 5-7pm in the Borough Community Room. Holy Trinity Church is providing the cookies, but donations of cookies would be appreciated.

SOLICITORS REPORT:

President Smith asked members of Council to review Item #25 of the Solicitors Report regarding the MoU for the Student Resource Officer.

NEW BUSINESS:

NONE

HEARING OF PERSONS PRESENT: NONE

ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 7:38 pm.

Respectfully submitted,


Steve Travers
Secretary/Manager