

**REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING
HUNTINGDON BOROUGH COUNCIL
JANUARY 17, 2017
7:30 P.M.**

The Regular Monthly Meeting of Huntingdon Borough Council was called to order on Tuesday, January 17, 2017, at 7:30 P.M. in the Borough Council Chambers, 530 Washington Street, Huntingdon, PA 16652.

The meeting was called to Order by Council President David Quarry.

President Quarry asked for a moment of silence in memory of Patrolman Landon Weaver. Mayor Brown gave the Invocation followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll call indicated the following members present: President David Quarry, Vice-President Jim Bair, Donna Isenberg, James Decker, Sr., John Gradwell, Nicole Houck, Ron Enyeart, Mayor DeeDee Brown, Solicitor Richard Wilson, Borough Engineer Kevin Nester, Assistant Borough Secretary Melody J. Parsons, and Borough Manager William W. Wheeler.

Visitors Present: Gary Cramer, Marty Everhart, Ginny Everhart, Patrick Plumber, Scott Shaffer, Dain Davis, Michael Bevign, Jay Brous, April Feagley, Maureen Safko, and Stephen Jackson.

WELCOME TO VISITORS: President Quarry welcomed the visitors and asked that anyone wishing to address Council come forward and states his or her name and address for the record.

Patrick Plumber, President of the South Central Counties Borough's Association was present. Mr. Plumber thanked Council for allowing him to speak. He invited Council to come to the next SCCBA meeting in Hollidaysburg. The topic is Garbage. The April meeting will be on the topic of Blight.

Jay Brous, 2313 Warm Springs Avenue, stated he read on the agenda about hiring a chief of police. He recommends that Officer Buckley be promoted to Chief of Police.

Dean Harris, 2811 Chapel Hill Road, agreed he thinks Officer Buckley should be promoted to Chief of Police.

Marty Everhart, 1123 Washington Street, stated that he attended the Parks and Recreation Committee meeting regarding the restrooms at the Little League Field. He had asked for help or some kind of grant money available. He never received an answer. Councilperson Houck explained that the Park's Commission has just been formed and they had some discussion about this issue. It is on their agenda. Mr. Everhart asked for portable John's. He stated that they have handicapped parents that attend. Mayor Brown explained that the Parks and Recreation Committee cannot make this decision on their own. Manager Wheeler responded that he will speak with Council about a couple of things.

Motion was made by Councilperson Gradwell, seconded by Councilperson Houck to reappoint Jay Muir and Beth Yocum to the Water & Sewer Authority for a 5 yr. term. Motion carried.

Motion was made by Councilperson Enyeart, seconded by Councilperson Isenberg to reappoint Tom Yoder Ambulance Commission for a 5 yr. term. Motion carried.

Motion was made by Councilperson Houck, seconded by Councilperson Enyeart to reappoint James Savory to the Tree Commission for 5 yr. term. Motion carried.

Motion was made by Councilperson Enyeart, seconded by Councilperson Houck to reappoint Leonard Hahn to the Planning Commission for 4 yr. term. Motion carried.

Motion was made by Councilperson Enyeart, seconded by Councilperson Isenberg to approve the following minutes. **Motion carried.**

- a. Water and Sewer Committee Meeting, December 1, 2016
- b. Community Development Committee Meeting, December 1, 2016
- c. Parks, Recreation & Public Property Committee Meeting, December 1, 2016
- d. Special Council Meeting, December 6, 2016
- e. Maintenance Committee, December 13, 2016
- f. Public Safety Committee Meeting, December 13, 2016
- g. Administrative Committee Meeting, December 13, 2016
- h. Regular Council Meeting, December 20, 2016

Motion was made by Councilperson Gradwell, seconded by Councilperson Enyeart recommending the bills payable for December 2016 be approved for payment. Invoices have been reviewed. **Motion carried.**

Motion was made by Councilperson Gradwell, seconded by Councilperson Houck recommending the Financial Statements for November 2016 be approved. **Motion carried.**

Old Business-none

New Business

Motion was made by Councilperson Isenberg, seconded by Councilperson Gradwell recommending the approval of an Ordinance of the Borough of Huntingdon amending chapter 15, section 15-907 of the code of the Borough of Huntingdon to designate stop intersections and the placement of stop signs at the intersection of 24th Street and MaClay Avenue. **Motion carried.**

President Quarry stated that he would entertain discussion from Council regarding the request from Sunoco Logistics for a “will serve” letter. Councilperson Gradwell stated that the Borough went through a tremendous drought. The Borough’s public comes first. We have institutions to deal with. We have a hospital to deal with. We have a college to deal with. He thinks this should be taken back for discussion. Councilperson Houck stated that it has been discussed multiple times and there seems to be a resistance to providing the letter. She is concerned about us getting into any type of agreement with them. Councilperson Enyeart stated that there is a difference between will serve and the ability to serve. Manager Wheeler stated he received a request and needs to know what Council wants to do. Councilperson Isenberg asked if we have a dollar amount on what income this might bring into the borough. Manager Wheeler stated he does not. Councilperson Gradwell stated he looks at the verbiage “will serve” indicates a commitment to serve. If the verbiage was different, he might consider it. Councilperson Bair asked Solicitor Wilson if he has looked at it and does he have an opinion. Solicitor Wilson responded that what is requested is a non-binding letter saying that Huntingdon Plant can provide this amount of water per day. Solicitor Wilson stated that this is not a binding letter. Manager Wheeler stated that there would need to have further discussions before we would get to the point of serving water.

Scott Shaffer made a statement saying that if the Borough can sell 200,000 gallons of water a day then Council needs to look at how much that would save the customers.

Motion was made by Councilperson Bair, seconded Councilperson Isenberg to providing a “Will Serve” letter to Sunoco for their proposed pipeline project. The letter will be approved by the Borough Solicitor. **Roll call indicated the following.**

<u>YAY</u>	<u>NAY</u>
David Quarry	Ron Enyeart
Jim Bair	Nicole Houck
James Decker	John Gradwell
Donna Isenberg	

Motion carried 4-3.

Motion was made by Councilperson Enyeart, seconded by Councilperson Isenberg recommending the approval of GHD as the Huntingdon Borough Engineer beginning January 1, 2017. **Roll call indicated the following.**

<u>YAY</u>	<u>NAY</u>
David Quarry	Jim Bair
Ron Enyeart	John Gradwell
Nicole Houck	
James Decker	
Donna Isenberg	

Motion carried. 5-2

Councilperson Bair commented that he wants to let the public know that there was a lengthy discussion on this. We brought in seven possible organizations for engineers for the borough. A committee of three narrowed it down to three candidates. GHD was not one of those three. We went to the administrative committee meeting on Tuesday and it was decided that we would throw out the decision of that group and we would put GHD back in. My problem is that was not what was recommended by the Committee. He is very upsetting that we are making a decision based on something that is wrong because of the past experiences and performance of GHD. GHD did not do this borough any favor in

the water plant upgrade project. He is clearly in not in favor of retaining GHD. He will do what Council decides.

Councilperson Gradwell stated that he was chairman of the Water and Sewer Committee. He fought hard to try to receive funding from DCED, Harrisburg, Altoona, and our local representatives. His point is this project was supposed to be a 14-month project. We allowed an extension of 8 months making it a 22-month project. That is still not completed. The part that shamed him so much as being the Chairman was there was not any communication. He agrees with Councilperson Bair. We had three interviews. He made his selection from those three and GHD was not one of them. He stated this is called democracy. What he sees is a democracy has been side winded. Democracy is not being followed.

Councilperson Isenberg stated that she feels that may have happened because of the comments that she made at the meeting. We are keeping GHD on for certain things next year including working with the SCADA system and we had them do engineering for the water line to be moved for the PennDot project on 22/26 bridge. We did have a lot of issues with the water plant. GHD has been our engineer for 35 years. They have all the information about this borough's infrastructure. We when we ask them to research information for us they are immediately available to us and they immediately take care of it. We can always go out to other firms and ask for their expertise if we have another big project. She does not see where it is valuable to pay two engineering firms at one time. She recommended retaining GHD for another year.

Motion was made by Councilperson Gradwell, seconded by Councilperson Isenberg recommending the approval of the appointment of Charles T. Streightiff as Trustee of the Deferred Compensation for the Police Pension Plan. **Motion carried.**

Motion was made by Councilperson Houck, seconded by Councilperson Bair recommending the approval for the retention of Darwin Etinger as a full-time employee. **Motion carried.**

Motion was made by Councilperson Enyeart, seconded by Councilperson Bair recommending the approval of the recommendation of the Mayor and Police Chief to promote/hire from within the dept. for the position of Police Chief. **Motion carried. Councilperson Isenberg and Decker cast descending votes.**

Councilperson Decker stated that he wants to say up front that he admires the police force we have. His concern is that last time we had an opening for police chief we went outside as well as inside for applicant. He thinks it is a fair way to get the best candidate. He thinks our police can measure up to anyone we would bring inside for interviews. He thinks it is a much fairer process. He thinks we are making a mistake by not looking outside as well. Councilperson Isenberg agreed that she feels the same way. Councilperson Enyeart, he stated that he feels you should hire from inside. Councilperson Gradwell stated that we have a \$388,000.00 deficit. If we hire from within you would be saving \$125,000.00. Councilperson Houck stated that both sides make an excellent point. She thinks our department does an outstanding job. Mayor Brown responded that she sat down with the officers to try to make a determination on what they can do. They work as a team. She went to the Administrative Committee along with the Chief of Police with a recommendation. The officer they recommended has been with the dept. for 18 years. He lives in the town and knows the town well. He has been our SRO officer for 8 yrs. He deals with teachers, students, and administration. (note - I don't think Cpl. Buckley lives in the Borough ?)

Motion was made by Councilperson Gradwell recommending the promotion of Corporal Jeff Buckley to the position of Chief of Police. Motion died due to lack of a second.

Motion was made by Councilperson Bair, seconded by Councilperson Houck recommending the approval of the recommendation of having a court to determine whether Dubois Business College is required to pay back grant money because the Community Center is no longer permitted in the Dubois Building. Councilperson Isenberg abstained due to a conflict of interest. She served on the Dubois Business College advisory board at the Huntingdon Campus at the time the school closed.
Motion carried.

President Quarry stated that he would entertain discussion from Council regarding changing committee meeting times. Councilperson Enyeart responded that he would like the committee's meeting times to be in the afternoon into early evening. This would give the citizens a better opportunity to attend these meetings and voice their opinions. Councilperson Houck stated that the previous discussion that had at the committee meeting included moving Parks, Maintenance, and Administrative Committee meetings to later in the day. It was decided that Water and Sewer Committee meeting will begin at 2:00 and Community Development Committee meeting will begin at 3:30 on the first Thursday. The Public Safety Committee meeting beginning at 2:00 pm, the Maintenance Committee meeting beginning

3:30, Parks, Recreation, and Public Property Committee beginning at 4:30 pm, and Administrative Committee at 5:30 pm. on the 2nd Tuesday. (Motion carried for a three month trial of suggested schedule.)

Motion was made by Councilperson Decker, seconded by Councilperson Enyeart recommending the approval of Resolution No. 1-2017 requesting Pa DCED to revise FY 2011, FY2012, FY2013, and FY2014 CDBG Contract Budget. **Motion carried.**

Approval of Payment

Motion was made by Councilperson Bair, seconded by Councilperson Gradwell recommending the approval of payment of Invoice #75473 to GHD, Inc. in the amount of \$2,132.49 for Contract #1 – Water Plant Improvements. **Motion carried.**

Motion was made by Councilperson Bair, seconded by Councilperson Gradwell recommends the approval of Application for Payment No. 38 to HRI, Inc. in the amount of \$23,500.00 for Contract #1 – Water Plant Improvements. **Motion carried.**

Announcements: There were not any announcements.

Committee Reports:

Water & Sewer Committee - Chairperson Bair did not have a report.

Parks, Recreation & Public Property Committee - Chairperson Houck did not have a report.

Maintenance Committee – Chairperson Enyeart did not have a report.

Community Development Committee – Chairperson Decker reported that the Strategic Planning Committee had their wrap-up session on the 10th of this month. They have a final roll out plan that they want to introduce at the Community Development Committee meeting in February as well to the Public Council Meeting.

Public Safety Committee – Chairperson Isenberg reported that the Public Safety Committee is going to be working on a new ordinance for the processing of Code Enforcement Violations.

Chief's Report – Corporal Buckley stated that they wanted to publicly thank the 911 dispatcher and the Police Officer's for their actions on December 30th. The night that their colleague Trooper Landon Weaver was shot. He also wanted to thank the community for their support.

Administrative Committee - Chairperson Quarry did not have a report.

Councilperson Gradwell stated that he has looked at the budget and cannot find the \$5,000.00 contribution, agreed on at the committee meeting, for the Community Center. He sees that we have a profited organization getting a \$10,000.00 bonus. He received a very unwelcomed letter from Dwight Beale. This Council has a budget that has \$388,000.00 deficit and we are willing to give \$10,000.00 to the ambulance and \$10,000.00 more to Fire Company but not willing to give to the Community Center. Councilperson Isenberg responded the new budget does have a \$5,000.00 donation. Manager Wheeler explained that a few years ago we took out the donation to them and paid them \$4,500.00 for the management of Weaver Park. Councilperson Isenberg explained that when she requested that we put the \$5,000.00 back in the 2017 budget it was approved. Manager Wheeler will take care of this.

Council President's report- President Quarry stated that he appreciates the Supervisors and thanked them for all they do. He also thanked Scott Shaffer, the Borough's Code Enforcement Officer, and stated that he is doing a good job. He stated that the Police Dept. did a fantastic job when the situation with Trooper Weaver happened.

Mayor's report- Mayor Brown discussed the budget system that you have with the police dept. At the end of 2016, they had only used 90% of their budget. One of the things that it does not show you is we are reimbursed for the School Resource Officer, for special detail that the police do at the schools, all the over time that the police officers put into the drug task force. We also have \$86,000.00 that is reimbursed money given back to the general fund and you do not see this in the police budget. That brought us down to only using 84% of their budget. The Chief of Police reported that there were \$98,000.00 brought in by the department with fines, etc.

Mayor Brown made a statement of the borough. She recommended highly that the President appoint a finance committee. Councilperson Gradwell volunteered to be on the Committee.

Solicitor's report-Solicitor Wilson had nothing to report.

Engineer's report-Engineer Nester had nothing to report.

Borough Manager's Report-Manager Wheeler reported that he spoke with Michael Peachey today regarding the lights on the bridge. He said that he contacted their Electrical Contractor some time ago to take care of the lights. He will contact them again.

Manager Wheeler reported that there are survey crews around from PennDot. They have some road projects that they are working on doing in town. He asked Mike Peachey to put a crosswalk in on 8th Street going across to Portstown Park. Mr. Peachey will check with their Engineer.

Councilperson Gradwell thanked the Borough Manager and the Borough Crew for getting the Christmas lights down so quickly.

Executive Session-Union Negotiations-

Executive Session called at 9:17 pm

Reconvened at 10:03 pm

ADJOURNMENT

Motion was made by Councilperson Enyeart, seconded by Councilperson Houck to adjourn. Motion carried.

BY: Melody J. Parsons
Assistant Borough Secretary