

REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING  
HUNTINGDON BOROUGH COUNCIL  
APRIL 18, 2017  
7:30 P.M.

The Regular Monthly Meeting of Huntingdon Borough Council was called to order on Tuesday, April 18, 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.

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, Ron Enyeart, Nicole Houck, Donna Isenberg, James Decker, Sr., John Gradwell, Mayor DeeDee Brown, Solicitor Richard Wilson, Chief Jeffrey Buckley, Engineer Ann Reynolds, Assistant Borough Secretary Melody J. Parsons, and Borough Manager William W. Wheeler.

Visitors: Sign In Sheet attached

**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.

Ben Kapenstein, Senior Analyst, PFM Financial Advisors, LLC. Mr. Kapenstein presented to Council the results from the bank loan RFP for the Or Lady Wall Project and some other projects of the Borough. The results were very good. They were pleased. The winner proposal came from CBT Bank with a fixed rate of 1.99%.

Laura Kurtz, Eckert, Seamans, Cherin, and Mellott, LLC., presented Borough Ordinance 942 for approval. Ordinance 942 is authorization and directing the issuance of a general obligation note, series of 2017, in the principal amount not to exceed \$250,000. Financing the cost of certain capital projects of the Borough; and paying the costs of the issuance of the note.

Councilperson Gradwell asked about the legal fees. Mr. Pierce responded that the legal fees are to pay the Borough Solicitor and Eckert, Seamans, Cherin, and Mellott, LLC. and bond Council combined.

Dennis Plane was once again present to ask Council to consider the proposal from UGI to run gas up the 1800 Block of Mifflin Street. President Quarry stated that this will be discussed later in the meeting.

David Clark, board member of Standing Stone Golf Club, is concerned about the possible usage if the Borough sells water to Sunoco Logistics as it will affect the volume of water they will be permitted to extract to water the golf course over the upcoming years. President Quarry stated they have been in contact with Charlie Bierbach.

David Fleisch asked Council if they had an update on the situation regarding installing a guardrail at the bottom of Bryan Street. President Quarry stated that they are going to have the engineers look at this.

Grant Stewart, 529 Church Street, stated that he is concerned about the future of our town. He is concerned if we have a drought situation are we going to be faced with the issues that other communities have had. A community was sued because they had to put on a drought restriction while they were under a contractual obligation with a pipeline co. and the community lost. Do we have protection in place for such an event? He is also concerned about transparency. There are members of the community that had an issue with the way this agreement with Sunoco was handled.

Manager Wheeler stated that there is not any agreement signed at this time. The only signed document is a "will serve" letter. There has been nothing signed stated that we are selling water to Sunoco. Manager Wheeler stated that in a public meeting Council discussed and came up with a list of contingencies that they felt were necessary to protect the Borough. Manager Wheeler read the contingencies.

Jamie Russler, 921 Mifflin Street, is concerned about what will happen with Sunoco if there is another drought restriction imposed. We were asked to conserve then we were told that we are selling over 200,000 gals of water day.

Clearbear Daugherty, did not state her address, stated that she is concerned about the amount of research that Council has completed before making their decision. She is concerned about Council making the decision regarding Sunoco behind closed doors. She feels that a motion should be made to redraw the motion that was made and a new vote made in front of the public.

Olivia Grugan, 417 Penn Street, stated that she shares the concerns about Sunoco as the others attending tonight. She asked Council how the public is made aware if a subject that they are following is going to be discussed at a meeting.

Councilperson Bair responded that the Special meeting on April 6<sup>th</sup> was not a closed meeting. All meetings are open to public except executive sessions. The reason this was done was simply to get more information from Sunoco.

Councilperson Houck stated she would like to make a follow-up comment to an email that she sent to the other Councilmembers. She had an issue with them stated that it happened on the up and up. The meeting was to discuss a bond issue. She had two conversations with members of this Council who were present at that meeting. She was told that there was a discussion on how to bring about the motion at the 6:00 meeting. Ms. Grugan asked when the public would be permitted to view the actual contract before it would be approved by Council. Attorney Wilson stated that the contract will be a public document. It will be made available to the public before Council takes action. There is not an agreement or anything being discussed at this time. Councilperson Gradwell explained the difference between Regular Council meetings, Special Council meetings and Committee meetings. President Quarry stated that he will make sure that he emails the Administrative Committee agenda to Ms. Grugan.

Representatives from Juniata College: They were attendance because they do not support the agreement with the Borough to provide water to Sunoco.

Dana Jefferson, Taylor Highlands, stated she fears selling such a large amount of water will create a drought situation.

Mike Wilson-1205 Mifflin Street, pointed out that Huntingdon Borough is not where they are laying pipeline the Council is just selling water nothing more. He stated use logic, not feelings.

Bob Jackson, 257 Autumn Wood Drive, he is against any deals with any oil company or gas company. Water is a precious commodity. Should a contract come to the table for Council to vote on will the will of the people in this town be a factor in your decision? President Quarry stated Council is here to make a decision on selling water to a potential customer. If they do not get it from us they will get it somewhere else. We have not heard anything more from Sunoco. Councilperson Decker stated we need to go to a negotiated table before any decisions can be made. He asked are we talking about the issue with the line or the proposition of selling water. Councilperson Houck stated that we as elected official have a duty and obligation to listen to what our constituents are saying. Her vote will reflect the

voice of the people. President Quarry responded yes he does listen to what the people want. The Council is here to decide to sell water to a potential customer.

Councilperson Isenberg commented that she asked the Supervisor of our water plant today how much water went down over the dam today. Supt. Williams stated that 82 million gallons went down over the dam today. She stated you can't save the water. It just goes down the river. We are talking 220,000 gallons of water a day which is a drop in the bucket. She stated that if it were not Sunoco and we had another company come into this community and says we would like 400,000 gallons of water a day. I would hope this community would not want to not provide for a business to come to this community which would bring jobs. Councilperson Isenberg stated that there are a large number of people here tonight but there are just as many people who don't care if we sell the water. People have elected Council to make the decisions for them.

Councilperson Gradwell asked Supt. Williams what declares a caution as to how much is going over in a week's time that we need go to restriction. Supt. Williams stated that if it goes under 16 million for 4 consecutive weeks. Councilperson Gradwell asked how much water our permit allows for. Supt. Williams responded that we are allowed to draw 4 million. Councilperson Gradwell asked what we draw on a normal basis for this borough. Supt. Williams reported 1.5 million.

Mike Smith, 11<sup>th</sup> Street, at the last meeting you brought up about getting it from the stream at the sewer plant. Councilperson Gradwell stated that there are a couple problems with that.

Lauren Anderson, 417 Penn Street, stated that this is about Sunoco for her. She did research on effects of Sunoco on small towns. Small towns have problems getting Sunoco to stick to the contingencies of the contracts. The Council may be getting involved with people who do not honor their contracts. Please consider the kind of people that you are dealing with.

Claire Delanal, Senior from Juniata College, stated that she has concerns about selling water to Sunoco. She presented to Council her research regarding Sunoco's accidents. She asked why 2 weeks after the meeting there is not a public record of the minutes available. Solicitor Wilson explained meeting minutes become public after they are approved by Council.

Nick Miller, Local Farmer, stated this is a water issue for him. He asked Council if they support an industrial that is in the business of degradation of the community.

He asked if the one-time money is worth it. He asked Council to think about how to keep our money here in our town.

Elise Gearhart, Trough Creek, stated that Huntingdon Borough going into a contract with Sunoco puts them as part of the bigger picture. She asked Council to give it some consideration. She reminded Council that they have a choice.

Scott Shaffer, 623 6<sup>th</sup> Street, stated that last month Council agreement to give non-exempt employees raises. Who were the employees and how much were the raises? Manager Wheeler responded that he, Tom Yarnell, and Steve Williams received 3% increase and Melody Parsons received 1% increase and the sewer supervisor not received a raise. Mr. Shaffer asked how much 3% in dollars was. Mr. Shaffer stated that the borough manager lost \$200,000.00 in insurance money and you give him a 3% raise. Manager Wheeler stated the 3% raises were about \$5,300.00. Mr. Shaffer stated that you approved a non-uniform contract. He asked the outcome of that contract since you did not let the public know. Solicitor Wilson stated that it is a public document and you can request it. He commented that he thinks people may not understand if the borough sells the water it does nothing for the property taxes. All the money goes back into the water fund to help keep rates down.

Ellen Gearhart, Trough Creek, stated that one of the comments made tonight was some of the research done by Council. Ms. Gearhart asked if there was any research done on other boroughs or townships along this line. President Quarry stated not that he knew of. Ms. Gearhart provided a list of township and boroughs for Council to contact to see what was put in their agreements with Sunoco. Ms. Gearhart stated that contingencies do not mean anything to this company.

Steve Jackson asked about the light at the end of the bridge. The light is malfunctioning. Manager Wheeler took note and will look into this.

Mr. Jackson also asked where the information came from about parking meters being installed at the Courthouse. He reported that there are meters already on the streets that do not work. Why not get those fixed before putting in more meters. Supt. Yarnell reported that they will be out collecting meter money tomorrow and they will put new batteries in the meters that are not working.

Cindy Love asked how is the public to learn that you would be putting meters in the area. Solicitor Wilson stated that the borough is not required to advertise the agendas.

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

Water and Sewer Committee Meeting, March 2, 2017

Community Development Committee Meeting, March 2, 2017

Parks, Recreation & Public Property Committee Meeting, March 14, 2017

Maintenance Committee, March 14, 2017

Public Safety Committee Meeting, March 14, 2017

Administrative Committee Meeting, March 14, 2017

Regular Council Meeting, March 21, 2017

Motion was made by Councilperson Gradwell, seconded by Councilperson Enyeart recommending the bills payable for April 2017 be approved for payment. Invoices have been reviewed. **Motion carried.**

Motion was made by Councilperson Houck, seconded by Councilperson Bair recommending the Financial Statements for March 2017 be approved. **Motion carried.**

**Old Business** – None

**New Business**

Motion was made by Councilperson Houck, seconded by Councilperson Enyeart recommending the approval of the Borough paying ½ the cost for the Lifeguard's suits this year. **Motion carried.**

Motion was made by Councilperson Houck, seconded by Councilperson Bair recommending the approval of a 25 cents per hour increase for all returning lifeguards. **Motion Carried.**

Motion was made by Councilperson Bair, seconded by Councilperson Houck recommending the approval of a new phone system including voice mail at the Water Plant at a cost of \$4,666.65 with Morrison Communications. **Motion carried.**

Motion was made by Councilperson Bair, seconded by Councilperson Enyeart recommending the approval of the bid submitted by Kenny Evans for the wall and stairs at the water plant in the amount of \$10,100.00. **Motion carried.**

Motion was made by Councilperson Bair, seconded by Councilperson Houck recommending the approval of the upgrade to the GIS system in the amount of \$10,000.00 and the upkeep fee of \$2,700.00 per year. This figures will be shared equally by the water and sewer depts. **Motion carried.**

Motion was made by Councilperson Bair, seconded by Councilperson Houck recommending the approval of the Engineering RFP's for the 4th Street CSO Project and the Waste Water Sewage De-Nite Filter Media Replacement. **Motion carried.**

**Announcements:**

Manager Wheeler announced Borough Clean-Up days will be Thursday, Friday, & Saturday, April 20, 21, and 22<sup>nd</sup>. Hours will be 8:00 AM - 6:00 PM on Thursday & Friday and 7:00 AM -12:00 PM Saturday. Acceptable items will be posted on Huntingdon Borough Facebook, Huntingdon Borough website and the Daily News prior to the event.

**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 did not have a report.

**Public Safety Committee** – Chairperson Isenberg reported that the Committee is looking at the situation at the bottom of Bryan Street.

**Chief's Report** – Chief Buckley did not have a report.

**Administrative Committee** - Chairperson Quarry did not have a report.

**Council President's report**- President Quarry commended the maintenance dept. on a job well done. He thanked all the visitors for coming to the meeting. He also wanted to recognize Burke Bishop. Burke is retiring from the borough.

**Mayor's report**-Mayor did not have a report.

**Solicitor's report**-Solicitor Wilson did not have a report.

**Engineer's report**-Engineer Reynolds had nothing to report.

**Borough Manager's Report**-Manager Wheeler reported that he is preparing the Newspaper Ads for the vacancies of 2 positions in the borough. He also reported that he lacking applications for seasonal employees.

Executive Session was called at 10:00 pm for personnel issues.  
Council reconvened at 10:23 pm President Quarry reported that the discussion was the release of an employee.

**ADJOURNMENT**

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

BY: Melody J. Parsons  
Assistant Borough Secretary