

**COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE**  
**JULY 6, 2017**  
**3:30 P.M.**

The following persons were present for the meeting: Chairman James Decker, Sr., Committee Member Nicole Houck, Councilmembers President Dave Quarry, Jim Bair, John Gradwell, and Donna Isenberg, Mayor Dee Dee Brown, Assistant Borough Secretary Melody Parsons, and Borough Manager William W. Wheeler.

**VISITORS:** Jennifer Clark, Jeff Gill, Debra Tumlin, Ed Tos, Ron Baron, Rich Irvin, and April Feagley

Chairperson Decker called the meeting to order.

**RECOGNIZE GUESTS AND PUBLIC COMMENT:** Chairperson Decker announced we have an honored guest present today, Rep. Rich Irvin. He has come to speak to us about DCNR's tentative ruling regarding the grant connected to the Dubois Business College. Rep. Irvin stated from speaking to DCNR he feels that the Borough does not have to be in any rush to move forward with any kind of decision. He also stated that DCNR is not looking to bankrupt the borough by imposing any huge fine or penalties. He pulled some of the language out of the Act. There is some flexibility in the language. His opinion is the Borough should proceed cautiously. Rep. Irvin stated that his intention is to find out what direction the borough would like to go as far as the Dubois Business College and how we are going to progress so he can help facilitate any movement. Councilperson Decker responded that Council has not had time as a group to pull together any kind of statement of reasons for opposing to buy the building. What they are aware of is the tremendous penalty indicated of \$800,000.00 plus. Manager Wheeler stated that the Borough has signed the agreement of sale. It states that we have 30-days to change our mind. Rich has initiated a conversation with Ashley Rebert who is the Chief, Land Conservation & Stewardship Section from DCNR. President Quarry, Solicitor Wilson, and Manager Wheeler will attend a conference call that has been setup for tomorrow to speak with Ms. Rebert, the Division Chief, and the Borough Director to discuss where we are with this. She sent an email earlier that sounded very positive stating she is willing to discuss this.

Yvonne was not present to give the Microloan report. Melody reported on the meeting with the Microloan committee. She stated it was productive there were a lot of decisions made and the Chamber is more understanding of what the Council needs and expects. Chairperson Decker stated his understand is that we do not have

a specific report that we get on a monthly basis that tells us where we are as far as the outstanding loans and the amount of money that we have left to loan out. Manager Wheeler made it clear what Council is expecting and the Chamber agreed. Mayor Brown stated that this was decided at the meeting and Yvonne was going to present it but she could not attend.

Manager Wheeler will summarize what Janelle Lawson and Laura Waterman are requesting. He stated that they would like to have their students see the different jobs that are in the Borough. They are elementary students so Manager Wheeler stated that he was not sure if Council would want the students brought into the water plant or sewer plant property or when we are digging up a water line out on the street. Councilperson Decker stated he thinks we should try to co-operate with something like this. Manager Wheeler will contact the two ladies and ask them to come to the August meeting.

Chairperson Decker introduced the Councilmembers in attendance to Ron Baron. Mr. Baron is here to share a new business. Mr. Baron is a new resident. He bought the old Detwiler House as his residence. He bought the property at 1528 Moore Street to start a business. He would like to create something to contribute to the town. He would like to start a healthy and organic bistro/café/market. Mr. Baron also mentioned that upstairs at 1528 Moore Street is an apartment and the working Manager of the Bistro will be living in the apartment. Chairperson Decker asked about the zoning. Manager Wheeler stated that is why he asked Mr. Baron to attend. The property is zoned Residential-Urban and he would like council to understand that there are some zoning issues. The 1<sup>st</sup> floor will be changed to commercial. There are some variances for home business when the owner will live upstairs. The other issue needing to be addressed would be the parking. Manager Wheeler felt it was important for Council to understand what Mr. Baron is trying to do.

Jennifer Clark wanted to thank Mr. Baron for bringing this wonderful concept to Huntingdon Borough.

**GRANT'S ADMINISTRATOR STATUS & REPORT:** Chairperson Decker stated the thought came up that we could create a grant writing team. He asked Ed Tos and Melody to volunteer he asked for others to help. Mayor Brown offered to help on the grant writing team. Chairperson Decker stated that he will set up a grant writing team meeting.

**MAYOR'S REPORT:** Mayor Brown does not have a report at this time.

**OPEN ISSUES:**

**JUNIATA COLLEGE-COLD SPRINGS RD. /MOORE STREET PROJECT-**

**BILL WHEELER:** Manager Wheeler reported they are in the process and PennDOT is having some issues with Juniata College. Manager Wheeler does not know the scope of the problems.

**JUNIATA COLLEGE –ISMA (ARTS) BUILDING PROJECT-BILL**

**WHEELER:** Manager Wheeler reported that it is slowly progressing.

**BOROUGH ACTIVITY REGISTRATION-BILL WHEELER-COMMENTS**

**Place on the front page of Website:** Manager Wheeler asked if Council wanted the calendar on the website or the link to the calendar. Councilperson Houck stated that she would like to sit down with Rick and Manager Wheeler to work on this project.

**STRATEGIC PLAN:** Chairperson Decker stated that he made some post it notes. The goal is to improve the visual of the downtown. We have Bloomtown going on with the hanging flowers. He asked if there were any other projects that need to happen downtown from the appearance standpoint. Councilperson Gradwell suggested periodical lighting. Chairperson Decker suggested that be put on the Grant Writing Team’s list. Chairperson Houck suggested having an “Annual Day of Caring” in the spring.

**LETTER TO FEDERAL & STATE REPS: IN SUPPORT OF CDBG**

**FUNDING:** Manager Wheeler stated that there is a resolution that he would like to propose. There is a sample resolution on the PSAB website. The resolution will be signed and sent to the representatives. They also suggested a media release that he will give to the Daily News after the resolution is passed. Manager Wheeler will send a copy of the resolution out to Council and the Mayor.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**HUNTINGDON VISION CENTER-Parking Spaces:** They would like to add two –three more parking spacing for their customers. Manager Wheeler stated that it will be gravel. Manager Wheeler will let them know that the council does not have a problem with it.

Councilperson Isenberg asked if there is anyway to utilize the parking spaces on Washington Street better. There seems to be a lot of yellow.

**HUNTINGDON ELECTRIC:** Manager Wheeler reported that Huntingdon Electric is replacing the windows they are not changing the architecture of the building but they are replacing the glass and also the front door like for like. They want to block off the sidewalk while they are working. Manager Wheeler stated that he saw no problem with them blocking off the sidewalk. This does not require Council's involvement.

**REMOVAL OF SMOKE STACK:** Manager Wheeler reported that Huntingdon Electric is looking at removing the smoke stack. Their insurance wants it taken down.

**REPLACEMENT OF SIDEWALK:** Manager Wheeler stated that Huntingdon Electric would like to do something with the sidewalk that runs the length of their building. The ordinance states that sidewalks have to be 5 feet. They do not have a problem with replacing a 5 ft. width of sidewalk. They would rather not be forced into replacing 10 ft. of the sidewalk. Councilperson Isenberg stated that it is a State issue. President Quarry asked if they were going to build the curb up it is flat with the road. Manager Wheeler stated that the owner wants to go from the curb back 5 ft. towards their building. The 5 ft. closest their building would be private property. Chairperson Decker suggested that we approach them as President Quarry stated asking if they will put curbing along the sidewalk. Manager Wheeler stated that he will check with PennDOT to make sure they do not have a problem with what they are doing.

Chairperson Decker asked if the rental forms went out. Melody reported that they did go out.

Chairperson Decker asked if we ever talked to the Park's Furniture Building owner or Oven 1. Councilperson Isenberg responded that she got ahold of Deb and she spoke with Jane. Jane is not interested in continuing with Oven 1. Chairperson Decker explained that this was discussed in a grant writing meeting if Deb would be interested in keeping Oven 1 open if we could help relocate.

Mayor Brown thanked whoever is responsible for cleaning the Portstown Arch. It has never been so clean.

**ADJOURNMENT**

BY Melody J. Parsons  
Assistant Borough Secretary