

**REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING
HUNTINGDON BOROUGH COUNCIL
MARCH 20, 2018
7:30 P.M.**

The Regular Monthly Meeting of Huntingdon Borough Council was called to order on Tuesday, March 20, 2018, 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 Nicole Houck.

Mayor Wessels gave the Invocation followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll call indicated the following members present: President Nicole Houck, Sean Steeg, Dave Quarry, Jim Bair, Johnathan Hyde, Robert Jackson, Engineer Ann Reynolds, Solicitor Richard Wilson, Mayor David Wessels, Chief Jeff Buckley, and Borough Manager William W. Wheeler.

Visitors: Sign In Sheet attached

WELCOME TO VISITORS:

Ken Prokop, President of Huntingdon Little League, asked if the Borough intends to shut down the City League Field. Manager Wheeler responded that if Council so wishes he will have the field worked on and brought up to the DEP requirements. Manager Wheeler responded he will have the crew out to work on the field as quick as he can weather permitting. Vince Bafia, Vice-President of League and City League, asked if the high school gave up their rights and is not going to use the field. Manager Wheeler responded that is his understanding based on the letter he received from the school district. Mr. Prokop asked if the City League and Little League could have the rights to the field. They have no problem taking care of the field. He wants to make sure that they will not get pushed off the field. Manager Wheeler stated that the High School has made arrangements to have practices somewhere other than Blair Field for this year. President Houck stated the motion to have Manager Wheeler get the field up to standards will be discussed later in the meeting.

Jim Cassatt, 2712 Warm Springs Avenue, there was supposed to be something on the agenda to move forward with the Muddy Run project. He wanted who was taking care of this in the absence of Mr. Green. Manager Wheeler responded that

he went up with Travis to measure Catharine Street. The next step is to look at the cost of 2 different proposals to address this. Mr. Cassatt asked if you made a drawing to give to our State Representative as requested. Manager Wheeler responded that has not been done yet because it will depend on which method is decided on. Mr. Cassatt asked when Council will make the decision on which option they want to use. Manager Wheeler stated that there is a meeting scheduled for the 26th for Council to talk about the 2 different options. Mr. Cassatt asked if there will then be a meeting set up with the Homeowners to explain to them the reason and the benefits for this. Manager Wheeler responded yes.

Mr. Cassatt asked about Westminster Woods putting up an \$800,000 solar field. He is concerned about where are they putting it? He hopes the Borough does not cut any corners when it comes to water run-off. Mayor Wessels responded that this has been discussed by Westminster Woods. Mr. Cassatt stated the run-off water problem begins with Westminster Woods. Manager Wheeler responded that they have not submitted any drawings or asked for any permits from the Borough at this time.

Kay Rossman, 2205 Acorn Circle, asked what the alternative plan is instead of the one the Storm Water Run-off Committee decided. Manager Wheeler stated that we looked at running a pipe down through the street itself as opposed to a double pipe.

Mike Smith, 315 11th Street, asked why is the Borough Manager the one dealing with HRI's and the Dept. of Labor complaint instead of a lawyer for Huntingdon Borough. Solicitor Wilson stated that he made the decision.

Mr. Smith asked why the Borough Manager attends executive sessions. President Houck explained that typically when we have executive sessions they are personnel issues. They are typically the people that Manager Wheeler supervises. Mr. Smith said that last month he asked if the hiring of personnel for the sewer plant and the water plant had been done yet. Council just looked over the applications and none of the applicants were qualified. President Houck stated that there were interviews done and the committee that interviewed did not think any of applicants were qualified. She responded that it was not a single unilateral decision. We all were given the applications.

Mike Wilson, 1205 Mifflin Street, has questions regarding the proposed ordinance for landlord inspections. He had some concerns regarding wording. Solicitor Wilson explained what the wording meant. Mr. Wilson concerns are a violation of property rights.

Mr. Wilson asked Council to repeal the fire tax. He asked that the Borough Manager be terminated

Motion was made by Councilperson Quarry, seconded by Councilperson Hyde to approve the following minutes. **Motion carried.**

- a. Administrative Committee Meeting January 9, 2018
- b. Special Meeting January 23, 2018
- c. Special Meeting January 18, 2018
- d. Water and Sewer Committee Meeting February 1, 2018
- e. Community Development Committee meeting February 1, 2018
- f. Parks, Rec, and Public Property Committee Meeting February 1, 2018
- g. Maintenance Committee Meeting February 13, 2018

Motion was made by Councilperson Bair, seconded by Councilperson Hyde recommending the bills payable for March 2018 be approved for payment. Invoices have been reviewed. **Motion carried.**

Old Business

Motion was made by Councilperson Bair, seconded by Councilperson Hyde recommending the approval of the bid package submitted by Gwin, Dobson, and Forman for the replacement of the media at the trickling filter contingent upon a review and approval of the documents by the solicitor, water treatment Plant Supervisor, and the Borough Manager. **Motion carried.**

Motion was made by Councilperson Bair, seconded by Councilperson Quarry recommending the approval of Gwin, Dobson, and Forman to review the water plant process at a cost of \$3,000.00. **Motion carried.**

Motion was made by Councilperson Steeg, seconded by Councilperson Hyde recommending the approval of paying for the Pool Assistant Managers certification at ½ reimbursement this year and ½ reimbursement next year if they return. **Motion carried.**

Motion was made by Councilperson Steeg, seconded by Councilperson Hyde recommending the approval of \$12.00/hr for the 2 new Pool Assistant Managers. **Motion carried.**

Motion was made by Councilperson Steeg, seconded by Councilperson Hyde recommending the approval of for paying for 1 swimming suit in full for the Manager and Assistant Managers. **Motion carried.**

Motion was made by Councilperson Quarry, seconded by Councilperson Hyde recommending the approval of holding the Farmer's Market at Portstown Park beginning May 3rd and ending on October 25th. Reservation hours from 10 am to 6 pm. **Motion carried.**

Executive Session to discuss personnel.
Reconvened

New Business

Motion was made by Councilperson Quarry, seconded by Councilperson Hyde recommending the approval of Ordinance #948 an Ordinance of the Borough of Huntingdon, providing for the appointment, removal, qualification, powers, and duties of the Huntingdon Borough Code Enforcement Officer. **Motion carried.**

Motion was made by Councilperson Steeg, seconded by Councilperson Hyde approving the recommendation to hire of Colton Neubauer to fill the position of Water Treatment Plant Operator 1. **Motion Carried.**

YAY
Nicole Houck
Sean Steeg
Johnathan Hyde
Robert Jackson

NAY
Dave Quarry
Jim Bair

Motion carried. 4-2

Councilperson Bair stated that the reason he voted no is that in the 2 ½ yrs. he has been here he has never had an application shoved down his throat 2 hrs. before the meeting to vote on it. We have always been given the chance to discuss it.

President Houck responded that at the committee meeting when we discussed the hiring process the understanding and the conversation was that we would go forward with the interviews and take the recommendation. We go into executive session discuss it.

Motion was made by Councilperson Quarry, seconded by Councilperson Hyde recommending the approval of the borough repairing Blair Field back to playing condition. **Motion carried.**

Motion was made by Councilperson Quarry, seconded by Councilperson Bair recommending the approval of the appointment of the Huntingdon Little League City League as managers of Blair Field they shall have rights to schedule games on the field in 2018 subject to the Little League and the City League maintaining the in safe and playable condition. **Motion carried.**

Announcements:

There were not any announcements.

Committee Reports:

Water & Sewer Committee - Chairperson Steeg reported Water and Sewer Dept. has a lot going on. Getting RFP's out for the trickling filters. All the rain has taxed our system regularly but the staff has been able to maintain it. He would like to commend both Depts.

Parks, Recreation & Public Property Committee – Chairperson Jackson reported that Wayne Walters attended the committee meeting and wants to establish a baseball team to get the kids that may not have a team to play on. They requested to use the field for their home games. We are in the process of setting up a meeting with all the parties involved.

We made progress on getting the request for proposal for the upgrades for the Isett Pool. We plan to start construction right after the pool closes in the fall.

Maintenance Committee – Chairperson Green was not present.

Community Development Committee – Councilperson Hyde did not have anything to report.

Public Safety Committee – Chairperson Bair thanked the local police for their excellent work.

Chief's Report – Chief Buckley reported on the drug take-back program.

Administrative Committee - Chairperson Houck reported that the committee has been talking about providing opportunities for students in the area. As well as having a student from Juniata College come to the meeting and attend as a Junior Councilperson as well as an intern.

Council President's report- President Houck reported that a lot of people brought to her attention about the flags on 4th Street. It is her understanding that we purchased flags and they will be put up. She also gets a lot of comments about street lights that are out. If you see a street light that is out bring us the pole number.

Mayor's Report- Mayor Wessels reported:

- Seeking art space for Juniata College Student Art.
- Operation snow day to be set and implemented
- Coffee with a cop was very successful
- Parking system update information gathering continues
- Bailey Oratoricals was a wonderful event.
- First wedding was successfully performed (fee paid \$50.00)
- I'll be participating in the HAHS S.T.E.M. Career Fair May 17th.
- Grant work to begin and fundraising for k-9 unit upgrade
- Weis market prescription-RX dropoff Box is installed and ready for the public
- Signed petition along with 180 other mayors from 42 states in support of solar energy. Environment America, Mayors for Solar Energy, Go Solar Campaign & Associate.
- Meet the Mayor" at Juniata went extremely well attended and informative for the students, the staff, and myself.

Solicitor's Report- Solicitor Wilson stated that on a personal level he wanted to thank Council for making the baseball field ready this year.

Solicitor Wilson stated that he drafted an Ordinance for next month's meeting concerning residential rentals in the Borough. It will be advertised in the paper and copies will be at the borough office if anyone wants to look at it.

Engineer's Report-Engineer Reynolds gave an update on the request to ask Walker Township if they would be willing to let us use them as a second water source.

Borough Manager's Report-Manager Wheeler announced the yard waste will open on April 7th from 8:00 am -2:00 pm.

He reported that there is a swale all 26 in front of the armory that needs to be cleaned out.

We received two easements one from Scott Fetzer on Penn Street and one from Jay Brous on Warm Springs Avenue.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS:

Councilperson Steeg announced there is a USA Cycling race coming through the Borough on April 2nd.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion was made by Councilperson Quarry, seconded by Councilperson Hyde to adjourn.

BY: Melody J Parsons
Borough Secretary