

Community Development Committee
Thursday, September 6, 2018

The meeting of the Community Development Committee was called to Order by Chairman Johnathan Hyde at 5:00 PM.

Committee members present were Sean Steeg.

The following members were present: President Nicole Houck, Councilman Jim Bair, Councilman Terry Green, Councilman Robert Jackson, Mayor David Wessels and Borough Manager Daniel Varner.

Richard King took the minutes of the meeting.

Recognize guest for public comments:

Linda DeArmitt spoke on behalf of the Huntingdon Event Center, they are having an event to mark the removal of the basketball hoops on October 28, 2018.

Linda DeArmitt asked about closing Washington Street from 8th Street to 2nd Street, Penn Street to Mifflin Street on 5th Street and 6th Street and to block off the parking lots on April 27, 2019 for May Fest.

Linda DeArmitt spoke for Carol Guyer on closing Washington Street from 5th to 6th Street to have a Trunk or Treat Night with Wednesday before Halloween. She also mentioned that she would also like to have a bounce house in place for the kids.

President Nicole Houck mentioned about closing 1 block might not be a good idea and maybe to use the parking lot.

Dan Varner spoke on the CDBG Report and mentioned about using 2014 money for Curb Cuts and getting an engineer involved to sign off. You cannot use CDBG money for the engineering cost and the Borough would have to pay this. He also mentioned that we have an extension to July 2019 to complete the projects. Melody Mason of Huntingdon County is working on getting this spent.

Dan Varner mentioned that this year's CDBG allocation that we are receiving, we must decide on what we want to do with the money. He stated that we should do something different instead of curb cuts.

President Nicole Houck mentioned that there is a lack of transportation in Huntingdon Borough and that we should contract with someone, or purchase a van and pay a monthly stipend for someone to drive it.

Dan Varner mentioned using CDBG funds to replace the windows and doors at the senior citizen building and maybe a van for their use. He reminded the committee that all projects must meet a national objective. They must benefit low to moderate income, seniors, handicap etc.

Johnathan Hyde asked about using this money for downtown revitalization. Dan said it may be possible because the last census showed low to moderate income on Washington Street to 8th Street.

President Nicole Houck mentioned about the Center for Community Action using the van.

Dan Varner stated that we need to tell the County of what we want to do sometime in October, then we must hold our second public hearing. We have a total of \$96,948.00 and the Administrative amount is not included in this.

Dan Varner also mentioned about looking at blight in buildings.

President Nicole Houck stated that she would like to have Bob Gileo from the Hospital, who is on the Justice Advisory Board and deals with revitalization come to a meeting and include George Drobnock.

Sean Steeg recommended that we have a workshop the Thursday after the next meeting to go over CDBG.

President Nicole Houck left the meeting at 5:25 PM.

Jim Bair mentioned that he was at a PennDot meeting and they know there is a problem with Transportation.

Johnathan Hyde asked about the Microloan and Dan Varner stated that we are waiting on the monitoring report.

There was a discussion on Façade grants and there will be a meeting at the Huntingdon Event Center next Friday on this. Dan Varner stated that we need to have a vision of the future needs. He also mentioned that we need to do some research on Façade grants.

Mayor's Report:

Mayor David Wessels mentioned about the Dark Wire that is in Hesston and would like to see it come to Huntingdon for Tech Business Data Hub. He said that this company was located in New Jersey.

Sean Steeg stated that this should be a county thing.

Mayor David Wessels mentioned that there will be a meeting with the County Commissioners, Dr. Hayden and Broad Top Medical about bringing OBGYN back to the area. The company to take over JC Blair Memorial Hospital is more of a rehabilitation hospital and that a lot of the employees from J C Blair have gone to UPMC. The transition has not happened yet.

Johnathan Hyde mentioned about the Christmas decorations down in the basement of Bob Geissinger building. He would like to get in touch with him and get in and check the decorations out and then get some guys to pull it out of the basement.

Mayor David Wessels mentioned about a meeting that he will be attending at Skills on Friday morning and will bring up about them replacing the bulbs in the snowflakes.

There was a discussion on the Wanda Meyash Award and there were a couple people mentioned for this award.

Meeting adjourned at 5:55 PM.