

Borough of Huntingdon  
Public Safety Committee Meeting  
Tuesday, February 12, 2019

The Public Safety Committee meeting was called to order by Chairman Jim Bair Jr., at 3:05 PM in the Borough Conference Room.

Committee members present were Councilman David Quarry and Councilman Robert Jackson Jr.

Other members present were Councilman Terry Green, Councilman Johnathan Hyde, Mayor David Wessels, Borough Manager Daniel Varner, 911 Director Chris Stevens, Chief of Police Jeffrey Buckley, Code Enforcement Officer Jim Morris and Borough Secretary Richard King.

Guest present was Richard Merritts.

Chairman Jim Bair recognized the guest present and asked for their comments.

- Richard Merritts spoke on the Garbage Trucks waking him up at 4:47 in the morning. Dan Varner said that you can blame him. Dan said that we had the snow storm and then it turned to ice and it was hard to park on the streets and they would be blocking traffic. Dan said that he told them due to this that that they could come in early, do their job and get out before the traffic started. Jim Bair said that we will talk to them again to be a little more considerate.

Jim Bair then proceeded to the Code Enforcement Officers Report.

- Jim Morris asked if there were any questions on his report. He then proceeded to highlight his report.
  1. Investigated 202 incidents during the month of January 2019
  2. There are 18 incidents from the previous month that have not been resolved
  3. Snow / Covered sidewalks 151
  4. Trash Violations 16
  5. Approved 4 Zoning Applications
  6. Letters sent for non-compliance issues
  7. Addresses being monitored for violations under the Uniform Construction Code
- Jim Morris than said that due to the frequent snowfalls, snow showers, sleet and freezing rain that it was difficult to start the time for enforcement purposes.
- Jim Morris said that G & R Excavating is still in the process of razing the house at 228-230 Mifflin Street.
- Jim Morris said that he is in the process of setting up a Zoning Hearing for 317 Penn Street. Jim Bair said that he has concerns with the parking there.
- Jim Morris said that he has reviewed the Residential Property Owners Ordinance.
- Jim Morris spoke on the 1514 Moore Street property and he was making progress but stopped working on it because of the weather.
- Jim Morris spoke on the 1318 Washington Street property and he is starting the process of demolition. He said that G & R was going to disconnect the utilities at the sidewalk due to the property owner rebuilding.
- Jim Morris spoke on the 513 16<sup>th</sup> Street property and said that this is in council's hands as to what to do. Jim Morris said that nothing has been done with this property, he has sent letters and citations. Jim Bair

asked Dan Varner about this property on what to do. Jim said that the cosmetic on the outside is terrible, there has been no cooperation. Dan said you could have a hearing and declare an unsafe property. Dan said you need to see what the inside looks like. Dan said that you would need an Administrative Search Warrant to get inside and look at. Jim Bair said that we need to get an Administrative Search Warrant to get inside. Mayor David Wessels asked if we could reclaim it and the answer was no.

- Dan Varner said that we could put a lien on the property and maybe use CDBG funds to tear down but the property must be kept as an open space for 10 years and we would have to maintain the ground and he would not recommend this.
- Mayor Wessels asked about the vehicles that were towed. It was said that the one vehicle on 17<sup>th</sup> Street that the owner took this off himself to the garage.
- Jim Morris said that there was one towed behind the Senior Citizens Building.
- Mayor Wessels asked about the one at 14<sup>th</sup> and Warm Springs that has been sitting there for a month. Jeff Buckley said that the owner has been talking to Shannon Gummo and doesn't know what turned out from this that he would have to ask her.
- Jim Bair asked about the gas company's property and wanted to know what their intentions were. Jim Morris said that the gas company bought Sharon Giles property and the house next door. Jim Bair said that Jim Morris needs to write a letter to the gas company to fix their sidewalk.
- Jim Bair asked about the condition of 601 Washington Street basement and what needs done. Jim Morris said that they are putting a structural barrier on the 6<sup>st</sup> Street side door. Dan Varner said that the church's spouting might be going into their basement. Johnathan Hyde said that he doesn't know how they dealt with the black mold on all three floors. Jim Morris said that there is not an ordinance that deals with mold. Jim Bair said that this should be checked in a month or two to make sure something is being done.

Chairman Jim Bair then proceeded to the Chief's report.

- Jeff Buckley said that they have had training on the new handheld for doing parking tickets. Jeff showed them how the ticket would look like and passed this around. You cannot tear it and water will not hurt it. Jeff said that he had ordered yellow paper for this since this has been the standard color. Jeff said that this unit will automatically send out late notices.
- Jeff Buckley spoke on the fines and tripling after 72 hours. He said that now is the time to look at the ordinance if you want to change this. Jeff said that he would say that 72 hours is too strict to triple. Dan Varner said that he would suggest that if they don't pay within a week then the fine is double, and if they don't pay within 2 weeks and the late notices go out then it would triple. It was mentioned that it will send out late notices 14 days from issuance.
- Jeff Buckley presented a form to the mayor for anyone that would want to contest a parking ticket.
- Jeff Buckley said that you can put 10 to 12 pictures on a ticket. Jeff said that Danny Peightal has been working with this using white paper that came with the handheld unit.
- Jeff Buckley said that it cost .78 cents to mail out a late notice.
- Dan Varner said that before if someone paid a ticket and it was late and the full amount was not paid then they just accepted the amount of money that was in the envelope.
- Mayor Wessels said that his recommendation of the ordinance and timeline for setting the fee should be done by resolution instead of by ordinance.
- Jeff Buckley said that he would like to go live March 1, 2019.
- It was suggested that 7 days the fine doubles and 14 days the late notice goes out and the fine triples. They would have to talk to Solicitor Wilson on amending the ordinance.
- Jeff Buckley said that we have received \$35,502.00 for the K-9 Fund.

- Jeff Buckley said that the police department has a Criminal Justice College Intern from Penn Highlands College and his name is Brayden Bumgardner.
- Jeff Buckley said that we should hear something on the dog grant sometime in March.
- Jeff Buckley spoke on the parking space beside AAA in the parking lot that if a truck or large vehicle parks there it is hard for a handicapped person to get in their door. The right side of this is marked and there needs to be a mark on the left side so only a compact car can park there. The committee recommends that when the weather is nice that Maintenance can paint a line on the left side and put a sign compact vehicles only.
- Dan Varner said that he received an email from Judge Zanic on the parking spaces on Washington Street between their two entrances. Dan said that there are three spaces, one regular space, one 15 minute and one is for handicap. Dan said they have an employee that is handicapped and when she parks in the handicap space and someone parks behind her she cannot open her truck and get her walker out. She enters the court house off of Washington Street. Dan Varner said that Judge Zanic asked if we could make the third parking place a handicap parking space. The committee approved this request.

Chairman Jim Bair then proceeded to the Mayor's Report.

- Mayor Wessels said that he has done some research on the parking solutions, whether to replace the meter heads or KIOS. He said another option to get us into the 21<sup>st</sup> century is to get a QR code, ULR website that you can go online with your phone. He said that this will integrate with the handheld parking ticket unit. He said that you can buy a day pass, 1, 2, or 3 hours with 3 hours being the limit except for a day pass. He said that this will let you know when the parking pass is going to expire and you can upload it again if needed. He said that if the meter is flashing then you know that there is money in it. He said if it was not flashing that Danny could use his handheld and check the safelist license. He said that to do Washington Street this would cost around \$14,000.00. Dan Varner said that a long term commitment would be to get rid of the meter and get a KIOS, where you can get a tag and put in your car window, but there is a concern regarding seniors and the ability to walk to the KIOS.

Chairman Jim Bair then proceeded to Old Business.

- Jim Bair asked about the speed control devices and Dan Varner said that he was working on someone to pay for one.

Meeting adjourned at 4:20 PM.

Minutes submitted by,

*Richard S. King*

Richard S. King  
Borough Secretary