

Huntingdon Borough Council Meeting

Tuesday, December 18, 2018

The Huntingdon Borough Council meeting was called to order at 7:30 PM by Vice-President Sean Steeg.

The Invocation was given by Mayor David Wessels.

The Pledge of Allegiance was given by Vice President Sean Steeg.

Roll Call was taken and the following members were present: Vice-President Sean Steeg, Councilman James Bair Jr., Councilman Johnathan Hyde, Councilman David Quarry, Councilman Robert Jackson Jr., Councilman Terry Green, Engineer Ann Reynolds, Mayor David Wessels, Borough Manager Daniel Varner, Borough Solicitor Richard Wilson and Borough Secretary Richard King.

Excused were the following: President Nicole Houck and Chief of Police Jeffrey Buckley.

Guest present were as following: Mike Smith, Gary Cramer, Ronald Sleaster, Bill McIlroy, Mary McIlroy, Betty Quarry, Steve Heine, April Feagley, Rick Bayer, Jay Brouse, Kay Rossman, and Dean Harris.

Vice-President Sean Steeg welcomed the visitors and asked for public comments at this time.

- Ron Sleaster of 807 Washington Street stated that he has talked to the Borough Manager and Code Enforcement Officer on the matter of mattresses and junk at a property located in the borough and wanted to know the status of this. He said that this has been going on for 38 days and he showed pictures to Borough Council. He said he wants this matter taken care of.
- Kay Rossman of 2205 Acorn Circle stated that at the last Maintenance Committee meeting, she had spoken on the leaves and that the borough did pick up with the leaf truck. She said they pay Association Dues and wanted to know who is responsible for the Common Areas. Dan Varner stated that this is not the borough's responsibility. Dan Varner stated that this was the Home Owners Association responsibility and that we will not go onto homeowner's property to pick up leaves.
- Kay Rossman stated that she has been speaking on the Water Runoff's for the last 18 months on Catherine Street and what was the borough going to do. She wanted to know if there was still money in the budget or is this budgeted for 2019. Dan Varner said that he has said this before, that we have had more rain this year than ever before. Dan Varner said that we have redefined the swales and this has helped a lot. Bob Jackson said that they should contact Joe Scialabba who is the president of the Home Owners Association. Bob Jackson said that the Association probably ran out of money like they did last year.
- Dean Harris asked Dan Varner if there is an Agreement with the Highland Association to take over the roads and he would like a copy. Dan Varner said that this would be an Ordinance and we would provide him with a copy. Solicitor Wilson stated that when you

purchase the house the Covenant comes with it. Solicitor Wilson said to contact Attorney Ray Ghaner. Solicitor Wilson stated that the Common Areas do not belong to the borough. Solicitor Wilson then stated that S & A developed the land and the Association then took over and that there is not enough dues to cover everything. Solicitor Wilson said that there are owner that have not paid their dues.

- April Feagley stated that she would like to thank the Huntingdon Borough Police Department for the amazing job they have done with the recent fire and raising funds for the Humane Society. She said they worked their tails off.
- Mike Smith spoke on the Vacation and Sick Leave that was paid to a previous employee and if we don't have money to do projects then we should get the money back.
- Steve Jackson spoke on the house fire and wanted to know what the status was. Dan Varner said that there has been a contract signed to tear down, with the Demolition Company to come in and do the work. Dan Varner said that this is in the hands of the Insurance Company right now and the borough has an ordinance to retain a percentage of the money until the project is done. Steve Jackson said that the bottom half should be sealed up and secured. That is the property owner's responsibility.
- Steve Jackson spoke on the Route 22 traffic hazard and that when you come into the borough there is a street light that has been out. Dan Varner said that this is in Henderson Township and that it is their responsibility and that Steve should contact them.

Vice-President Sean Steeg then proceeded to review and act on the minutes of the following meeting:

- Council Meeting – November 20, 2018
- Water & Sewer Committee Meeting – December 6, 2018
- Community Development Meeting – December 6, 2018
- Parks, Recreation & Public Property – December 6, 2018
- Maintenance Committee Meeting – December 11, 2018
- Public Safety Committee Meeting – December 11, 2018
- Administrative Committee Meeting – December 11, 2018

Motion was made to accept the minutes of the meetings above by Councilman David Quarry and Second by Councilman James Bair Jr. Motion Carried.

Vice-President Sean Steeg then proceeded to approve payments of the December 2018 bills.

Motion was made to approve the payments of the December 2018 bills by Councilman David Quarry and Second by Councilman James Bair Jr. Motion Carried.

Vice-President Sean Steeg then proceeded to approve the Financial Statements for the Borough's accounts for November 2018.

Motion was made to approve the Financial Statements for the Borough's accounts for November 2018 by Councilman David Quarry and Second by Councilman Johnathan Hyde. Motion Carried.

Committee Reports.

Administrative Committee – Vice-President Sean Steeg

- The Administrative Committee meeting recommends a motion to approve Ordinance 2018-954 fixing and levying the tax rate for the fiscal year commencing January 1, 2019. Vice-President Sean Steeg stated that there will be no tax increase and the tax rate will be 18 Mills Property and 2 Mills Fire Tax.

Motion was made to approve Ordinance 2018-954 fixing and levying the tax rate for the fiscal year commencing January 1, 2019, and that there will be no tax increase and the Property tax will be 18 Mills and Fire Tax at 2 Mills by Councilman David Quarry and Second by Councilman Johnathan Hyde. Motion Carried.

- The Administrative Committee recommends a motion to have the Capital Reserve Fund moved from PLGIT to First National Bank.

Motion was made to have the Capital Reserve Fund moved from PLGIT to First National Bank by Councilman James Bair Jr. and Second by Councilman Johnathan Hyde. Motion Carried.

- The Administrative Committee recommends a motion to approve the following 2019 Budget.

Account	Revenue	Expenses
General	\$3,410,238.97	\$3,410,238.97
Water	\$2,347,638.00	\$2,347,638.00
Sewer	\$2,971,525.00	\$2,971,525.00
Liquid Fuels	\$ 261,224.00	\$ 261,224.00
Cemetery	\$ 42,050.00	\$ 42,050.00
Isett Community Pool	\$ 82,560.00	\$ 82,560.00

Motion was made to approve the 2019 Budget listed above by Councilman David Quarry and Councilman Johnathan Hyde. Motion Carried. Borough Council thanked Dan Varner for preparing Balanced Budgets.

- The Administrative Committee recommends a motion to reappoint J. Jackson Barlow for a 5-Year Term to the Tree Commission.

Motion was made to reappoint J. Jackson Barlow for a 5-Year Term to the Tree Commission by Councilman Johnathan Hyde and Second by Councilman David Quarry. Motion Carried.

- The Administrative Committee recommends a motion to reappoint Michael Keating for a 6-Year Term to the Civil Service Commission.

Motion was made to reappoint Michael Keating for a 6-Year Term to the Civil Service Commission by Councilman David Quarry and Second by Councilman Johnathan Hyde. Motion Carried.

- The Administrative Committee recommends a motion to reappoint James Savory for a 5-Year Term to the Huntingdon Ambulance Authority.

Motion was made to reappoint James Savory for a 5-Year Term to the Huntingdon Ambulance Authority by Councilman Johnathan Hyde and Second by Councilman David Quarry. Motion Carried.

- The Administrative Committee recommends a motion to reappoint Phillip G. Thompson for a 5-Year Term to the Huntingdon Area Water & Sewer Authority.

Motion was made to reappoint Phillip G. Thompson for a 5-Year Term to the Huntingdon Area Water & Sewer Authority by Councilman David Quarry and Second by Councilman Johnathan Hyde. Motion Carried.

- The Administrative Committee recommends a motion to appoint Grant Stewart to fill a vacancy for an unexpired term to the Huntingdon Borough Parks Commission to expire January 2021.

Motion was made to appoint Grant Stewart to fill a vacancy for an unexpired term to the Huntingdon Borough Parks Commission to expire January 2021 by Councilman Robert Jackson Jr. and Second by Councilman Johnathan Hyde. Motion Carried.

Community Development Committee – Chairman Johnathan Hyde

- The Community Development Committee recommends a motion to approve a Grant Application to the PA Historical Museum Commission for repairs to the Town Clock.

Motion was made to approve a Grant Application to the PA Historical Museum Commission for repairs to the Town Clock by Councilman David Quarry and Second by Councilman Robert Jackson Jr. Motion Carried.

Maintenance Committee – Chairman Terry Green

- The Maintenance Committee recommends a motion to return Allegheny Street to two way traffic between 2nd and William Smith Street. (3rd Street)

Motion was made to return Allegheny Street to two way traffic between 2nd and William Smith Street (3rd Street) by Councilman Johnathan Hyde and Second by Councilman David Quarry. Motion Carried.

Parks, Recreation & Public Property – Chairman Robert Jackson Jr.

- Robert Jackson Jr. spoke on items that were presented at the last Parks, Recreation & Public Property meeting. He mentioned that we talked about the condition of the skate park and if we wanted to remove this, refurbish it, put in a basketball court or another Pavilion.
- Robert Jackson mentioned that due to a resignation on the Parks Commission that Grant Stewart was picked to fill the unexpired term.
- Robert Jackson mentioned that we have not received the permit for the Dog Park.

- Robert Jackson spoke on the Portstown Park light issue and turned this over to Daniel Varner. Dan Varner said that we have an electrician in and they found a broken wire on one of the lights on the walking path to the skate park and this is fixed.
- Dan Varner said that we are still working on the Arch lights and the light at the welcome to Huntingdon sign.
- Dan Varner said that there is 3 of the 4 lights working on Flagpole Hill and parts have been ordered for the 4th light.
- Robert Jackson Jr. spoke on the Splash Pad for the Isett Community Swimming Pool and that sometime in mid-January, Cisney & O'donnell will have the request for proposals and then we can take bids with the bids to be opened in early February.
- Robert Jackson Jr. said that the new towel dispensers have been installed and the reason for these were that there was so much waste using the other ones.

Public Safety Committee – Chairman James Bair Jr.

- James Bair Jr. commended the Huntingdon Borough Police Department and State Police for the recent fire on Mifflin Street. He said that there were two Borough Police Officers and two State Police Officers that helped to get people out of their home.
- James Bair Jr. thanked the Huntingdon Borough Police Department for their recent event on the Drug Task Force.
- James Bair Jr. wished everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Water & Sewer Committee – Chairman Sean Steeg

- Sean Steeg said that we are working on the one Trickling Filter this year and plan on doing the other Trickling Filter next year.
- Sean Steeg said that the 4th Street CSO preliminary design meeting will be at the beginning of the year.
- The Water and Sewer Committee recommends a motion to accept the agreement with GHD to perform an evaluation of the enclosure of Muddy Run in the amount of \$19,600.00. Dan Varner spoke on this and said that we need information on Muddy Run to identify problems and to make application for a grant.

Motion was made to accept the agreement with GHD to perform an evaluation of the enclosure of Muddy Run in the amount of \$19,600.00 by Councilman David Quarry and Second by Councilman Johnathan Hyde. Motion Carried.

Old Business. Nothing to report.

New Business. Nothing to report

Presidents Report. (Given by Vice-President Sean Steeg)-

- Nicole Houck wanted to wish everyone a safe and happy holidays.
- Nicole Houck wanted to thank the Borough Employees.
- Nicole Houck wanted to remind the Borough Employees about the Christmas Luncheon this Friday.

Chief of Police Report. (Given by Officer Andrew Young)

- Wanted to wish everyone Happy Holidays.

Mayor's Report.

- Mayor David Wessels performed 1 wedding and \$100.00 fee was assessed.
- Mayor David Wessels stated that the Tree Lighting event was a huge success. He said he had many phone calls for thanks. Mayor Wessels wanted to personally thank everyone that made this possible, Deb Hickey, Deb Higgins, Huntingdon Borough employees, Daniel Varner, Huntingdon Police Department, Huntingdon Area High School and many more.
- Mayor David Wessels said that work continues on the web video info series for the Borough Website and Facebook page. Mayor Wessels said that Juniata College Integrated Media Department and New Day Charter Schools will be involved to make this a more community wide effort. Mayor Wessels said that if you have any suggestions to please email him at mayor@huntingdonboro.com.
- Mayor David Wessels mentioned that the community held a fundraising event for a little girl, Lilly, with childhood leukemia. Mayor Wessels said this was held at the St. James Lutheran Church this past Sunday. Mayor Wessels said he was privileged enough to be a part of this event. Mayor Wessels said that this is yet another example of how great our community is when someone is in need and said that this was the best example of where our hearts should be this time of the year, filled with love and giving.

Solicitor's Report.

- Solicitor Richard Wilson stated that this was a fruitful and positive year and it was a pleasure to come work with Huntingdon Borough. He said that Council and the Mayor should be commended.
- Solicitor Richard Wilson stated that since there has been changes, the meetings are more pleasant.

- Solicitor Richard Wilson stated that some of the projects that were done in 2018 were the Uniform and Non-Uniform Health Insurance, the sinkhole of Muddy Run, the Train Derailment, Your Building Center sinkhole, etc.
- Solicitor Richard Wilson stated that he is looking forward to working with Borough Council in 2019.
- Solicitor Richard Wilson wanted to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Years.

Engineer's Report.

- Ann Reynolds wanted to second Solicitor Wilson comments and wish everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Years.

Borough Manager's Report.

- Dan Varner stated that there has been some accomplishments. Dan Varner said that he had the supervisors help with the budget and this went smooth.
- Dan Varner stated that he appreciates how hard the Borough Employees have worked and they have been working their tails off.
- Dan Varner stated that this is a great community and is proud to be a part of it.
- Dan Varner wished everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Years.
- Jay Brouse asked about the Orlady Wall and the status of this. Dan Varner said that Kenny Evans said he hoped to be finished by the end of hunting season. Dan Varner said that he has been up there every day and they have been working and are close to finishing the project.

Any other Business.

- James Bair Jr. said that Santa will be available for the kids from 11:00 to 1:00 on Saturday, December 22, 2018 at the former sports building on Washington Street.
- Johnathan Hyde wanted to thank Richard King for everything that he has done.

Meeting adjourned at 8:20 PM.

Minutes Submitted by,

Richard S. King

Richard S. King
Huntingdon Borough Secretary