

Huntingdon Borough Council Meeting

Tuesday, March 19, 2019

President Nicole Houck called the Huntingdon Borough Council Meeting to order at 7:30 PM.

The invocation was given by Mayor David Wessels.

The Pledge of Allegiance was given by President Nicole Houck.

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

Guest present were 911 Director Chris Stevens, Gary Reed, Kay Reed, Connie Lang, Jennifer Clark, Gary Cramer, Mike Smith, Mel Woomer, Jay Brouse, Betty Quarry, Sheri Reynolds, Dan Cline, April Feagley, Lewis Rains, David Rains, Stephen Jackson, Kay Rossman and Claire Holzner.

President Nicole Houck welcomed the visitors and asked for their comments at this time.

- Gary Reed talked about the 513 16th Street property and said that this house should be tore down. Gary said that there has been no one living there for ten (10) years and there are animals getting inside. Gary said that this property is lowering their property value down.
- Gary Reed said that when the Domino's Tractor and Trailer pulls into Domino's, you cannot see up the street and you almost have to pull out from the Stop Sign on 13th Street into traffic.
- Sheri Reynolds spoke about the 513 16th Street property and said that you can smell odors coming from this place. Sheri said that something needs to be done.
- Jay Brouse asked if there could be a Deer Crossing sign put up between his property and Boris Lane. Jay said that there are a lot of deer in his yard and he almost saw a head on crash.
- Kay Rossman spoke on the article that was in the Daily Newspaper about the PEMA Director being here and speaking on the Stormwater issues and applying for funds. Kay said that the problem is that the borough needs to divert the majority of water away from Muddy Run.
- Kay Rossman spoke on the PennDot project on Petersburg Pike to Cold Springs Road and asked "where they are going to divert this water".
- Kay Rossman spoke on the amount of money that was spent on Muddy Run shoring up the banks, engineering fees, Penn State students study and recently the collapse at Crawford Apartments.
- Mike Smith spoke on the 513 16th Street property and said that he has been bringing to Borough Council his complaint on a property on Mifflin Street. Mike said that the property owner says that this is oriental flowers and grass and Mike said that it is just weeds and nothing has been done. Mike said that there is no one living there and the borough needs to get involved and tear

the building down. Mike said that there was a copper head killed in the alley and there are rats running around.

- Dan Cline spoke on the 513 16th Street property, there are no gutters and the water is running towards their property.
- Steve Jackson said that for two (2) years he has been complaining about the street lights and something needs done.

President Nicole Houck then proceeded to the review and act on the following meetings.

Council Meeting – February 19, 2019

Water & Sewer Committee Meeting – March 7, 2019

Community Development Committee Meeting – March 7, 2019

Parks, Recreation and Public Property Committee Meeting – March 7, 2019

Special Council Meeting – March 7, 2019

Maintenance Committee Meeting – March 12, 2019

Public Safety Committee Meeting – March 12, 2019

Administrative Committee Meeting – March 12, 2019

Motion was made by Councilman David Quarry and Second by Councilman Johnathan Hyde to accept the minutes of February 19, 2019, March 7, 2019 and March 12, 2019. Motion Carried.

President Nicole Houck then proceeded to approve payment of March 2019 bills.

Motion was made by Councilman David Quarry and Second by Councilman Robert Jackson to approve the payments of March 2019 bills. Motion Carried.

President Nicole Houck then proceeded to approve the Financial Statements for February 2019 Borough Accounts.

Motion was made by Councilman Johnathan Hyde and Second by Councilman David Quarry to approve the Financial Statement for February 2019 Borough Accounts. Motion Carried.

President Nicole Houck then proceeded to the Committee reports.

Administrative (Nicole Houck)

- The Administrative Committee recommends a motion to proceed with a hearing on the 513 16th Street property.
- Dan Varner said that we would need to advertise for a public hearing and give 30 days' notice prior to proceeding to the next step. If the owner doesn't respond then the building could be raised.

Motion was made by Councilman James Bair and Second by Councilman David Quarry to proceed with a hearing on the 513 16th Street property. Motion Carried

- The Administrative Committee recommends a motion to forgive the interfund transfer of \$5,899.00 from the Cemetery Fund that is due to the General Fund.

Motion was made by Councilman David Quarry and Second by Councilman Johnathan Hyde to forgive the interfund transfer of \$5,899.00 from the Cemetery Fund that is due to the General Fund. Motion Carried.

Community Development (Johnathan Hyde)

- The Community Development Committee recommends a motion to approve the lowest bid for CDBG curb cuts to Mel's Concrete in the amount of \$51,440.00 and to be paid for from the CDBG account.

Motion was made by Councilman David Quarry and Second by Councilman Robert Jackson to approve the lowest bid for CDBG curb cuts to Mel's Concrete in the amount of \$51,440.00 and to be paid for from the CDBG account. Motion Carried.

- The Community Development Committee recommends a motion to authorize the advertising for bidding additional ADA curb cuts.

Motion was made by Councilman David Quarry and Second by Robert Jackson to authorize the advertising for bidding additional ADA curb cuts. Motion Carried.

- The Community Development Committee recommends a motion to approve Resolution #3-2019 regarding reviewing Federal Grant and CDBG related Assurances and Plans.

Motion was made by Councilman David Quarry and Second by Councilman Robert Jackson to approve Resolution #3-2019 regarding reviewing Federal Grant and CDBG related Assurances and Plans. Motion Carried.

Maintenance Committee (Terry Green)

- The Maintenance Committee recommends a motion to have Spring Cleanup, with items being set out curbside April 5th, 6st and 7th and Hollenbaugh's Trash and Recycling will be picking up April 8th thru April 12th.

Motion was made by Councilman David Quarry and Second by Councilman Johnathan Hyde to have Spring Cleanup, with items being set out curbside April 5th, 6st and 7th and Hollenbaugh's Trash and Recycling will be picking up April 8th thru April 12th. Motion Carried.

Parks, Recreation and Public Property (Robert Jackson)

- Robert Jackson stated that Huntingdon Borough has received the Dog Park Permit and we will have 2 sections, one for small dogs and one for bigger dogs.
- The Isett Museum will be publishing a virtual tour of the Riverview Cemetery.
- The Splash Pad construction has started and the water line is in, we are hoping to have it ready for the opening of the Isett Community Swimming Pool.
- Robert Jackson reported that there is interest in the Blair Field for Softball, and Baseball to be played. Dan Varner said that the leagues have been working on the field and if grant funding is received then this will be used to overhaul the Baseball field.

Public Safety (James Bair)

- James Bair spoke on the 513 16th Street property and said that there was nothing overlooked and that there is a process the borough must go thru. He said that fines have been sent, but the owner cannot be located.
- James Bair wanted to thank the Huntingdon Fire Department and the Huntingdon Police Department for the excellent work they have been doing.

Water & Sewer (Sean Steeg)

- Sean Steeg spoke on the 4th Street project and the process of working with the engineers and when this project starts, people should try to avoid this area during construction.

Executive Session was called at 8:12 PM to discuss personnel issues.

Executive Session ended at 8:29 PM.

- The Executive Committee recommends a motion to hire Chris Stevens as an Assistant Borough Manager part time until May 1st, then he will become full time.

Motion was made by Vice-President Sean Steeg and Second by Councilman Johnathan Hyde to hire Chris Stevens as an Assistant Borough Manager part time until May 1st, then he will become full time. Motion Carried.

President Nicole Houck then proceeded to Old Business.

- Nothing was reported under Old Business.

President Nicole Houck then proceeded to New Business.

- Nothing was reported under New Business.

President Nicole Houck then proceeded to the President's report.

- Nicole welcomed Chris Stevens to his new role as Assistant Borough Manager.
- Nicole wanted to thank the Huntingdon Fire Department and Huntingdon Police Department for the work they have been doing.
- Nicole wanted to thank the Borough employees and Supervisors for the work they have been doing.

President Nicole Houck then proceeded to the Mayor's report.

- David Wessels stated that he performed one wedding and the \$100.00 fee was assessed.
- David Wessels reported that his hat is off to the High School and its participation in Champ. He said they have helped raise over \$60,000.00 this year and set a record. David said that Huntingdon will be the host next year and he has issued them a challenge to be the highest donating school next year.
- David Wessels reported that the new ticket enforcement system is working wonderfully.
- David Wessels said that it is his intent to attend the spring PSAB conference in Hershey, PA and the Annual Mayors Association conference.

- David Wessels reported on the North Central Region Family Readiness Adult Finance and Child Summer Safety Meet and Greet to be held at the Huntingdon Armory on Saturday, May 4th with check in from 10:00 AM to 11:00 AM and the event is from 11:00 AM to 1:00 PM.

President Nicole Houck then proceeded to the Chief of Police report.

- Jeff Buckley reported that we are waiting on the response of the grant for the K9 Unit and said that we have donations amounting to around \$40,000.00.

President Nicole Houck then proceeded to the Engineers report.

- Ann Reynolds had nothing to report.

President Nicole Houck then proceeded to the Borough Solicitor's report.

- Richard Wilson had nothing to report.

President Nicole Houck then proceeded to the Borough Manager's report.

- Dan Varner stated that it has taken longer than expected to address some of the issues the borough had and he will be working with Chris Stevens to move forward.

President Nicole Houck then proceeded to any other business.

- Dean Harris said that he felt bad when he heard that Dan Varner will be leaving and is proud to have Chris Stevens and he will do a great job.

Motion was made to adjourn by Councilman David Quarry at 8:36 PM.

Minutes Submitted by,

Richard S. King

Richard S. King
Borough Secretary