**Huntingdon Borough Council Meeting**

**Tuesday, May 19, 2020**

Due to Governor Wolf’s orders on the COVID-19 stay at home, the Huntingdon Borough Council meeting was held by Webex Conference.

The Huntingdon Borough Council meeting was called to order by President Johnathan Hyde at 7:37 after technical issues were fixed.

The Invocation was given by Mayor David Wessels.

The Pledge of Allegiance was presented by Mayor David Wessels.

Roll call was taken by Borough Secretary Richard King and the following were present.

President Johnathan Hyde – Borough Council Room

Vice-President Sean Steeg – Home on Computer

Councilman David Quarry – Home on Computer

Councilman David Fortson – Borough Council Room

Councilwomen Nicole Houck – Phone

Councilman James Bair – Home on Computer

Councilman Terry Green – Home on Computer

Mayor David Wessels – Borough Council Room

Engineer Ann Reynolds – Home on Computer

Borough Solicitor Richard Wilson – Home on Computer

Chief of Police Jeff Buckley – Borough Council Room

Borough Manager Chris Stevens – Borough Council Room

Borough Secretary Richard King – Borough Council Room

President Johnathan Hyde recognized the guest present for their comments.

Nick Miller – Home on Computer and Phone

Nathan Woods – Home on Computer

Nick Miller spoke on behalf of the Friends of Huntingdon Borough Trails Group.

Nick Miller spoke on the Timber cutting on Flag Pole Hill around the trails and said there were 124 acres between Flag Pole and Peace Chapel.

Nick Miller said that Huntingdon Borough was given a partition with 1500 people signing.

Nick Miller said that Huntingdon Borough should reassess the timber cutting, and the borough did not contact the Conservation District for help with this.

Nick Miller said that what we have marked the forest will not regenerate.

Nick Miller said that he gives credit to Johnathan Hyde for going to the Conservation District and presenting a report.

Nick Miller said that this cutting would be an eye sore for decades or more.

Nick Miller said that the Friends of Huntingdon Borough Trails Group would like to partner with Huntingdon Borough and the Conservation District to come up with an updated forest management plan.

Nick Miller said that this should be a sustainable contract and not for profit.

Nick Miller thanked Huntingdon Borough Council for allowing him to speak and asked what the next step would be.

Vice-President Sean Steeg said that we need to pump the brakes on this.

President Johnathan Hyde said that we would be in contact with Greg Larson and him.

Nick Miller said their group is a non-profit organization and they want to get involved.

President Johnathan Hyde proceeded to the review and act on the minutes of the following meetings.

Borough Council Meeting – April 21, 2020

Water & Sewer Committee Meeting – May 7, 2020

Community Development Committee Meeting – May 7, 2020

Parks, Recreation & Public Property Committee Meeting – May 7, 2020

Maintenance Committee Meeting – May 12, 2020

Public Safety Committee Meeting – May 12, 2020

Administrative Committee Meeting – May 12, 2020

**A motion was made by Councilman David Quarry to accept the minutes of the above meetings and second by Councilman David Fortson. Motion Carried.**

President Johnathan Hyde proceeded for a motion and second to approve payment of May 2020 bills.

**A motion was made by Councilman David Quarry to approve payment of May 2020 bills and second by Councilman David Fortson. Motion Carried.**

President Johnathan Hyde proceeded for a motion and second to approve the Financial Statements of all Borough Accounts for April 2020.

**A motion was made by Councilman David Quarry to approve the Financial Statements of all Borough Accounts for April 2020 and second by Councilwomen Nicole Houck. Motion Carried.**

President Johnathan Hyde proceeded to the Committee Reports.

Administrative Committee – Nicole Houck

The Administrative Committee recommends a motion and second to approve Lucille A. Brown and Lisa C. McDaniels as voting alternates to the Zoning Hearing Board.

**A motion was made by Councilman David Quarry to approve Lucille A. Brown and Lisa C. McDaniels as voting alternates to the Zoning Hearing Board and second by Councilman James Bair. Motion Carried.**

The Administrative Committee recommends a motion and second to approve extending the face value on Huntingdon Borough Property Taxes through the end of September 2020.

**A motion was made by Councilman David Quarry to approve extending the face value on Huntingdon Borough Property Taxes through the end of September 2020 and second by Councilman James Bair. Motion Carried.**

Community Development Committee – David Quarry

The Community Development Committee recommends a motion and second to remove the recycling charges from the bill going out in June due to the COVID-19 restrictions on opening. (Hollenbaugh did not collect for a month).

**A motion was made by Councilman James Bair to remove the recycling charges from the bill going out in June due to the COVID-19 restrictions on opening and second by Councilman David Fortson. Motion Carried.**

Maintenance Committee – Terry Green

Chairman Terry Green had nothing to report.

Parks, Recreation & Public Property Committee – David Fortson

Chairman David Fortson had nothing to report.

Public Safety Committee – James Bair

Chairman James Bair said it was a fantastic job the Fire Departments and the Police Department had done with the fire on the 600 block of Penn Street.

Chairman James Bair said that he had never seen a fire like this and does not want to see it again.

Chairman James Bair said that he would like to do something special for the Fire Departments that helped.

Water & Sewer Committee – Sean Steeg

The Water & Sewer Committee recommends a motion and second to accept the bid of HRI, Inc. in the amount of $2,816,394.00 for the 4th Street Sewer Separation Project.

**A motion was made by Councilman James Bair to accept the bid of HRI, Inc. in the amount of $2,816,394.00 for the 4th Street Sewer Separation Project and second by Councilman David Quarry. Motion Carried.**

The Water & Sewer Committee recommends a motion and second to pay the Change Order No. 1 for the Highway Restoration and Maintenance Bond in the amount of $4,720.00 to D&M when we receive their first application for payment.

**A motion was made by Councilman David Quarry to approve the payment of Change Order No. 1 for the Highway Restoration and Maintenance Bond in the amount of $4,720.00 to D&M when we receive their first application for payment and second by Councilman James Bair. Motion Carried.**

The Water & Sewer Committee recommends a motion and second to move ahead on the refinancing of the 2013 Sewer Bond.

Chairman Sean Steeg said that we have several bonds and when they become due, that we can refinance these. Sean Steeg said that by doing this we would save around $193,000.00.

**A motion was made by Councilman David Quarry to move ahead with the refinancing of the 2013 Sewer Bond and second by Councilman David Fortson. Motion Carried.**

The Water & Sewer Committee recommends a motion and second to proceed with the Water Line replacement of 6st to 7th on Penn Street to be done by the Maintenance Department.

**A motion was made by Councilman David Quarry to proceed with the Water Line replacement of 6st to 7th on Penn Street to be done by the Maintenance Department and second by Councilwomen Nicole Houck. Motion Carried.**

The Water & Sewer Committee recommends a motion and second to proceed with the Water Line replacement of 5th to 6st on Penn Street and to be done by the Maintenance Department.

**A motion was made by Councilman David Quarry to proceed with the Water Line replacement of 5th to 6st on Penn Street to be done by the Maintenance Department and second by Councilman David Fortson. Motion Carried.**

Executive Session

Executive Session was not called for.

Old Business

Nothing was reported under Old Business

New Business

Borough Manager Chris Stevens said there has been a lot of meetings dealing with the fire and what occurred.

President’s Report

Johnathan Hyde said it was a fantastic job the Fire Departments and Police Department have done with the fire and the coordination of other Fire Departments. Johnathan said they all worked well together.

Chief of Police Report

Jeff Buckley reported that the efforts of the Fire Departments and Police Department were outstanding.

Jeff Buckley said that 911 has been receiving calls and criticism about holding cars and resident’s items. Jeff said that the police has no control of this and it is in the hands of the owner of the buildings and management at the Blair House.

Mayor’s Report

David Wessels said the Councilman James Bair is always right when it comes to the First Responders and Police Department.

David Wessels said he would like to get a list of all of the Fire Departments and apparatus that was used to help with the fire.

David Wessels called for a moment of silence for Robert Bob Geissinger, who has helped this community in more ways than one.

A moment of silence was held with a prayer from Mayor David Wessels.

Engineer’s Report

Ann Reynolds reported that the applications for the 200 block and 500 block of Penn Street have been submitted. Ann said that the Commonwealth Financing Authority had their meeting but did not act on applications. Ann said their next meeting will be in June.

Borough Solicitor’s Report

Richard Wilson had nothing to report on.

Borough Manager’s Report

Chris Stevens reported that the Maintenance Department will have the 6st to 7th on Penn Street Water Line replacement done next week sometime and then they will start on the 5th to 6st on Penn Street Water Line replacement since the road is closed.

The Huntingdon Borough Council Meeting was adjourned at 8:05 PM.

Minutes submitted by,  
  
  
  
Richard S. King  
Borough Secretary