Huntingdon Borough Council Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, November 17, 2020

The Huntingdon Borough Council Meeting was held virtually by Webex Conference and held in the Huntingdon Borough Council Room, 530 Washington Street, Huntingdon, PA 16652

President Johnathan Hyde called the Huntingdon Borough Council meeting to order at 7:30 PM.

Mayor David Wessels gave the invocation.

President Johnathan Hyde presented the Pledge of Allegiance.

Borough Secretary Richard King took roll call.

Members virtual on Webex Conference were Vice-President Sean Steeg, Councilman David Quarry, Councilman David Fortson, Councilman James Bair, Councilman Terry Green, Mayor David Wessels, and Borough Solicitor Richard Wilson.

Members present in the Borough Council Room were President Johnathan Hyde, Chief of Police Jeff Buckley, Borough Manager Chris Stevens and Borough Secretary Richard King.

Huntingdon Borough Police Officer present was Andrew Young.

Robert Jackson, Thomas Yoder and Dee Dee Brown were virtual on Webex Conference to be interviewed for the open Borough Council vacant position.

Guest present for the Borough Council meeting was Kylie Young from the Daily News.

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

Borough Council Meeting – October 20, 2020

Water & Sewer Committee Meeting – November 5, 2020

Community Development Committee Meeting – November 5, 2020

Parks, Recreation & Public Property Committee Meeting – November 5, 2020

Maintenance Committee Meeting – November 10, 2020

Public Safety Committee Meeting – November 10, 2020

Administrative Committee Meeting – November 10, 2020

**A motion was made by Councilman David Quarry to accept the above minutes and second by Vice-President Sean Steeg. Motion Carried.**

President Johnathan Hyde called for a motion and second to approve the payment of the November 2020 bills.

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

President Johnathan Hyde called for a motion and second to approve the Financial Statements of all borough accounts for October 2020.

**A motion was made by Councilman David Quarry to approve the Financial Statements of all borough accounts for October 2020 and second by Councilman James Bair. Motion Carried.**

President Johnathan Hyde proceeded to the Committee reports.

President Johnathan Hyde called on the Administrative Committee report.

Vice-President Sean Steeg reported the Administrative Committee recommends a motion to approve the appointment of Timothy Launtz to the Zoning Hearing Board Committee with voting rights.

**A motion was made by Councilman David Quarry to approve the appointment of Timothy Launtz to the Zoning Hearing Board Committee with voting rights and second by Councilman David Fortson. Motion Carried.**

Vice-President Sean Steeg reported the Administrative Committee recommends a motion to advertise the proposed 2021 Huntingdon Borough Budget.

**A motion was made by Councilman David Quarry to advertise the proposed 2021 Huntingdon Borough Budget and second by Councilman David Fortson. Motion Carried.**

Vice-President Sean Steeg then proceeded to the interviews for the vacant Borough Council position.

Vice-President Sean Steeg called on Robert Jackson to talk about why he wanted to serve on Borough Council.

Robert Jackson proceeded to talk about why he wanted to serve on Borough Council.

Vice-President Sean Steeg called on Dee Dee Brown to talk about why she wanted to serve on Borough Council

Dee Dee Brown proceeded to talk about why she wanted to serve on Borough Council.

Vice-President Sean Steeg called on Thomas Yoder to talk about why he wanted to serve on Borough Council.

Thomas Yoder proceeded to talk about why he wanted to serve on Borough Council

Vice-President Sean Steeg then turned it over to President Johnathan Hyde for nominations and said that he would like to be the first to nominate someone.

President Johnathan Hyde told him to go ahead.

Vice-President Sean Steeg nominated Robert Jackson.

President Johnathan Hyde second the nomination for Robert Jackson.

President Johnathan Hyde nominated Thomas Yoder.

Vice-President Sean Steeg second the nomination for Thomas Yoder.

Councilman David Quarry nominated Dee Dee Brown.

Councilman David Fortson second the nomination for Dee Dee Brown.

President Johnathan Hyde called for a roll call vote.

Borough Secretary Richard King then proceeded for a roll call vote for Robert Jackson.

President Johnathan Hyde voted yes.

Vice-President Sean Steeg voted yes.

Councilman David Quarry voted no.

Councilman David Fortson voted no.

Councilman James Bair voted no.

Councilman Terry Green voted no.

Borough Secretary Richard King reported there were 2 yes votes and 4 no votes for Robert Jackson.

Borough Secretary Richard King then proceeded for a roll call vote for Thomas Yoder.

President Johnathan Hyde voted yes.

Vice-President Sean Steeg voted yes.

Councilman David Quarry voted no.

Councilman David Fortson voted no.

Councilman James Bair voted no.

Councilman Terry Green voted no.

Borough Secretary Richard King reported there were 2 yes votes and 4 no votes for Thomas Yoder.

Borough Secretary Richard King then proceeded for a roll call vote for Dee Dee Brown.

President Johnathan Hyde voted yes.

Vice-President Sean Steeg voted yes.

Councilman David Quarry voted yes.

Councilman David Fortson voted yes.

Councilman James Bair voted yes.

Councilman Terry Green voted yes.

Borough Secretary Richard King reported there were 6 yes votes and 0 no votes for Dee Dee Brown.

Vice-President Sean Steeg said that we will need the proper paper work to be signed before Dee Dee Brown can be sworn in and to have a vote on Borough Council.

Vice-President Sean Steeg then asked Mayor David Wessels and Borough Secretary Richard King if we could see that the proper paper work is taken care of. Both the Mayor and Secretary said yes.

Mayor David Wessels thanked the candidates for their service already done and hopes they will continue to serve Huntingdon Borough.

President Johnathan Hyde said it would be an honor to have anyone of you to serve.

Councilman Terry Green said we could not have 3 better candidates and knows that they will continue to bring items to the table.

Councilman David Fortson said that he wished we could take all 3 of them.

Councilman David Quarry said the he has served with all 3 of them in the past.

Councilman David Fortson said that this was not an easy decision.

Dee Dee Brown gave here thanks and said she knew this would be a tough decision.

President Johnathan Hyde said he would like to second Councilman Fortson’s remarks and hopes to see all run in the primaries.

President Johnathan Hyde called on the Community Development Committee report.

Chairman David Quarry spoke on grants already received and the grants we are waiting on responses from.

Chairman David Quarry went over the list and said that the total grants received for 2019 and 2020 amounted to $554,643.00.

Chairman David Quarry then went over the list that has not been approved yet and these amount to $801,770.00.

President Johnathan Hyde called on the Maintenance Committee report.

Chairman Terry Green congratulated Dee Dee Brown.

President Johnathan Hyde called on the Parks, Recreation & Public Property Committee report.

Chairman David Fortson had nothing to report.

President Johnathan Hyde called on the Public Safety Committee report.

Chairman James Bair reported the Public Safety Committee recommends a motion to approve the hiring of Bryan Greene as a Huntingdon Borough Police Officer with start date to be determined.

**A motion was made by Councilman David Quarry to approve the hiring of Bryan Greene as a Huntingdon Borough Police Officer with a start date to be determined and second by Councilman David Fortson. Motion Carried.**

Chairman James Bair thanked the Huntingdon Borough Police Department, Fire Department and 1st Responder for their work.

Chairman James Bair said there were 26 calls in October and the year to date number is 288 calls.

President Johnathan Hyde called on the Water & Sewer Committee report.

Chairman Sean Steeg reported the Water & Sewer Committee recommends a motion to approve the bid from Univar for DelPAC 1525 for 11,000 gallons at a cost of $26,290.00 for the Wastewater Treatment Plant.

**A motion was made by Councilman David Quarry to approve the bid from Univar for DelPAC 1525 for 11,000 gallons at a cost of $26,290.00 for the Wastewater Treatment Plant and second by Councilman James Bair. Motion Carried.**

Chairman Sean Steeg reported the Water & Sewer Committee recommends a motion to approve the bid from Univar for DelPAC 2020 for 25,000 gallons at a cost of $55,250.00 for the Water Treatment Plant.

**A motion was made by Councilman David Quarry to approve the bid from Univar for DelPAC 2020 for 25,000 gallons at a cost of $55,250.00 for the Water Treatment Plant and second by Councilman Terry Green. Motion Carried.**

Chairman Sean Steeg reported that the Water & Sewer Committee recommends a motion to approve the bid from Univar for Methanol¹ for 30,000 gallons at a cost of $43,800.00 for the Wastewater Treatment Plant.

**A motion was made by Councilman David Quarry to approve the bid from Univar for Methanol¹ for 30,000 gallons at a cost of $43,800.00 for the Wastewater Treatment Plant and second by Councilman David Fortson. Motion Carried.**

President Johnathan Hyde asked if there were any reason to go into Executive Session.

There were no reason to call for an Executive Session.

President Johnathan Hyde proceeded to old business.

There was nothing reported under old business.

President Johnathan Hyde proceeded to new business.

There was nothing reported under new business.

President Johnathan Hyde proceeded to the President’s report.

President Johnathan Hyde thanked the police department, fire department, 1st responders and the work force that we have.

President Johnathan Hyde proceeded to the Chief of Police report.

Jeff Buckley said that the motion and second to hire the new police officer was to offer this person employment with the borough. Jeff said there are conditional things that will need done.

President Johnathan Hyde proceeded to the Mayor’s report.

David Wessels said that the Huntingdon Annual Tree Lighting will be held on Friday, December 4, 2020 at 7:00 PM. David said this will be live streamed and there will be food trucks there. David said he is working on a great holiday season.

President Johnathan Hyde proceeded to the Engineer’s report.

Ann Reynolds was not present to give her report.

President Johnathan Hyde proceeded to the Borough Solicitor’s report.

Richard Wilson said he was impressed on the group of candidates for the open council position.

Richard Wilson spoke on what is happening with the Blair Building.

Richard Wilson said there were discussions with PennDOT and we are moving to get the property in a safe condition and to help PennDOT open Route 26.

Richard Wilson said that the Code Enforcement Officer will be citing them with numerous code violations and they could be fined daily. Rich said that James Morris has provided the Hazardous Structure Ordinance.

Richard Wilson said we are taking this serious and he was very concerned with no roof, no action from the owner or a plan to make this safe. Rich said that winter is coming and with freezing and thawing, the bricks are going to fall and the bricks will deteriorate.

President Johnathan Hyde proceeded to the Borough Manager’s report.

Chris Stevens said that the demolition of Huntingdon Electric has started and will be done in about 2 to 3 weeks, where we can open up 7th Street.

Chris Stevens said there has been daily dealing with PennDOT and the owner on the Blair House.

President Johnathan Hyde proceeded to any other business.

Councilman James Bair said that the Christmas Parade is on and is hoping to make this a safe one.

Councilman David Quarry wished everyone a happy and safe Thanksgiving.

Vice-President Sean Steeg said the Health Crisis we are in right now is real, and he formally urged everyone to stay at home and wear a mask.

President Johnathan Hyde called for a motion to adjourn the Borough Council Meeting.

**A motion was made to adjourn the Borough Council Meeting by Councilman David Quarry at 8:13 PM.**

Minutes submitted by,  
  
  
  
Richard S. King  
Borough Secretary