Huntingdon Borough Community Development Committee Meeting Minutes

Thursday, May 6, 2021

The Huntingdon Borough Community Development Committee meeting was held in the Borough Council Room, 530 Washington Street, Huntingdon, PA 16652.

The Huntingdon Borough Community Development Committee meeting was called to order at 5:00 p.m. by Chairwomen Dee Dee Brown.

Members present were Chairwomen Dee Dee Brown, President Johnathan Hyde, Vice-President Sean Steeg, Councilman David Quarry, Councilman James Bair, Borough Manager Chris Stevens and Borough Secretary Richard King.

Member virtually was Councilman David Fortson.

There were no guest present for this meeting.

Chairwomen Dee Dee Brown called on the Grants Administrators report.

Borough Manager Chris Stevens said there is a subrecipient agreement between the Borough of Huntingdon and Center for Community Action for the FFY 2020-CV CDBG Program for $69,001.00 that we will need to sign. Chris said we have agreed to this a while ago and they are getting the agreements out.

Borough Manager Chris Stevens handed out the plan of study for the East Penn Street Flood Mitigation Study. Chris said there was a meeting with PennDOT and Huntingdon County Planning Department and they met at 8th & Penn Street and East Penn Street would be the easiest to do. Chris said the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers will be doing this study at a cost of $84,000.00, which will take 12 to 18 months to complete. Chris said there is no cost to the borough for this. Chris said they will be going from the East Penn Street Bridge to 2nd Street and are looking at raising the road 3 feet. Chris said this will take this out of the 100 year flood plain.

Borough Manager Chris Stevens said the Huntingdon County Planning Department had seen we were working on Bryant Park and sent us an agreement to sign. Chris said this is the Marcellus Legacy Fund grant that we received for $10,000.00 with Administrative fees to be taken out of this.

Borough Manager Chris Stevens said that at Bryant Park, there will be a tree ring in the middle, two areas for food trucks, seating for around 48 people with shades, elevated stage, electric, sewer, water and lighting.

Borough Manager Chris Stevens said we are still waiting on the solar street lights to come in and when we receive them they will be installed.

Borough Manager Chris Stevens said we will start on the Soft Boat Launch then when the above work has been completed.

Borough Manager Chris Stevens said the walkway between Portstown and the Dog Park was denied.

Borough Manager Chris Stevens said that Dan Varner and GHD are working on getting the permit for the Amphitheater.

Borough Manager Chris Stevens said that Adam Miller had submitted the application for the 2nd Stage grant for the Amphitheater.

Borough Manager Chris Stevens said the Farmers Market has started at Portstown Park. Chris said there is a banner that we will put up for this.

There was nothing reported under old business.

Under new business, Vice-President Sean Steeg said when we eased the sidewalk ordinance to allow outdoor seating during the pandemic, we were to review this on a monthly basis. Sean said that he had received a request to allow alcohol outdoors during the outdoor seating, in which he took it that we did allow this. Sean said the issue is with Liquor Control Enforcement and our ordinance.

Vice-President Sean Steeg mentioned that this establishment wanted to rent 2 parking places for outdoor seating also and putting a bump out there.

Councilman James Bair said it would be a safety issue to have someone sitting in a parking place the way people drive thru town and seating should be close to their building.

Vice-President Sean Steeg said that if there are parking places taken up, that the borough would not lose money because they would pay a monthly fee.

Vice-President Sean Steeg said we could do a resolution or amend the ordinance to include the open container laws for bars and restaurants for outdoor seating on sidewalks to allow alcohol as long as they are seated and people can still walk on the sidewalk.

Borough Manager Chris Stevens said the ordinance would supersede the open container law.

Borough Manager Chris Stevens said we are about to do this with Bryant Park with outdoor seating.

There was a discussion on where is the containment, how do we control this, protection of the general public and we will hear complaints. It was also mentioned that the establishments must be held accountable.

Chairwomen Dee Dee Brown said we need to know how to handle this when complaints start coming in.

There was a discussion on people must be seated, the walkway must be maintained for people to walk and what if they don’t obey. It was mentioned that if there are only 8 seats, then there should only be 8 people and this can be worded in the ordinance. It was mentioned that if people are standing then they can be cited for loitering.

Borough Manager Chris Stevens said there are ordinances for loitering, public nuisance and noise that is active.

The committee recommended to look at the open container law, sidewalk ordinance and make modifications and then bring in the owners of establishments for a meeting to ask questions before we approve this.

Chairwomen Dee Dee Brown said that she wants to forward this to the Administrative Committee.

Borough Manager Chris Stevens said if we decide to keep the sidewalk ordinance then we could amend this to have it included.

There was nothing reported under any other business.

The Community Development Committee meeting was adjourned at 5:47 p.m.

Minutes submitted by,  
  
  
  
Richard S. King  
Borough Secretary