Huntingdon Borough Council Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, June 15, 2021

The Huntingdon Borough Council Meeting was held in the Borough Council Room, 530 Washington Street, Huntingdon, PA 16652.

Police Officer’s present were Corporal Charles Streightiff, Officer Dustin Border and Officer Shaun McCready.

Guest present were Gary Cramer, Jennifer Clark, Julie Gutowski, Suzanne Everhart, Jerry Everhart, Betty Streightiff, Ashley Heaton, Kenzie Sharpless, Harper Lewis, Michelle Shovlin, Kurt Border, Janice Hoover, Sean Heaton, Lori Heaton, Todd Fortney, Isabella Fortney, Sofia Fortney, John Eastman, Barb Eastman, Lonnie Woomer, Bill Woomer, Will Woomer, Jordan Mansberger, and Peyton Kennedy,

The Huntingdon Borough Council Meeting was called to order by President Johnathan Hyde at 7:30 PM.

The Invocation was given by Mayor David Wessels.

The Pledge of Allegiance was presented by President Johnathan Hyde.

Mayor David Wessels then presented awards to individuals. David said he was doing a modification to the Beloved Citizen Award by presenting these awards for bravery and heroism on the October 19, 2020 house explosion that occurred threatening the life of a citizen, Michele Shovlin.

Mayor David Wessels then presented a framed plaque with the American Flag, certificate and a key to the borough to John Eastman and Christopher Wencker for going into Michele’s home to carry her out of the flames.

Mayor David Wessels then presented a framed plaque with the American Flag, certificate and a key to the borough to Will Woomer, who went next door to get their dog out and then went back in to see if anyone else was inside while the residence was on fire.

Michele Shovlin said here grandchildren call her wonder women and she expressed the love shown from the community.

Lori Heaton thanked the community for their support and said that Will Woomer had stepped up his efforts in helping.

President Johnathan Hyde said this was an inspiration and he is proud to be a part of this community.

Borough Secretary Richard King took roll call.

Members present were President Johnathan Hyde, Vice-President Sean Steeg, Councilman David Quarry, Councilman David Fortson, Councilwomen Dee Dee Brown, Councilman James Bair, Councilman Terry Green, Mayor David Wessels, Engineer Kevin Nester, Solicitor Richard Wilson, Chief of Police Jeff Buckley, Borough Manager Chris Stevens and Borough Secretary Richard King.

President Johnathan Hyde welcomed the visitors that were present and asked for their comments.

There were no comments made by the guest present.

President Johnathan Hyde called on the review & act on the minutes of the following meetings:

* Borough Council Meeting – May 18, 2021
* Water & Sewer Committee Meeting – June 3, 2021
* Community Development Committee Meeting – June 3, 2021
* Parks, Recreation & Public Property Committee Meeting – June 3, 2021
* Maintenance Committee Meeting – June 8, 2021
* Public Safety Committee Meeting – June 8, 2021
* Administrative Committee Meeting – June 8, 2021

**A motion was made by Councilman David Quarry to approve the minutes above and second was made by Councilman James Bair. Motion Carried.**

President Johnathan Hyde called for a motion & second to approve the payment of the June 2021 bills.

**A motion was made by Councilman David Quarry to approve the payment of the June 2021 bills and second was made by Councilman David Fortson. Motion Carried.**

President Johnathan Hyde called for a motion & second to approve the May 2021 Financial Statements for all borough accounts.

**A motion was made by Councilman David Quarry to approve the May 2021 Financial Statements for all borough accounts and second was made by Vice-President Sean Steeg. Motion Carried.**

President Johnathan Hyde called on the Committee reports.

President Johnathan Hyde called on the Administrative Committee report.

Councilman David Quarry reported the Administrative Committee recommends a motion to name Corporal Charles T. Streightiff Acting Chief of Police to be effective July 20, 2021, then to become Chief on Chief Buckley’s last day employed.

**A motion was made by Councilwomen Dee Dee Brown to name Corporal Charles T. Streightiff, Acting Chief of Police to be effective July 20, 2021, then to become Chief on Chief Buckley’s last day employed and second was made by Councilman David Fortson. Motion Carried.**

Councilman David Quarry reported the Administrative Committee recommends a motion to hire an individual from the current civil service list as a Huntingdon Borough Police Officer.

**A motion was made by Councilman David Fortson to hire an individual from the current civil service list as a Huntingdon Borough Police Officer and second was made by Councilman James Bair. Motion Carried.**

President Johnathan Hyde called on the Community Development Committee report.

Councilwomen Dee Dee Brown wanted to thank all the volunteers that has helped with the Gateway Garden.

President Johnathan Hyde called on the Maintenance Committee report.

Councilman Terry Green said he had nothing to report.

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

Councilman David Fortson reported the Parks, Recreation & Public Property Committee recommends a motion to sign Resolution No. 2021-09 to request a Greenways, Trails & Recreation program grant of $16,561.50 from the Commonwealth Financing Authority to be used for the repair, resurfacing and repainting of the basketball court at Weaver Park with a match in cash of $2,922.69 and an in-kind match of labor and equipment valued at $2,320.00.

**A motion was made by Councilwomen Dee Dee Brown to sign Resolution No. 2021-09 to request a Greenways, Trails & Recreation program grant of $16,561.50 from the Commonwealth Financing Authority to be used for the repair, resurfacing and repainting of the basketball court at Weaver Park with a match in cash of $2,922.69 and an in-kind match of labor and equipment valued at $2,320.00 and second was made by Councilman David Quarry. Motion Carried.**

President Johnathan Hyde called on the Public Safety Committee report.

Councilman James Bair thanked all the 1st responders, Police, Fire, Ambulance and 911 dispatchers.

Councilman James Bair said there were 30 calls in the month of May and 148 year to date calls.

Councilman James Bair reported this year’s Car Cruise will be held on July 3, 2021, starting at 6:00 PM. James said this cruise will start at the Juniata College parking lot with a police escort coming down to 18th street, over to Washington Street and down Washington Street where they will park on the 600, 700 & 800 blocks of Washington Street.

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

Vice-President Sean Steeg reported the Water & Sewer Committee recommends a motion to approve HRI Change Order No. 1 for an increase of $85,936.55 to install a manhole and 24 inch pipe on Allegheny Street that needed repaired on the 4th Street CSO project

**A motion was made by Councilman David Quarry to approve the HRI Change Order No. 1 for an increase of $85,936.55 to install a manhole and 24 inch pipe on Allegheny Street that needed repaired for the 4th Street CSO project and second was made by Councilman David Fortson. Motion Carried.**

Vice-President Sean Steeg reported the Water & Sewer Committee recommends a motion to approve HRI payment of Application No. 6 for $488,267.25 for the 4th Street CSO project. Sean said the Change Order is included in this payment.

**A motion was made by Councilman David Quarry to approve HRI payment of Application No. 6 for $488,267.25 for the 4th Street CSO project and second was made by Councilman David Fortson. Motion Carried.**

Vice-President Sean Steeg reminded everyone that there were no raised taxes or fees for this $3 Million Dollar project and this was very well planned.

Executive Session was not called for.

President Johnathan Hyde called on any old business.

There was nothing reported under old business.

President Johnathan Hyde called on any new business.

There was nothing reported under new business.

President Johnathan Hyde called on the President’s report.

President Johnathan Hyde thanked all the borough employees.

President Johnathan Hyde called on the Chief of Police report.

Jeff Buckley spoke on the making Charles Streightiff as Acting Chief of Police and the hiring of new officer.

Jeff Buckley said he will be retiring June 20, 2021, where he will then use his vacation. Jeff said he will be here to help in the transition. Jeff said he has been employed with the borough for 29 years.

Jeff Buckley thanked council and said it was a pleasure working with them.

Jeff Buckley said he is glad for the police department and this will be a great addition.

President Johnathan Hyde called on the Mayor’s report.

Mayor David Wessels said we will be catching up on the awards in the next couple of months since we have not been having them due to COVID.

Mayor David Wessels said he had a wedding to perform tomorrow and will assess his usual fee.

President Johnathan Hyde called on the Engineer’s report.

Kevin Nester said he had nothing to report.

President Johnathan Hyde called on the Solicitor’s report.

Solicitor Richard Wilson said that he will be bringing to the Administrative Committee next month the amendment to the open container law and we will need to tweak it some.

President Johnathan Hyde called on the Borough Manager’s report.

Borough Manager Chris Stevens said the 912 Washington Street, where we are using CDBG funds for Habitat for Humanity, will be starting on the next phase.

Borough Manager Chris Stevens said there was a letter to the editor in the Daily Newspaper pertaining to 5th Street running trucks with clean fill from the 4th Street CSO project. Chris said this is clean fill, we have a permit and this was approved by the Conservation District.

Borough Manager Chris Stevens said they have started the 9th and Moore Street Muddy Run Bridge replacement and this will be completed by the time school opens up.

President Johnathan Hyde called on any other business.

Vice-President Sean Steeg thanked Engineer Ann Reynolds for her service and thanked Kevin Nester for stepping back in.

After no further business the Borough Council meeting was adjourned at 8:01 PM.

Minutes submitted by,

Richard S. King
Borough Secretary