Huntingdon Borough Council Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, July 20, 2021

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

Guest present for this meeting were Jennifer Clark, Gary Cramer, Emily Loose, James Grissinger, Tim Furlong and Dean Harris.

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.

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

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, GHD  
 Solicitor Richard Wilson  
 Chief of Police Jeff Buckley  
 Acting Chief of Police Charles Streightiff  
 Borough Manager Chris Stevens  
 Borough Secretary Richard King

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

Dean Harris asked about the soda machine on the sidewalk on 7th Street and if he was given permission to do this.

Chairman James Bair said Code Enforcement Officer Jim Morris is working on this.

Dean Harris asked about the furniture that is sitting out on 16th & Moore Street.

Borough Manager Chris Stevens said this is being taken care of.

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

* Borough Council Meeting – June 15, 2021
* Water & Sewer Committee Meeting – July 1, 2021
* Community Development Committee Meeting – July 1, 2021
* Parks, Recreation & Public Property Committee Meeting – July 1, 2021
* Maintenance Committee Meeting – July 13, 2021
* Public Safety Committee Meeting – July 13, 2021
* Administrative Committee Meeting – July 13, 2021

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

President Johnathan Hyde called for a motion and second to approve the payments of the July 2021 bills.

**A motion was made by Councilman David Quarry to approve the payments of the July 2021 bills and second was made by Councilman James Bair. Motion Carried.**

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

**A motion was made by Councilman David Quarry to approve the June 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 hire Dylan Gutshall to fill a position in the Maintenance Department with a start date to be determined.

**A motion was made by Councilman David Fortson to hire Dylan Gutshall to fill the position in the Maintenance Department with a start date to be determined and second was made by Councilwomen Dee Dee Brown. Motion Carried.**

Councilman David Quarry reported the Administrative Committee recommends a motion to hire Shane Peachey to fill a position in the Wastewater Treatment Plant with a start date to be determined.

**A motion was made by Vice-President Sean Steeg to hire Shane Peachey to fill the position in the Wastewater Treatment Plant with a start date to be determined and second was made by Councilwomen Dee Dee Brown. Motion Carried.**

Councilman David Quarry reported that the Administrative Committee recommends a motion to change the borough committee’s meetings from 2 days a month to 1 day a month, effective September 2021, to be held on the 1st Tuesday of the month with Maintenance at 2:00 PM; Water & Sewer at 3:00 PM; Public Safety at 4:00 PM; Community Development at 5:00 PM; Parks, Recreation & Public Property at 6:00 PM and Administrative at 7:00 PM.

**A motion was made by Councilman David Fortson to change the borough committee’s meetings from 2 days a month to 1 day a month, effective September 2021, to be held on the 1st Tuesday of the month with Maintenance at 2:00 PM; Water & Sewer at 3:00 PM; Public Safety at 4:00 PM; Community Development at 5:00 PM; Parks, Recreation & Public Property at 6:00 PM and Administrative at 7:00 PM and second was made by Councilwomen Dee Dee Brown. Motion Carried.**

President Johnathan Hyde called on the Community Development Committee report.

Councilwomen Dee Dee Brown reported the Community Development Committee recommends a motion to move the Micro-Enterprise Loan Fund money of $155,230.37 into a CDBG Program Fund.

**A motion was made by Councilman David Quarry to move the Micro-Enterprise Loan Fund money of $155,230.37 into a CDBG Program Fund and second was made by Vice-President Sean Steeg. Motion Carried.**

Councilwomen Dee Dee Brown reported the Community Development Committee recommends a motion to apply for a Multimodal Transportation Fund Grant in the amount of $400,000.00 for a cyclist corridor running from 18th Street to 8th Street on Susquehanna Avenue.

**A motion was made by Councilman David Quarry to apply for a Multimodal Transportation Fund Grant in the amount of $400,000.00 for a cyclist corridor running from 18th Street to 8th Street on Susquehanna Avenue and second was made by Vice-President Sean Steeg. Motion Carried.**

President Johnathan Hyde called on the Maintenance Committee report.

Councilman Terry Green 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 approve a proclamation to be held yearly on July 16th, to be the Park and Recreation Professionals Day.

**A motion was made by Councilman David Quarry to approve a proclamation to be held yearly on July 16th, to be the Park and Recreation Professional Day and second was made by Councilwomen Dee Dee Brown. Motion Carried.**

President Johnathan Hyde called on the Public Safety Committee report.

Councilman James Bair thanked the Police Department, Fire Department, Ambulance Division and 911 for their work and dedication.

Councilman James Bair reported there were 23 fire calls in June 2021.

Councilman James Bair said he had brought up the Fireworks Ordinance and is asking the solicitor to look at this ordinance to see what we can do to it. James said there is a distance requirement on putting these fireworks off from a home or building and a penalty.

Councilman James Bair talked about the Knoxbox Ordinance for fire protection, and he had members of the fire department there to speak on this.

Tim Furlong said this would be a standard access to get into buildings when there is a fire call. Tim said this would decrease time of waiting for someone to come with a key instead on breaking the door in.

Borough Manager Chris Stevens said there would be a description of the building, a key to get in, and a set of blueprints showing rooms. Chris said the Police Department and Fire Department would each have a key and it will let you know who opened the Knoxbox.

Shaun Magill said this would be an easy access, time restraint and there would be no busting down doors to get in. Shaun said this would also decrease the damage to the building.

Chairwomen Dee Dee Brown asked if this was just for businesses?

Borough Manager Chris Stevens said that residents can purchase one.

Chairwomen Dee Dee Brown said that this information needs to get out to the residents.

Vice-President Sean Steeg asked about the waiting a half an hour.

Tim Furlong said that if we break in a $500.00 door and it was not needed.

Mayor David Wessels talked about false alarms and wasting resources.

Vice-President Sean Steeg asked why should this be mandated?

Chief of Police Jeff Buckley said it is the legality of force entry and liability comes back on the police dept. Jeff said there would be valuable information in this box telling us who is in there and if anyone has any problems.

Mayor David Wessels spoke on the Huntingdon Electric Fire and said it would have on what floors what chemicals were on that floor.

Chief of Police Jeff Buckley said this is a PR Campaign.

Councilwomen Dee Dee Brown said we do not need to force people to purchase this.

Councilman James Bair said we will finalize this ordinance at the next Public Safety Committee meeting.

Solicitor Richard Wilson asked how much control he would have in this. It was said he would not have a key to the box, but if there were locks changed then he would have to call the police department to come an open it. Rich said then the property owner would not be blamed. It was mentioned that the borough and fire department would be responsible.

President Johnathan Hyde called on the Water & Sewer report.

Vice-President Sean Steeg reported the Water & Sewer Committee recommends a motion to reimburse Huntingdon Missionary Alliance Church for the bills received from Quarry’s Plumbing & Heating for $280.00 and a bill from Todd Musser for $750.00 for the sewer connection that was not hooked up when the Muddy Run Bridge replacement on 11th & Moore Street was being done.

Dean Harris asked whose fault was this?

Borough Manager Chris Stevens said it was HRI’s, PennDOT and Huntingdon Borough’s fault. Chris said that HRI paid the bigger amount for this and PennDOT paid some and the church paid some. Chris said that due to COVID last year they were not in church that much and when they started back up, their commodes backed up.

Vice-President Sean Steeg said there were no records of this line.

Dean Harris said whoever missed this on the plans should be held responsible.

**A motion was made by Chairman James Bair to reimburse Huntingdon Missionary Alliance Church for the bill from Quarry’s Plumbing and Heating for $270.00 and a bill from Todd Musser for $750.00 for the sewer connection that was not hooked up when HRI was doing the Muddy Run Bridge replacement at 11th & Moore Street and second was made by Councilwomen Dee Dee Brown. Motion Carried.**

Vice- President Sean Steeg reported the Water & Sewer Committee recommends a motion to approve the payment of Application No. 7 to HRI in the amount of $455,902.58 for the 4th Street CSO project.

**A motion was made by Councilman David Quarry to approve the payment of Application No. 7 to HRI in the amount of $455,902.58 for the 4th Street CSO project and second was made by Councilman James Bair. Motion Carried.**

Executive Session was not called for.

President Johnathan Hyde called on old business.

There was nothing reported under old business.

President Johnathan Hyde called on new business.

There was nothing reported under new business.

President Johnathan Hyde called on the Presidents report.

President Johnathan Hyde thanked all the borough employee’s and said we are blessed with the quality of work they do.

President Johnathan Hyde called on the Chief of Police report.

Chief of Police Jeff Buckley reported this was his last official day and he will be working with Acting Chief of Police Charles Streightiff on the transition. Jeff said he will be around to help, and he will miss the people he has worked with.

Acting Chief of Police Charles Streightiff reported on National Night Out on August 3rd and there will be more information coming out.

President Johnathan Hyde called on the mayor’s report.

Mayor David Wessels said he has performed one wedding with the usual fee of $100.00.

Mayor David Wessels said the IFC had a field day at Detwiler field back in June and it was a great time by all.

Mayor David Wessels said he handed out awards for the HCC summer programs at Detwiler field on June 25th. David said there were a lot of kids that participated. David said that Ryan Oser and his staff continue to do a wonderful job with this program.

Mayor David Wessels thanked the Geissinger family for the on-going support and fund-raising efforts for the July 3rd fireworks display. David said there were a lot of places in the community that held promotions and viewing parties for the event.

President Johnathan Hyde called on the Engineer’s report.

Engineer Kevin Nester had nothing to report on.

President Johnathan Hyde called on the Solicitor’s report.

Solicitor Richard Wilson said he had nothing to report but asked if he was to advertise the Committee Meeting date and times of meetings.

Borough Secretary said he will advertise this next month in the Daily Newspaper.

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

Borough Manager Chris Stevens updated everyone on the 4th Street CSO project. Chris said they started prepping for the paving from BMZ Law to Church Street. Chris said they will be working on Mifflin Street to the Sheriff’s Department and William Smith Street will be closed for a couple days.

Borough Manager Chris Stevens said that Bryan Park should be completed by September then the Maintenance Department will start working on the Soft Boat Launch.

Borough Manager Chris Stevens reported on the Green Light Go grant that we applied for 2 years ago and said we have received $214.400.00 in which we will match with Liquid Fuels money. Chris said this will do 2nd, 3rd, 4th, and 5th Street putting radar above instead of in the road.

Borough Manager Chris Stevens reported on the amount of grants we have applied for, and the amount

Councilwomen Dee Dee Brown applauded Borough Manager Chris Stevens on the grants.

Borough Manager Chris Stevens said you need to than Adam Miller and George Drobnock for these grants.

President Johnathan Hyde called on any other business.

There was nothing reported under any other business.

After no further business, the Borough Council meeting was adjourned at 8:10 PM.

Minutes submitted by,  
  
  
  
Richard S. King  
Borough Secretary