Huntingdon Borough Public Safety Committee Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, August 10, 2021

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

The Huntingdon Borough Public Safety Committee meeting was called to order by Chairman James Bair at 3:00 PM.

Members present were Chairman James Bair, President Johnathan Hyde, Councilman David Quarry, Councilman David Fortson, Councilman Terry Green, Mayor David Wessels, Acting Chief of Police Charles Streightiff, Code Enforcement Officer Jim Morris, Borough Manager Chris Stevens and Borough Secretary Richard King.

Guest present were Jennifer Clark, Gary Cramer and Jerry Gillich.

Chairman James Bair recognized the guest present and asked for their comments.

Gary Cramer asked about the sidewalk at 1111 Moore Street on when it was going to be completed. He said this is a safety issue.

Jerry Gillich said that he is waiting on the gas company to install a line into the house.

Borough Manager Chris Stevens said he needs to have the sidewalk poured now.

Councilman David Fortson said this needs blocked off before someone gets hurt.

Jerry Gillich said he will have it poured tomorrow.

Jerry Gillich said he would like to have a Juniata College Car Wash on Saturday, September 18, 2021 from 11:00 AM till 1:00 PM.

Jerry Gillich was told to have someone from Juniata College call the Borough Manager on this.

Jerry Gillich said there is a tree in front of his house with limbs hanging down that needs taken care of.

Jerry Gillich said he would like to hold a charity event on September 4, 2021 from 11:00 AM till 9:00 PM at his 8th Street Deli business in the parking lot. He said he will be providing food, labor and entertainment.

Chairman James Bair said this would be a safety issue and he could have it at Portstown Park.

Chairman James Bair called on the Code Enforcement Officer’s report.

Code Enforcement Officer Jim Morris went over his report with the committee.

Code Enforcement Officer Jim Morris updated the committee on the Blair House and said the contracts are being reviewed and Alexander Construction will be the owner’s representative and will oversee the entire project. Jim said that Fiore Construction has been identified as the contractor and will sub-contract most of the work. Jim said that G & R Excavation has submitted plans for the demo portion of the interior. Jim said the engineer’s will make a site visit on August 13, 2021 to evaluate the structural conditions of the building and submit their findings to the borough.

Code Enforcement Officer Jim Morris updated the committee on the Huntingdon Electric Motor Service site. Jim said the Ventura Construction Services is the contractor and the insurance company has been reviewing plans and contracts for the replacement of the building.

Chairman James Bair asked Jim Morris if he has a list of curb cuts with ADA ramps that have not been completed yet.

Code Enforcement Officer Jim Morris said that when they started this, he was working from downtown first and then moving uptown.

Councilman Terry Green said that when we paved the streets before they had to do the ADA ramps.

Code Enforcement Officer Jim Morris asked how long are we going to allow the outdoor seating continue.

Borough Manager Chris Stevens said we are working on an ordinance to make this permanent.

Code Enforcement Officer Jim Morris talked on soda vending machines and having permit fees in the ordinance.

Chairman James Bair and President Johnathan Hyde said to do a one-time yearly permit.

Code Enforcement Officer Jim Morris said he would like to have the permits run from January thru December and inspect the restaurants and vending machines in January.

Code Enforcement Officer Jim Morris said we are starting to have a problem downtown with feral cats.

Chairman James Bair said he would like to discuss the changes that Adam Miller had with the Food Truck Ordinance.

Chairman James Bair called on the Acting Chief of Police report.

Acting Chief of Police Charles Streightiff went over his report with the committee.

Acting Chief of Police Charles Streightiff spoke on the new officers and said their FTO will be done by the end of the month, then he will put the new officers into the schedule of rotating shifts.

Acting Chief of Police Charles Streightiff said the National Night Out was a hugh success and he thanked the organizations that helped with this.

Acting Chief of Police Charles Streightiff said the Civil Service Applications are out and we have 8 that have been picked up. Charles said there are a few that are already Act 120. Charles said the application return deadline is August 27th, with the written exams and PT test will be held on September 18th and oral board will be administered on October 1st.

Acting Chief of Police Charles Streightiff said that Officer Justin Franks will be attending a defensive tactic training in November.

Acting Chief of Police Charles Streightiff spoke on team suicide working with the school and this is funded thru Juniata College.

Acting Chief of Police Charles Streightiff said the officers will be doing an Operation Safe Stop. Charles said they will be riding with school bus drivers doing a patrol. Charles said they will be looking at the bus stops and motorist.

President Johnathan Hyde asked Chief of Police Charles Streightiff if they could have more patrol in the community.

Councilman David Fortson said to show yourselves and be friendly.

Chief of Police Charles Streightiff said this was hard to do being shorthanded.

 Chairman James Bair called on the Borough Manager’s report.

Borough Manager Chris Stevens had nothing to report for this meeting.

Chairman James Bair called on the Fire Department’s report.

Chairman James Bair said there were 41 calls in July and 230 calls year to date. Jim went over the incidents of the calls.

Chairman James Bair called on old business.

Chairman James Bair asked if there were any changes to the Knox Box Ordinance?

There was a discussion on this

Mayor David Wessels asked what building require this and what doesn’t. David said we should use the State Fire Analysis System to determine this.

Mayor David Wessels said we should encourage individuals to purchase this instead of mandating this.

Code Enforcement Officer Jim Morris said the 3 or 4 units with a common hallway would trigger this to have the Knox Box.

Chairman James Bair said a multi-dwelling unit with a single entry.

Chairman James Bair said that any building that is tied to 911, has a sprinkler system or fire alarm would require this.

Code Enforcement Officer Jim Morris asked who is going to access this and who is responsible?

Mayor David Wessels said that a new construction would already have the State Fire Analysis System determined.

Chairman James Bair called on new business.

There was nothing reported under new business.

**Chairman James Bair called for an executive session at 3:55 PM to discuss personnel issues.**

**Executive Session ended at 4:01 PM with no action required.**

Chairman James Bair called on any other business.

After no further business, the Public Safety Committee was adjourned at 4:02 PM.

Minutes submitted by,

Richard S. King
Borough Secretary