Huntingdon Borough Council Meeting

Tuesday, September 21, 2021

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

Guest present were John Parks, Gary Cramer, Emily Loose, Robert Jackson, Dean Harris and Stacia-Fe Gillen.

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 Fortson

Councilwomen Dee Dee Brown

Councilman Terry Green

Mayor David Wessels

Engineer Kevin Nester, GHD

Solicitor Richard Wilson

Acting Chief of Police Charles Streightiff

Borough Manager Chris Stevens

Borough Secretary Richard King

Councilman James Bair was present by Webex

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

Dean Harris asked about Huntingdon Borough taking over the recycling program.

Borough Manager Chris Stevens said that we just hired a person to do the recycling and we will have an employee help with this Chris said that we will go by the maintenance schedule signs on that day and they should be done in about a ½ day.

Dean Harris asked about the open container ordinance and said he was against this.

Borough Manager Chris Stevens said that during COVID, we did a resolution to allow outside seating and alcohol.

Vice-President Sean Steeg said that Liquor Control Enforcement allowed the use of outdoor seating and the borough’s concern was to change the ordinance to make this official.

Borough Manager Chris Stevens said the police department will be enforcing the laws on this.

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

Borough Council Meeting – August 17, 2021

Maintenance Committee Meeting – September 7, 2021

Water & Sewer Committee Meeting – September 7, 2021

Public Safety Committee Meeting – September 7, 2021

Community Development Committee Meeting – September 7, 2021

Parks, Recreation & Public Property Committee Meeting – September 7, 2021

Administrative Committee Meeting – September 7, 2021

**A motion was made by Vice-President Sean Steeg to approve the above minutes and second was made by Councilwomen Dee Dee Brown. Motion Carried.**

President Johnathan Hyde called on the approval the payment of the September 2021 bills.

**A motion was made by Vice-President Sean Steeg to approve the payment of the September 2021 bills and second was made by Councilman David Fortson. Motion Carried.**

President Johnathan Hyde called on the approval of the August 2021 Financial Statements for all borough accounts.

**A motion was made by Vice-President Sean Steeg to approve the August 2021 Financial Statements for all borough accounts and second was made by Councilwomen Dee Dee Brown. Motion Carried.**

President Johnathan Hyde called on the committee reports.

President Johnathan Hyde called on the Maintenance Committee report.

Chairman Terry Green wanted to thank the Maintenance Department for the wonderful job they did on Bryan Park.

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

Vice-President Sean Steeg reported the Water & Sewer Committee recommends a motion to approve the payment of application #9 from HRI in the amount of $637,174.54 for the 4th Street CSO project.

**A motion was made by Councilman David Fortson to approve the payment of application #9 from HRI in the amount of $637,174.54 for the 4th Street CSO project and second was made by Councilwomen Dee Dee Brown. Motion Carried.**

President Johnathan Hyde called on the Public Safety Committee report.

President Johnathan Hyde spoke for Chairman James Bair by thanking all of the 1st responders.

President Johnathan Hyde called on the Community Development Committee report.

Chairwomen Dee Dee Brown reported the Community Development Committee recommends a motion to sign the General Application Certification for the Community Development Block Grant Program.

**A motion was made by Vice-President Sean Steeg to sign the General Application Certification for the Community Development Block Grant Program and second was made by Councilman David Fortson. Motion Carried.**

Chairwomen Dee Dee Brown reported the Community Development Committee recommends a motion to approve and sign Resolution No. 2021-11 pertaining to the Section 3 plan of the Housing and Urban Development Act of 1968, as amended, 12 U.S.C. 101u.

**A motion was made by Vice-President Sean Steeg to approve and sign Resolution No. 2021-11 pertaining to the Section 3 plan of the Housing and Urban Development Act of 1968, as amended, 12 U.S.C. 101u and second was made by Councilman Terry Green. Motion Carried.**

Chairwomen Dee Dee Brown reported the Community Development Committee recommends a motion to approve and sign Resolution No. 2021-12 pertaining to Fair Housing.

**A motion was made by Vice-President Sean Steeg to approve and sign Resolution No. 2021-12 pertaining to Fair Housing and second was made by Councilman David Fortson. Motion Carried.**

Chairwomen Dee Dee Brown reported the Community Development Committee recommends a motion to approve and sign Resolution No. 2021-13 pertaining to Statement of Goals, National Program for Minority Business Enterprises and Women Business Enterprises Executive Order 11625.

**A motion was made by Vice-President Sean Steeg to approve and sign Resolution No. 2021-13 pertaining to Statement of Goals, Nation Program for Minority Business Enterprises and Women Business Enterprises Executive Order 11625 and second was made by Councilman David Fortson. Motion Carried.**

Chairwomen Dee Dee Brown reported the Community Development Committee recommends a motion to approve and sign Resolution No. 2021-14 pertaining to Authorization of Submittal FFY 2021 Community Development Block Grant Application.

**A motion was made by Vice-President Sean Steeg to approve and sign Resolution No. 2021-14 pertaining to Authorization of Submittal FFY 2021 Community Development Block Grant Application and second was made by Councilman David Fortson. Motion Carried.**

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 Administrative Committee report.

President Johnathan Hyde spoke for Chairman David Quarry by reporting the Administrative Committee recommends a motion to approve Ordinance No. 2021-966 amending Huntingdon Borough Code §6-101, ET SEQ., to add an exception to the open container prohibition thereby permitting certain establishments to serve alcoholic beverages on the sidewalk and providing for penalties for violations.

**A motion was made by Councilman David Fortson to approve Ordinance No. 2021-966 amending Huntingdon Borough Code §6-101, ET SEQ., to add an exception to the open container prohibition thereby permitting certain establishments to serve alcoholic beverages on the sidewalk and providing for penalties for violations and second was made by Vice-President Sean Steeg. Motion Carried.**

President Johnathan Hyde reported the Administrative Committee recommends a motion to approve Ordinance No. 2021-967 amending Huntingdon Borough Code §21-502, ET SEQ., to change the vending machine permit fee from an annual to a one-time fee, clarify the permit process and provide for revocation of permit.

**A motion was made by Vice-President Sean Steeg to approve Ordinance No. 2021-967 amending Huntingdon Borough Code §21-502, ET SEQ., to change the vending machine permit fee from an annual to a one-time fee, clarify the permit process and provide for revocation of permit and second was made by Councilman David Fortson. Motion Carried.**

President Johnathan Hyde reported the Administrative Committee recommends a motion to approve and sign the loan resolution from the United States Department of Agriculture Rural Development to borrow $50,000.00 at 2.25% interest and a grant of $61,800.00 for police vehicles and a trailer.

President Johnathan Hyde said that we need to take a roll call vote on this and asked the Borough Secretary to do the roll call.

**Borough Secretary Richard King called the following for a vote and recorded the same.**

**President Johnathan Hyde Yes**

**Vice-President Sean Steeg Yes**

**Councilman David Fortson Yes**

**Councilwomen Dee Dee Brown Yes**

**Councilman Terry Green Yes**

**Borough Secretary Richard King reported there were 5 Yeas, 0 Nays and 2 Absent, making the vote favorable.**

**President Johnathan Hyde called for an Executive Session at 7:42 to discuss personnel issues.**

**Executive Session ended at 7:50 PM.**

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 President’s report.

President Johnathan Hyde reported on the Octoberfest being held on October 16, 2021 from 11:00 AM till 10:00 PM on the 500 and 600 block of Washington Street.

President Johnathan Hyde reported that there will be food vendors, beverage vendors, music and craft vendors.

President Johnathan Hyde reported that he will be seeking donations for shaving his beard to go towards future events at Bryan Park.

President Johnathan Hyde thanked all borough employees and said the Maintenance Department did a wonderful job on Bryan Park. Johnathan said there was great pride there.

President Johnathan Hyde called on the Acting Chief of Police report.

Acting Chief of Police Charles Streightiff recognized the police officers for changes in their work schedules and stepping up.

Acting Chief of Police Charles Streightiff reported that on Saturday, September 18, 2021 the Civil Service written and physical testing was done. Charles said the orals will be done on Friday, October 1, 2021.

Acting Chief of Police Charles Streightiff said you will see some of the officers growing beards. Charles said they will pay $10.00 per month for 4 months and this money will go to a family in need.

Acting Chief of Police Charles Streightiff reported on the probationary period for the 2 new officers.

Acting Chief of Police Charles Streightiff spoke on the Art Walk Huntingdon and the Huntingdon Area High School unveiling their Stomper project and said there were around 150 students that participated.

Acting Chief of Police Charles Streightiff said they are doing lunch with Juniata College Students and will be going to the Standing Stone Elementary school to talk to the students.

President Johnathan Hyde called on the Mayor’s report.

Mayor David Wessels said there will be a lot of events coming up and with the COVID, people are wanting to get out. David said to keep our thoughts and respect in mind.

Mayor David Wessels said the Out of Darkness Walk Suicide prevention will be held on October 3, 2021 at Detwiler Field.

Mayor David Wessels said that he gives the Maintenance Department a high 5 for what they did at Bryan Park.

Mayor David Wessels said that Trick or Treat will be held on Halloween Day, October 31, 2021 and the police officers will be out to make the streets safe.

Mayor David Wessels thanked all of the community members.

President Johnathan Hyde called on the Engineer’s report.

Engineer Kevin Nester had nothing to report.

President Johnathan Hyde called on the Solicitor’s report.

Solicitor Richard Wilson said he is working with James Morris and Chris Stevens on the Mobil Food Trailer Ordinance and will be bringing this to the Administrative Committee meeting. Richard said he will be emailing this to everyone.

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

Borough Manager Chris Stevens spoke on the USDA grant and loan for the 2 police vehicles and a trailer for the Maintenance Department. Chris said there was money in the budget to purchase a new police vehicle and to get the grant which is free money, you needed to take out a loan.

Borough Manager Chris Stevens said the 4th Street CSO project should be coming to a close and then there will be a punch list that will need to be completed. Chris said there was only one change order at the beginning of this project.

Borough Manager Chris Stevens said the borough has done 10 million dollars in upgrades, and did not raise the water or sewer rates and no raises in taxes.

Borough Manager Chris Stevens updated everyone on the 27 Solar Street Lights and said that the one calls will be made this week and the Maintenance Department will be starting to install these next week. Chris said there will be 3 lights per block and will be done in about 3 to 4 weeks.

Borough Manager Chris Stevens said that when the Solar Street Light project is done, then the Maintenance Department will be starting on the Soft Boat Launch over by the Dog Park and when we received the permits for the Amphitheater we will start on this.

Borough Manager Chris Stevens said we have done a lot of improvements and beautification.

Vice-President Sean Steeg said we have replaced century old infrastructure in the borough.

Borough Manager Chris Stevens said we have replace 13 blocks of water lines in the borough

Borough Manager Chris Stevens said we are still waiting on the agreement for the Green Light Go programs to replace traffic signals on Penn Street.

President Johnathan Hyde called on any other business.

Gary Cramer asked what the times were for the Octoberfest.

President Johnathan Hyde said from 11:00 AM till 10:00 PM.

Dean Harris asked what came out of the Executive Session and did we hire someone.

Borough Manager Chris Stevens said the Executive Session was called to go over Personnel and said we need to finalize the hiring with the person before we announce the name.

Councilman David Fortson said the borough workers are amazing.

Gary Cramer asked if we were going to dig up Washington Street again.

Vice-President Sean Steeg said for the CSO projects, this takes about 4 – 5 years for planning.

Borough Manager Chris Stevens said that DEP is mandating these be done and there are 3 more areas to be done.

Dean Harris asked if we were going to do another water line on Penn Street.

Borough Manager Chris Stevens said we will be doing from 2nd to William Smith Street in front of the Court House.

Borough Manager Chris Stevens said we will eventually get back on Washington Street and start replacing the water lines from 9th on up.

After no further business, the Borough Council meeting was adjourned at 8:20 PM.

Minutes submitted by,  
  
  
  
Richard S. King  
Borough Secretary