

## Huntingdon Borough Council Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, December 21, 2021

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

Guest present were Frank Baney, Katie Baney, Gary Cramer, John Gradwell, Ruth Gradwell, Scott McKenzie, Jeremy Uhrich, Robert Jackson, Emily Loose, Jen Powell, Yvonne Wilson, Bob Rodgers, Ron McGlaughlin, Kay Rossman, Patti Benson, Terry Benson, Christine Lynn, Susan Lynn, Maddie Leslie, Carol Bucynski, Phoenix Frace, Jacob Matchock and Dean Harris.

Huntingdon Borough Police Officers present were Officer Corey Stuller and Rhett Stetchock.

Huntingdon State Police present was Trooper Briana Mort.

Huntingdon Sheriff's Department present was Deputy Sheriff Sam Harker.

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

The Invocation was given by Mayor David Wessels.

The Pledge of Allegiance was presented by President Johnathan Hyde.

Mayor David Wessels presented 2 beloved citizens awards to Jeremy Uhrich and Scott McKenzie for Cookies for Caregivers.

President Johnathan Hyde called on Chief of Police Charles Streightiff for the swearing in of Huntingdon Borough Police Department's new Officer Izac Benson.



The below pictures shows Izac Benson's mother, Patti Benson pinning his badge on him.



Mayor David Wessels then gave Officer Benson the Oath of Office.

*I, Izac Benson, duly appointed by Huntingdon Borough Council to the position of Police Officer, do hereby swear that I will support, obey, and defend the Constitution of the United States and the Constitution of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and I will fairly enforce the laws of this nation, state and borough and that I will discharge the duties of my office of fidelity.*



President Johnathan Hyde then called for roll call.

Borough Secretary Richard King then took roll call and the following members were present:

President Johnathan Hyde  
Vice-President Sean Steeg  
Councilman David Quarry  
Councilman David Fortson  
Councilwoman Dee Dee Brown  
Councilman James Bair  
Councilman Terry Green  
Mayor David Wessels  
Borough Engineer Kevin Nester  
Borough Solicitor Richard Wilson  
Chief of Police Charles Streightiff  
Borough Manager Chris Stevens  
Borough Secretary Richard King

President Johnathan Hyde welcomed the visitors present and ask for their comments.

Kay Rossman was there to discuss some concerns she had with the robberies and drugs in the borough and said the residents are scared and concerned.

Chief of Police Charles Streightiff spoke on this and said the officers are out patrolling and walking and if residents see anything suspicious to call the police department.

John Gradwell was present to present to Chief Streightiff a shadow box of law enforcement patches that he has gathered from the Sheriff's department, PA State Police and other law enforcement agencies.



Bob Rodgers spoke on his concerns with the robberies and drugs in the area.

Councilman David Fortson said Huntingdon Borough is the safest town in Pennsylvania and the residents need to be more confident in the borough police. David said if you see something unusual to call the borough police.

Councilwoman Dee Dee Brown thanked Kay Rossman for coming and voicing her concerns.

Mayor David Wessels said this is not the first we are hearing of these concerns and said the police are doing their jobs and Borough Council will cover the cost for the police department to protect and serve the residents of Huntingdon Borough.

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

- Borough Council Meeting – November 16, 2021
- Maintenance Committee Meeting – December 7, 2021
- Water & Sewer Committee Meeting – December 7, 2021
- Public Safety Committee Meeting – December 7, 2021
- Community Development Committee Meeting – December 7, 2021
- Parks, Recreation & Public Property Committee Meeting – December 7, 2021
- Administrative Committee Meeting – December 7, 2021

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

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

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

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

**A motion was made by Councilman David Quarry to approve the November 2021 Financial Statement for all borough accounts and second was made by Councilman David Fortson. Motion Carried.**

President Johnathan Hyde called on the Committee reports.

President Johnathan Hyde called on the Maintenance Committee report.

Councilman Terry Green reported the Maintenance Committee recommends a motion to accept the bid from Rockwood Equipment/Apollo Equipment for a 2004 Morbark Chipper/Grinder in the amount of \$135,000.00.

**A motion was made by Councilman David Quarry to accept the bid from Rockwood Equipment/Apollo Equipment for a 2004 Morbark Chipper/Grinder in the amount of \$135,000.00 and second was made by Councilman David Fortson. Motion Carried.**

Councilman Terry Green reported the Maintenance Committee recommends a motion to finance the money for a Johnston/Bucher CityCat 5006 Compact Sweeper from US Municipal Supply in the amount of \$209,400.00.

**A motion was made by Councilman David Quarry to finance the money for a Johnston/Bucher CityCat 5006 Compact Sweeper from US Municipal Supply in the amount of \$209,400.00 and second was made by Councilman James Bair and to have the Borough Secretary Richard King and Borough Manager Chris Stevens sign the papers for the finance. Motion Carried.**

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

Vice-President Sean Steeg reported the Water & Sewer Committee recommends a motion to accept the bid from Univar Solutions for 30,000 gallons of Methanol for \$66,000.00 for the Wastewater Treatment Plant.

**A motion was made by Councilman David Quarry to accept the bid from Univar Solutions for 30,000 gallons of Methanol for \$66,000.00 for the Wastewater Treatment Plant and second was made by Councilman David Fortson. Motion Carried.**

Vice-President Sean Steeg reported the Water & Sewer Committee recommends a motion to accept the bid from Univar Solutions for 30,000 gallons of DelPAC 1525 for \$29,150.00 for the Wastewater Treatment Plant.

**A motion was made by Councilman David Fortson to accept the bid from Univar Solutions for 30,000 gallons of DelPAC 1525 for \$29,150.00 for the Wastewater Treatment Plant and second was made Councilman David Quarry. Motion Carried.**

Vice-President Sean Steeg reported the Water & Sewer Committee recommends a motion to accept the bid from Univar Solutions for 45,000 gallons of DelPAC 2020 for \$62,500.00 for the Water Treatment Plant.

**A motion was made by Councilman David Quarry to accept the bid from Univar Solutions for 45,000 gallons of DelPAC 2020 for \$62,500.00 for the Water Treatment Plant and second was made by Councilman James Bair. Motion Carried**

Vice-President Sean Steeg reported the Water & Sewer Committee recommends a motion to approve the payment of Application No. 10 to HRI for the 4<sup>th</sup> Street CSO project in the amount of \$449,176.57.

Vice-President Sean Steeg said this is the last big payment for the 4<sup>th</sup> Street CSO project and we are retaining a small amount until the punch list is completed.

**A motion was made by Councilwoman Dee Dee Brown to approve the payment of Application No. 10 to HRI for the 4<sup>th</sup> Street CSO Project in the amount of \$449,176.57 and second was made by Councilman David Quarry. Motion Carried.**

President Johnathan Hyde called on the Public Safety Committee report.

Councilman James Bair reported the Public Safety Committee recommends a motion to offer employment to the 3<sup>rd</sup> person on the Civil Service list and to send him to the Academy and to decertify the current Civil Service list and do a new listing.

**A motion was made by Councilman David Quarry to offer employment to the 3<sup>rd</sup> person on the Civil Service list and to send him to the Academy and to decertify the current Civil Service list and do a new listing and second was made by Councilman David Fortson. Motion Carried.**

Councilman James Bair thanked the Police Department, Fire Department and Ambulance Division for the job they are doing.

President Johnathan Hyde called on the Community Development Committee Report.

Chairwoman Dee Dee Brown reported the Community Development Committee recommends a motion to approve Resolution No. 2021-16 Rescinding the Economic Development Loan Revolving Fund.

Borough Secretary Richard King read the resolution.

RESOLUTION OF THE BOROUGH COUNCIL OF HUNTINGDON RESCINDING THE ECONOMIC  
DEVELOPMENT LOAN REVOLVING FUND

WHEREAS, the Borough of Huntingdon receives an annual allocation of federal Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds under Act 179 of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, Department of Community and Economic Development; and,

WHEREAS, the Borough of Huntingdon had used CDBG funds to fund several business loans and then used loan repayments to fund new loans which is considered a revolving loan fund; and

WHEREAS, the Borough has not offered loans for several years and funds repaid on Economic Development Loans were placed into the Public Funds Money Market account of the Borough; and

WHEREAS, the Borough wishes to use these funds for activities other than economic development loans; and

WHEREAS, the County's Planning and Development Department consulted with PA-Department of Community & Economic Development staff and have been directed to prepare this resolution and has advised the County that subsequent to rescinding the loan program, all funds from the revolving loan program must be transferred into the County's Program Income account; and

WHEREAS, discussion of this dissolution was discussed at the Borough's public meeting on Tuesday, July 20<sup>th</sup>, 2021 to provide an opportunity for public comment.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Borough Council of Huntingdon that, the modification dated December 21, 2021 be approved and that the President is hereby authorized to submit same to the Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development.

Approved this 21<sup>st</sup> day of December, 2021.

**A motion was made by Councilman David Quarry to approve Resolution No. 2021-16 Rescinding the Economic Development Loan Revolving Fund and second was made by Councilman David Fortson. Motion Carried.**

President Johnathan Hyde said that Huntingdon Borough will be starting their own loan fund.

Borough Manager Chris Stevens said that we will be able to use \$160,418.86 on another CDBG program.

Councilwoman Dee Dee Brown commended Chris Stevens for using the money wisely.

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

Councilman David Fortson said that he wanted to wish everyone a safe and happy holidays.

President Johnathan Hyde called on the Administrative Committee report.

Councilman David Quarry reported the Administrative Committee recommends a motion to sign the revised Minimum Municipal Obligation (MMO) for the Police Pension Plan.

**A motion was made by Councilman David Fortson to sign the revised Minimum Municipal Obligation (MMO) for the Police Pension Plan and second was made by Councilman James Bair. Motion Carried.**

Councilman David Quarry reported the Administrative Committee recommends a motion to change the ordinance making Church Street to Mifflin Street on 4<sup>th</sup>, a one-way street heading South.

**A motion was made by Councilman David Fortson to change the ordinance making Church Street to Mifflin Street on 4<sup>th</sup>, a one-way street heading South and second was made by Councilman James Bair. Motion Carried.**

Councilman David Quarry reported the Administrative Committee recommends a motion to approve the 2022 Budget.

Account	Revenue's	Expense's
General	\$4,218,535.11	\$4,218,535.11
Water	\$2,480,582.26	\$2,480,582.26
Sewer	\$2,440,544.92	\$2,440,544.92
Liquid Fuels	\$218,242.57	\$218,242.57
Cemetery	\$31,600.00	\$31,600.00
Isett Community Swimming Pool	\$110,681.00	\$110,681.00
<b>Totals</b>	<b>\$9,500,185.86</b>	<b>\$9,500,185.86</b>

Councilwoman Dee Dee Brown ask if there were any changes or increases from last year.

Borough Manager Chris Stevens read last year's budget and said there are some that is up and some down but still we have a no tax increase.

**A motion was made by Councilwoman Dee Dee Brown to approve the 2022 Budget above and second was made by Councilman David Fortson. Motion Carried.**

Councilman David Quarry reported the Administrative Committee recommends a motion to approve Ordinance No. 2021-971, fixing and levying the tax rate for the fiscal year commencing on January 1, 2022 at 18 mills for general purposes and 2 mills for fire purposes.

*ORDINANCE No. 2021-971*

*ORDINANCE FIXING AND LEVYING THE TAX RATE FOR THE FISCAL YEAR*

*COMMENCING ON JANUARY 1, 2022, IN THE BOROUGH OF HUNTINGDON, PENNSYLVANIA*

**BE IT ENACTED AND ORDAINED** by the Borough Council of the Borough of Huntingdon, Huntingdon County, Pennsylvania, and it is hereby **ENACTED AND ORDAINED** by the authority of the same as follows:

*Section 1: A tax for general purposes and fire services/equipment is hereby levied on all real property within the corporate limits of the Borough of Huntingdon for the fiscal year commencing January 1, 2022. The tax rate for fire purposes shall be two (2) mills on each dollar of assessed valuation.*

*Section 2: The tax rate for general borough purposes shall be eighteen (18) mills on each dollar of assessed valuation.*

*Section 3: All taxpayers shall be entitled to a discount of two (2) per centum for the amount of tax upon making payment of the whole amount within two (2) months after the date of the tax notice.*

*Section 4: All taxpayers who shall fail to make payment of such taxes charged against them for four (4) months after the date of the tax notice shall be charged a penalty of five (5) per centum which penalty shall be added to the tax by the tax collector and be collected by him.*

Section 5: Any ordinance or part of any ordinance conflicting with this ordinance is hereby repealed insofar as the same affects this ordinance.

Section 6: This ordinance shall take effect on January 1, 2022.

**ENACTED AND ORDAINED** at a meeting of the Borough Council of the Borough of Huntingdon held this 21<sup>st</sup> day of **December, 2021**.

Councilwoman Dee Dee Brown ask if there was a tax increase this year.

Borough Manager Chris Stevens said no.

**A motion was made by Councilwoman Dee Dee Brown to approve Ordinance No. 2021-971, fixing and levying the tax rate for the fiscal year commencing January 1, 2022 at 18 mills for general purposes and 2 mills for fire purposes and second was made by Councilman James Bair. Motion Carried.**

Councilman David Quarry reported the Administrative Committee recommends a motion to approve Resolution 2021-15 establishing fees to be charged for various licenses, permits and services commencing January 1, 2022.

Name	Fee
Building Demolition Permit	\$125.00
Curb Cut Permit	\$75.00
Right-of-Way Permit (Utility Pole Repair/Replacement)	\$15.00
Sidewalk Permit	\$35.00
Sign Permit	\$40.00
Street/Utility Opening Permit	\$350.00
10-Day Waste Dumpster	\$25.00
Daily Parking Permit	\$2.00
7-Day Parking Permit	\$8.00
Monthly Parking Permit	\$25.00
Monthly Parking Permit – Seniors	\$15.00
Yearly Parking Permit	\$250.00
Zoning Hearing Board	\$500.00
Zoning Checklist \$0.00 - \$1,499.00	\$0.00
Zoning Checklist \$1,500.00 - \$100,000.00	\$35.00
Zoning Checklist \$100,001.00 - \$500,000.00	\$75.00
Zoning Checklist \$500,001.00 - \$1,000,000.00	\$150.00
Zoning Checklist \$1,000,001.00 - \$5,000,000.00	\$300.00
Zoning Checklist \$5,000,001.00 & Up	\$500.00
Accident Copies	\$15.00
Addressing – Established by County	
Annual Contractor Permit for Clean Fill	\$400.00
Annual Yard Waste Permit for Non-Residents & Contractors @ Ice Plant Road	\$400.00
Bicycle Permit	\$5.00
Finger Printing	\$25.00
Parks – Pavilion Rental	\$40.00
Annual Mobil Food Vehicle License (Known as Transient Food Vendor Annual Food Cart	\$25.00
Daily Mobile Food Vehicle Permit for Bryan Park	\$7.00
Daily Transient Retail/Food Permit	\$10.00



<i>One-time Seated Sidewalk Area Permit for Alcoholic Beverages</i>	<i>\$50.00</i>
<i>One-time Sidewalk Vending Machine Permit</i>	<i>\$15.00</i>

Chairwoman Dee Dee Brown ask if there any increases in the fees.

Borough Manager Chris Stevens said the Street Opening and Zoning was raised to cover expenses and there are some new fees for new items that were approved.

Borough Manager Chris Stevens said we will be approving these every year.

**A motion was made by Councilwoman Dee Dee Brown to approve the above fees for various licenses, permits and services commencing January 1, 2022 and second was made by Councilman James Bair. Motion Carried.**

Councilman David Quarry reported the Administrative Committee recommends a motion to approve the following appointments and reappointments:

- Richard Wilson as Borough Solicitor
- GHD as Borough Engineer
- Robert Ritchey as Borough Treasurer
- Richard S. King as Borough Secretary
- John “Chris” Stevens as Borough Manager
- James Grace to the Borough Vacancy Board
- Retain Riverview Bank and First National Bank as depository of all borough accounts
- James Morris as Right to Know Officer
- James Morris as Code Enforcement Officer
- James Morris as Zoning Hearing Board Officer
- Musser Sewer & Septic, LLC as Sewage Enforcement Officer
- Andrew Young as Emergency Management Director/Coordinator
- Richard Buza, MD as Health Officer
- Timothy Launtz as a regular member of the Zoning Hearing Board
- Travis Gutshall as Cemetery Superintendent
- Thomas Yoder to the Ambulance Authority
- Ed Tos to the Parks Commission
- David Fryer to the Planning Commission
- Anthony Bullet to the Human Relations Commission
- Ned Craft to the Human Relations Commission
- James Savory to the Tree Commission

**A motion was made by Councilwoman Dee Dee Brown to approve the appointments and reappointments above and second was made by Councilman David Fortson. Motion Carried.**

Councilman David Quarry reported the Administrative Committee recommends a motion to start the hiring process for a full time dispatcher.

**A motion was made by Councilman James Bair to start the hiring process for a full time dispatcher and second was made by Vice-President Sean Steeg. Motion Carried.**

Councilman David Quarry reported the Administrative Committee recommends a motion to have Solicitor Wilson schedule a hearing on the Blair House Building to be held on February 15, 2022 at 6:30 PM before the Borough Council meeting.

**A motion was made by Councilman James Bair to have Solicitor Wilson schedule a hearing on the Blair House Building to be held on February 15, 2022 at 6:30 PM before the Borough Council meeting and second was made by Vice-President Sean Steeg. Motion Carried.**

Councilman David Quarry reported the Administrative Committee recommends a motion to move the Tuesday, January 4, 2022 committee meetings to Tuesday, January 11, 2022, due to Monday, January 3, 2022 being the reorganization meeting.

**A motion was made by Councilman David Fortson to move the Tuesday, January 4, 2022 committee meetings to Tuesday, January 11, 2022 and second was made by Councilman James Bair. Motion Carried.**

Councilman David Quarry wished everyone a safe and happy holidays and thanked the Borough Council members for having him on Borough Council.

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 President's report.

President Johnathan Hyde thanked all the employee's and said they are a great group of people. Johnathan wished everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year's and thanked council for having him as their President.

President Johnathan Hyde called on the Chief of Police report.

Chief Charles Streightiff said the applications are out for the Civil Service testing.

Chief Charles Streightiff said the new hire has passed his physical fitness test.

Chief Charles Streightiff spoke on the PCCD grant by saying this grant was awarded for \$60,000.00 and will be used for body cams, computers, laptops, printers, software and an increase in the In-Sync licenses. Chief said they will be wireless connected and there will be training.

Chief Charles Streightiff wished everyone happy holidays.

President Johnathan Hyde called on the Mayor's report.

Mayor David Wessels thanked everyone for his last 4 years as Mayor and said it was a pleasure serving the community and wished everyone happy holidays.

President Johnathan Hyde called on the Engineer's report.

Kevin Nester wished everyone a safe and peaceful holidays.

President Johnathan Hyde called on the Borough Solicitor's report.

Solicitor Richard Wilson thanked everyone for his reappointment and said it was great working with council. Rich wished everyone happy holidays.

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

Borough Manager Chris Stevens said the Borough Council had their best interest in mind for Huntingdon Borough. Chris said that there were disagreements but council worked it out.

President Johnathan Hyde called on Any Other Business.

President Johnathan Hyde reported the Huntingdon Borough Reorganizational meeting will be held on Monday, January 3, 2022 at 7:00 PM in the Borough Council Room.

Dean Harris said he had worked before with many Borough Manager's and that Chris is worth every cent he is paid.

Councilman David Fortson said that with Dean Harris and Gary Cramer coming to the meetings, that this is the best thing that could happen. David said they speak their peace and are loyal to the community.

After no further business the Borough Council meeting was adjourned at 8:45 PM.

Minutes submitted by,

Richard S. King  
Borough Secretary