**Huntingdon Borough Council Meeting**

**Tuesday, June 20, 2023**

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

Guest present were Gary Cramer, Jennifer Clark, William McIlroy, Michael Keating, Deborah Lynn, Nancy Lynn, Sue Lynn, Patti Benson, Terry Benson, Ally McClain, Brenda Heffner, Luke Smith, Kelvin Abrashoff, Kristen Streightiff, Aiden Streightiff, Carol Cook, John Cook, Mike Smith, Chuck Streightiff, Pauline Streightiff, Scott Walls, Joe Thompson, Nicole Lynn, and Tim Furlong.

Huntingdon Borough Police Officer Izac Benson was present for this meeting.

President James Bair called the Borough Council meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

President James Bair said that we will be adding to the agenda, the Blair House property purchase under the Administrative Committee report.

Mayor Thomas Yoder gave the invocation.

President James Bair presented the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll call was taken by Borough Secretary Richard King.

Members present were President James Bair, Vice-President David Fortson, Councilman David Quarry, Councilwoman Dee Dee Brown, Councilman Terry Green, Councilwoman Jennifer Powell, Mayor Thomas Yoder, Borough Engineer Kevin Nester, Borough Solicitor Richard Wilson, Chief of Police Charles Streightiff, Borough Manager Chris Stevens and Borough Secretary Richard King.

Mayor Thomas Yoder presented the Sharon L Gutshall Outstanding Citizen of the month award to William McIlroy.

Mayor Thomas Yoder said that Sharon would be so pleased with this particular presentation, since she and Bill were lifetime friends.

Mayor Thomas Yoder thanked Bill for his dedicated service to Huntingdon Borough.

Mayor Thomas Yoder then ask Chief Streightiff to make some comments concerning Bill’s long time service to the Huntingdon Police Department.

Chief Charles Streightiff then gave Bill’s long time history to the Huntingdon Police Department.

*Bill McIlroy was born in 1948 in Huntingdon.*

*Bill has been a resident of Huntingdon Borough from 1948 through July 2022 (74 Years) until he moved to the Graystone Cottages near Water Street.*

*Bill was a 1966 graduate of Huntingdon Area High School. He was elected president of the Class in 1971 and continues to serve in that role today.(This must have been the largest class in Huntingdon history as Bill seems to have classmates everywhere in this community.)*

*Bill’s early careers consisted of Key Buick/Cadillac and DW Miller.*

*Bill purchased EM Foster, Excavating and Paving Company in 1976 and operated it until 2004.*

* *In that role, Bill and his company worked collaboratively in partnership with the borough road, water and sewer crews and Penn Fuels/UGI gas utility providers.*

*Bill joined the US Army Corps of Engineers staff at Raystown Lake in 2004.*

*Bill’s volunteer services to the community consisted of Vice-President of the Huntingdon Optimistic club, Original and continuing member of the Friends of Raystown Lake, member of the board of the Huntingdon Community Center since 1992 (31 Years), member of the Coast Guard Auxiliary, board member of Meals on Wheels, and was invited by Huntingdon Borough Council to join the Civil Service Commission in 2004 and served as a member of the commission with five distinct Chiefs of Police, Daniel Varner, Charles A Streightiff, Rufus Brenneman, Jeff Buckley and Charles T Streightiff. Bill was elected chairman from 2015-2022.*

A plaque was then presented to Bill McIlroy

President James Bair recognized the guests present and asked for their comments at this time.

County Commissioner Scott Walls presented and read a proclamation to Chief Streightiff on the Blue Ribbon Champion for Safe Kids Award.

*Whereas, the County of Huntingdon continues to recognize the achievements of those who serve the public interest and are dedicated to enhancing the well-being of all residents, and*

*Whereas, Huntingdon Borough Police Chief, Charles Thomas Streightiff, is being celebrated for receiving the Blue Ribbon Champion for Safe Kids award. This award is given annually for those who excel in supporting and protecting children in Pennsylvania, and*

*Whereas, since beginning his tenure, Chief Streightiff has overseen the development of a Crisis Intervention Co-Responder Initiative, which offer’s additional personnel assistance to the police department, when responding to mental health emergencies. He actively attends meetings of Huntingdon County Children’s Services, as well as other agencies, that work to protect the welfare of children. He raises awareness on abuse prevention resources during the National Abuse Prevention Month, and organizes the department’s National Night Out.*

*Now, Therefore, the Huntingdon County Commissioners would like to commend Chief Streightiff for his continued commitment and tireless efforts in ensuring the safety and security for the residents of Huntingdon.*

*Attest: Heather Fellman*

*Mark Sather, Chairperson*

*Scott Walls, Vice-Chairperson*

*Jeff Thomas, Secretary*

Kelvin Abrashoff, Director of Children’s Youth Services then read a presentation.

*April is recognized as Child Abuse Prevention Month. When it comes to protecting children and providing the appropriate resources to families, community members often turn to the department of Children’s Services. The Department of Children’s Services is required by numerous federal, state and local laws to protect our children, offer services to enhance families, and do everything in their power to prevent placement. Children’s Services works with numerous providers, law enforcement agencies, attorneys, and community members to protect the counties most precious asset: the children.*

*I strongly believe that Huntingdon County has one of the most dedicated, educated, well trained, and energetic team in Pennsylvania. Despite being a very small and rural county, Huntingdon County has been making some big moves that are being recognized at the state level. The recognition of the dedicated team members is being recognized by OCYF, PennCAC, other county CYS teams, outside legal representation, and the Department of Human Services. I would like to take a moment to highlight a particular core member of our team that works endlessly to protect our children.*

*On April 4, 2023, I attended the Child Abuse Prevention Month ceremony at the Pennsylvania Capital Building in Harrisburg. I attended the event for numerous reasons. To start the morning, members who participated were able to plant blue flags in front of the Capital to recognize the number of substantiated cases of child abuse in 2021. There were also 58 black flags planted to honor the children who passed away from child abuse in 2021. The second reason for attending the ceremony was the PA Blue Ribbon Champions for Safe Children award that was presented to Chief Charles Streightiff.*

*Every year, four community members in the child welfare system are honored with this award in the entire state of Pennsylvania. Past recipients of the award include members of Child Advocacy Centers, psychologists, therapists, and CYS staff members. However, this year, the very first law enforcement officer was honored with the award. That first law enforcement officer recipient is our very own, Chief Streightiff.*

*Who is Chief Streightiff? Chief Streightiff is perhaps one of the most dedicated law enforcement officers that I have had the pleasure to encounter and work with. He prefers to be called Chuck because Charles makes him feel old, and if he is in Huntingdon, you can often find him stopping by Downtown Joe’s for a pick me up. Outside of Huntingdon, you will find him at Dunkin. On a professional level, he has over 20 years of experience in law enforcement in two police departments serving as patrolman, narcotics/gangs investigator, dui task force coordinator/grant writer, criminal investigator, instructor, child forensic interviewer, supervisor, and Chief of Police.*

*His highlights and accomplishments include:*

* *Child Forensic Interviewer*
* *Community Relations (Coffee with Cop, and National Night Out)*
* *Public Safety and Awareness Campaigns*
* *Sex Crimes/Crimes Against Children Investigator*
* *Huntingdon County CYS Multidisciplinary Team (MDT)*
* *Huntingdon County Prevention Network (HCPN)*
* *MPOTEC Act 120 – Certified PA Law Enforcement Officer*
* *APCO Certified 911 Dispatcher*
* *Board of Directors – Juniata Valley Tri County Drug & Alcohol Commission*
* *2023 Blue Ribbon Champion for Safe Kids Award Recipient*
* *Practicing Child Forensic Interviewer – NCAC*
* *Attended National Center for Missing Exploited Children CEO Seminar*
* *Trained in Reid Technique of Interview and Interrogation*
* *Established procedures with Huntingdon County Children and Youth Services in order to respond to and investigate crimes against children*
* *Created departmental protocol in responding to and investigating crimes of sexual assault, which would limit victim exposure to the criminal justice process*
* *Active member – Huntingdon County Child Death Review Team*
* *Developed Huntingdon County law enforcement protocol for Penn Highlands-Sexual Assault Response Team (SART)*
* *Collaborated with local college to improve relations between law enforcement, students, staff and administration*
* *Provided yearly mandated reporter training for Huntingdon Area School District*

*Chief Streightiff makes sure that his staff understands the importance of child abuse cases, and he is always willing to jump on board with new safety enhancements and resources for our children. Chief Streightiff and myself meet weekly every Friday at 3:00 PM to discuss a project that we are working on with additional members of the child welfare system to bring a much needed program to our town. Chief Streightiff and I talk almost every day at various hours about cases, responses to cases, reports of abuse, and many other things. Chief Streightiff wants to make sure that we are doing everything we can do to ensure the safety of the children. This was made very clear when I took the position of director. Chief Streightiff and myself recently reviewed and solidified our co response to reports of child abuse. In situations of child abuse, a member of the Huntingdon Borough Police Department assists in our initial investigation. If a member is not available, then Chief makes himself available.*

*The online dictionary defines passionate as showing or caused by strong feelings or a strong belief. It defines dedicated as being devoted to a task or purpose. Lastly, it defines proactive as creating or controlling a situation by causing something to happen rather than responding to it after it has happened. In my opinion, those three words can be better defined. Simply put, Chief Streightiff defines all three. Huntingdon County is lucky to have a Chief of Police like the one who received, in my opinion, the highest award possible for child safety. We are lucky to have a Chief of Police who takes the initiative to not only protect our children, but to make sure his staff does the same. We are lucky to have a Chief of Police who puts his personal life on hold to better his community. We are lucky to have a Chief of Police who is invested and works hand in hand with the Department of Children Services.*

*I dream for a day when there are no more blue and black flags to be planted. I dream for a day where child abuse seizes to exist and my job is no longer needed. But until that dream becomes a reality, I am grateful to work with a man as prestigious as Chief Streightiff. I look forward to many years of service with him and his department, and I look forward to improving and strengthening the child welfare system. The children are our future, so we must protect them today. If anyone ever doubts Chief Streightiff job performance regarding dignity, compassion, and commitment, I ask that you take a good look at the man behind the badge. What you will see is perhaps the standard that everyone involved with children should strive for. I can only hope that someday I can accomplish a fraction of the tasks he is implementing in our community. And I hope that someday I can be someone that people look up to and respect the way they do Chief Streightiff. I thank you for the opportunity to express my gratitude towards the Chief of Police, and I thank Chief Streightiff for the endless support he provides our department.*

Brenda Heffner and Luke Smith said they were there to personally thank Officer Benson for saving them from the fire at their property the morning of June 12, 2023.

Chief Charles Streightiff said this is a good time to do this commendation and read the following police commendation to Officer Izac Benson.

*Upon recommendation of Chief of Police Charles T Streightiff, Officer Izac Benson, is hereby awarded a commendation for his actions on the early morning hours of 12 June 2023.*

*On 12 June 2023, Officer Izac Benson was on patrol in the Borough of Huntingdon. At 0229 hours, Officer Izac Benson came upon a porch engulfed in flames belong to the residence at 1331 Mifflin Street.*

*Officer Benson notified Huntingdon County 911 for fire and ems.*

*Officer Benson attempted to make contact with the residents at the front door, and could not get a response. Officer Benson proceeded to the rear door, and was able to make contact with the residents and safely got them out of the home.*

*Offer Benson showed textbook performance of his duties, along with quick thinking and adaptability. Officer Benson remained calm and level headed. Officer Benson’s performance should serve as an example of how a Huntingdon Borough Police Officer should perform in high stress situations. Officer Benson is to be commended for his performance during this emergency, his outstanding and courageous actions, and his commitment and service to the community. Officer Benson’s actions saved both life and property.*

*A copy of this letter of commendation shall be made a permanent part of the personnel record of Officer Izac Benson.*

*Mayor Thomas Yoder Chief Charles T Streightiff*

Mike Smith of 315 11th Street, said he was there to talk again about painting the curbs yellow and spoke on accidents that have happened.

Borough Manager Chris Stevens said the Maintenance crew are out painting lines and curbing and will continue to do this.

President James Bair called on the review and act on the minutes of the following meetings.

* Borough Council Meeting – May 16, 2023
* Maintenance Committee Meeting – June 6, 2023
* Water & Sewer Committee Meeting – June 6, 2023
* Community Development Committee Meeting – June 6, 2023
* Public Safety Committee Meeting – June 6, 2023
* Parks, Recreation & Public Property Committee Meeting – June 6, 2023
* Administrative Committee Meeting – June 6, 2023
* Special Borough Council Meeting – June 15, 2023

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

President James Bair called for the approval of payment of the June 2023 bills.

**A motion was made by Councilman David Quarry to approve the payment of the June 2023 bills and second was made by Councilwoman Dee Dee Brown. Motion Carried.**

President James Bair called for the approval of the May 2023 Financial Statements for all borough accounts.

**A motion was made by Councilman David Quarry to approve the May 2023 Financial Statements for all borough accounts and second was made by Councilwoman Dee Dee Brown. Motion Carried.**

President James Bair called on the committee reports.

**Maintenance Committee**

Chairman Terry Green had nothing to report on.

**Water & Sewer Committee**

Chairman David Quarry had nothing to report on.

**Public Safety Committee**

Chairwoman Dee Dee Brown said that permission was given to hold the annual 3rd of July Car Cruise in the borough starting at Juniata College at 5:00 PM.

**Parks, Recreation & Public Property Committee**

Chairman David Fortson had nothing to report on.

**Community Development Committee**

Councilwoman Jennifer Powell read the following resolutions that needs to be approved.

1. The Community Development Committee recommends a motion to approve Resolution No. 03-2023 on Fair Housing.

**A motion was made by Councilman David Quarry to approve Resolution No. 03-2023 on Fair Housing and second was made by Councilwoman Dee Dee Brown. Motion Carried.**

1. The Community Development Committee recommends a motion to approve Resolution No. 04-2023 Authorizing FFY 2023 Community Block Grant Application.

**A motion was made by Vice-President David Fortson to approve Resolution No. 04-2023 Authorizing FFY 2023 Community Block Grant Application and second was made by Councilman David Quarry. Motion Carried.**

1. The Community Development Committee recommends a motion to approve Resolution No. 05-2023 on the Section 3 Plan.

**A motion was made by Councilman David Quarry to approve Resolution No. 05-2023 on the Section 3 Plan and second was made by Councilwoman Dee Dee Brown. Motion Carried.**

1. The Community Development Committee recommends a motion to approve Resolution No. 06-2023 Statement of Goals, National Program for Minority Business Enterprises and Women Business Enterprises Executive Order 11625.

**A motion was made by Councilwoman Dee Dee Brown to approve Resolution No. 06-2023 Statement of Goals, National Program for Minority Business Enterprises and Women Business Enterprises Executive Order 11625 and second was made by Councilman David Quarry. Motion Carried**

**Administration Committee**

Chairman James Bair reported the Administrative Committee recommends a motion to purchase the Blair House property for $35,000.00 and to sign the agreement for sale of real estate.

**A motion was made by Councilman David Quarry to purchase the Blair House Property for $35,000.00 and to sign the agreement for sale of real estate and second was made by Councilwoman Dee Dee Brown. Motion Carried.**

Executive Session was not called for.

President James Bair called on old business.

There was nothing reported under old business.

President James Bair called on new business.

There was nothing reported under new business.

President James Bair called on the President’s report.

President James Bair thanked Chief of Police Charles Streightiff for everything he is doing in the borough.

President James Bair thanked the fire department and EMS and everyone that responded to the porch fire call.

President James Bair thanked the borough employee’s and said there is a lot of work that needs done this summer.

President James Bair called on the Chief of Police report.

Chief Charles Streightiff spoke on the incident that happened in Mifflin County where a Pennsylvania State Trooper was shot and killed and another one was shot and in critical condition and to keep the families in your prayers.

President James Bair called on the Mayor’s report.

Mayor Thomas Yoder thanked Bill McIlroy for his service to the borough.

Mayor Thomas Yoder then went over his report with everyone.

1. Attending the Wake-up reception at the Visitor’s Center on Tuesday morning for the summer, promoting Discover Downtown Huntingdon.
2. The WTAJ News Huntingdon Skynet located on the roof of the Penn Highlands Hospital is now in service and features a fantastic view of the Borough, including Juniata College. Let’s hope it helps to bring more visitors to our beautiful town.
3. The face and hands of the Huntingdon Borough Town Clock located in the Presbyterian Church Tower was removed as the restoration of this important landmark continues.
4. The Blair Park and Roads Commission met with the Borough on committee day to discuss future plans for the park. There are some large projects that will need to be addressed, such as the collapsing wall along Stone Creek.
5. Several of us attended the ribbon cutting for the new playground equipment at Portstown Park. It is really a nice addition to the park.
6. Art Walk Huntingdon has added Bryan Park to their monthly event. The park will feature music and a different food truck each month.
7. The 6th Street Parking Lot project is moving right along. We met with the contractors and county officials to prepare for construction to begin in July. There will be new period lighting, trees, grass, and the lot will be repaved. The lot will also be wired for electric car charging stations for future use.
8. The beautiful handing baskets of Geraniums were hung on Washington Street over Memorial Day weekend. A big thank you to Pam Grugan and her crew who have been doing this for years. The baskets are a great addition to our Downtown. We are always in need of people to help with watering these baskets, so please let me know if you would like to help.
9. The Downtown Merchants continue to meet on the first Thursday of the month at 6:00 PM in the Borough Office Conference Room. They have a very active group committed to making a difference downtown. We hope to get more merchants and restaurants involved in this important group.

Mayor Thomas Yoder then reported on the PSAB Distinguished Service Award that Borough Manager Chris Stevens had received and went over what had been submitted.

*Chris Stevens served as a Huntingdon Borough Police Officer for over thirty years. After retirement, he returned as Borough Manager. At that time there had been two unsuccessful managers before him, and the Borough was in need of a strong leader to address problems and issues that had developed over time.*

*Chris Stevens has the perfect inner-personal skills to be an effective manager of people. He works well with employees, committees, council people, and outside agencies. The morale here is now positive on all levels, which means people are happy, productive, and things are getting accomplished.*

*Chris Stevens also manages the Huntingdon County 911 Center, which is located in the Huntingdon Borough Office building. Because of his leadership, this center is one of the best in Pennsylvania and receives visitors from all around the state who are hoping to see how they can improve their centers.*

*When two downtown businesses were destroyed by fire and the fear was that these lots would remain vacant and possibly become an eyesore, it was Chris who proposed and planned a park to go in their place. This park has become the center for community events in downtown Huntingdon. Music, entertainment, food trucks, and events like the annual Christmas Tree Lighting are just some of the activities that occur in Bryan Park.*

*Chris Stevens is active and will to help wherever he can. He works with the local merchants to enhance our downtown business district. He helps with flowers in the summer to beautify our town and welcome visitors.*

*Chris Stevens is very worthy of this recognition for service to his community.*

President James Bair called on the Borough Engineer’s report.

Kevin Nester had nothing new to report on.

President James Bair called on the Borough Solicitor’s report

Solicitor Richard Wilson reported that on closing of the Blair Building property, we need to make a motion to authorize President James Bair and Borough Manager Chris Stevens to sign all paperwork on this transition.

**A motion was made by Councilman David Quarry to authorize President James Bair and Borough Manager Chris Stevens to sign all paperwork on the Blair Building property and second was made by Vice-President David Fortson. Motion Carried.**

Solicitor Richard Wilson said that he did not think we would close on this by the end of the month, but will in July.

President James Bair said that Solicitor Richard Wilson is also working on an ordinance adding Stop Signs in the borough on 15th & Moore Street, 12th & Mifflin Street and 12th & Washington Street. James said that this will be discussed at the July committee meeting and will be voted on at the July Borough Council meeting.

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

Borough Manager Chris Stevens said that he has nothing new to report on, that everything we have discussed at this meeting has been taken care of.

President James Bair called on any other business.

There was nothing reported under any other business.

After no further business, the Borough Council meeting was adjourned at 7:40 PM.

Minutes submitted by,  
  
  
  
Richard S. King  
Borough Secretary