**Huntingdon Borough Council Meeting Minutes**

**Tuesday, December 19, 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, Betty Quarry, Joe Thompson, Martha Wolfhope, Judy Norris, April Daugherty and Bonita Dickson.

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

Mayor Thomas Yoder gave the invocation.

President James Bair presented the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll Call was taken, and the following members were present, President James Bair, Vice-President David Fortson, Councilman David Quarry, Councilman Robert Jackson, Councilwoman DeeDee Brown, Councilman Terry Green, Borough Engineer Andy Glitzer, Borough Solicitor Richard Wilson, Mayor Thomas Yoder, Chief of Police Charles Streightiff, Borough Manager Chris Stevens and Borough Secretary Richard King.

President James Bair called on Mayor Thomas Yoder to present the Sharon L. Gutshall Award.

Mayor Thomas Yoder said at this time, he would like to ask Councilwoman DeeDee Brown to say a few words about the Huntingdon Borough Gateway Garden.

Councilwoman DeeDee Brown spoke on the Gateway Garden and the help year after year by Skill’s Inc., that they have helped weed the garden and plant the flowers. DeeDee said that they are always available to help her when needed. DeeDee Brown then called up Bonita Dickson, April Daugherty, Judy Norris. DeeDee then presented these people with a Certificate of Appreciation to each one. Wes Miles was not present so DeeDee asked if they would give the certificate to him.

Mayor Thomas Yoder then presented the Sharon L. Gutshall Citizen of the Month Award for December 2023 to Martha Wolfhope and Skills of Central PA.

Mayor Yoder said that Martha and her group have worked tirelessly on the flower beds at the Gateway Garden for many years.

Mayor Yoder said they have helped with the planting and watering of the flowers, which creates a beautiful entrance to the Borough on Route 26.

Mayor Yoder thanked them for their outstanding service to Huntingdon Borough.

President James Bair welcomed the visitors and asked for their comments.

There were no comments made by the guest present.

President James Bair said we will review and act on the minutes of the following meeting:

* Borough Council Meeting – November 21, 2023
* Maintenance Committee Meeting – December 5, 2023
* Water & Sewer Committee Meeting – December 5, 2023
* Community Development Committee Meeting – December 5, 2023
* Public Safety Committee Meeting – December 5, 2023
* Parks, Recreation & Public Property Committee Meeting – December 5, 2023
* Administrative Committee Meeting – December 5, 2023

**Motion was made by Council David Quarry to approve the Committee meeting minutes and second was made by Councilwoman DeeDee Brown. Motion Carried.**

President James Bair said we will now approve the December 2023 bills.

**Motion was made by Councilman David Quarry to approve the payment of December 2023 bills and second was made by Councilman Robert Jackson. Motion Carried.**

President James Bair said we will now approve the November 2023 Financial Statements for all borough accounts.

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

President James Bair then called on the committee reports.

President James Bair called on the Maintenance Committee report.

Chairman Terry Green had nothing to report on.

President James Bair called on the Water & Sewer Committee report.

Chairman David Quarry had nothing to report on.

President James Bair called on the Community Development Committee report.

Chairman Robert Jackson reported the Community Development Committee recommends a motion to approve the 1st payment of $78,247.80 to KLA Roofing & Construction for the Amphitheater project.

**Motion was made by Councilman David Quarry to approve the 1st payment of $78,247.80 to KLA Roofing & Construction for the Amphitheater project and second was made by Vice-President David Fortson. Motion Carried.**

Chairman Robert Jackson said Huntingdon Borough has cleared the first round of our application for the FM Radio Station. Robert Jackson said we will not hear until Spring or Summer.

Chairman Robert Jackson said it has been an honor working with Councilman David Quarry and thanked him.

President James Bair called on the Public Safety Committee report.

Chairwoman DeeDee Brown reported the Public Safety Committee recommends a motion to have Chief Streightiff sign the Homeland Security/Huntingdon Borough Police SLOT (State & Local Overtime) agreement in January 2024.

**Motion was made by Councilman Dave Quarry to have Chief Streightiff sign the Homeland Security/Huntingdon Borough Police SLOT agreement in January 2024 and second was made by Councilman Robert Jackson. Motion Carried.**

Chairwoman DeeDee Brown reported the Public Safety Committee recommends that we do a roll call vote to continue and put into effect Ordinance No. 2023-980 pertaining to making 15th Street a two-way street from Mifflin Street to Oneida Street or to repeal Ordinance No. 2023-908, keeping it a one-way street.

Borough Secretary Richard King then took a roll call vote.

* President James Bair Yes
* Vice-President David Fortson No
* Councilman Robert Jackson Yes
* Councilman David Quarry No
* Councilwoman DeeDee Brown Yes
* Councilman Terry Green No
* Councilwoman Jennifer Powell No

Borough Secretary Richard King reported there were 3 for Yes and 4 for No.

President James Bair said we will now have a roll call vote to repeal this section of the ordinance making it a two-way street.

Borough Secretary Richard King then took a roll call vote.

* President James Bair No
* Vice-President David Fortson Yes
* Councilman Robert Jackson No
* Councilman David Quarry Yes
* Councilwoman DeeDee Brown No
* Councilman Terry Green Yes
* Councilwoman Jennifer Powell Yes

Borough Secretary Richard King reported there were 4 for Yes and 3 for No.

President James Bair called on the Parks, Recreation & Public Property Committee report.

Chairman David Fortson had nothing to report on.

President James Bair called on the Administrative Committee report.

Chairman James Bair reported the Administrative Committee recommends a motion to approve the 2024 Proposed Budget.

Chairman James Bair then read the 2024 proposed budget.

Account Revenue Expense

General Fund $4,288,297.23 $4,288,297.23

Water Fund $2,871,100.00 $2,871,100.00

Sewer Fund $2,818,635.00 $2,818,635.00

Liquid Fuels Fund $643,934.20 $643,934.20

Cemetery Fund $55,500.00 $55,500.00

Isett Community Pool $130,800.00 $130,800.00

**Total 2024 Budget $10,808,266.43 $10,808,266.43**

**Motion was made by Councilman David Quarry to approve the proposed 2024 Budget and second was made by Councilman Robert Jackson. Motion Carried.**

Chairman James Bair reported the Administrative Committee recommends a motion to approve the Ordinance No. 2023-984, fixing and levying the tax rate for the fiscal year commencing on January 1, 2024.

**Motion was made by Councilman David Quarry to approve Ordinance No. 2023-984, fixing and levying the tax rate for the fiscal year commending on January 1, 2024, and second was made by Councilman Robert Jackson.**

Vice-President David Fortson called for a roll call vote.

Borough Secretary Richard King then took a roll call vote.

* President James Bair Yes
  + Vice-President David Fortson
  + David Fortson said that he had personnel involvement and wanted to say that he was going to abstain from voting.
* Councilman Robert Jackson Yes
* Councilman David Quarry Yes
* Councilwoman DeeDee Brown Yes
* Councilman Terry Green Yes
* Councilwoman Jennifer Powell Yes

Borough Secretary Richard King reported there were 6 for Yes, 0 for No, and 1 Abstained. Motion Carried.

Executive Session was not called for.

President James Bair called on old business.

Vice-President David Fortson said the parks look good with the decorations and for everyone to enjoy their Christmas.

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 the borough employee’s, Police Department, Fire Department, Ambulance and all 1st responders.

President James Bair thanked Councilman David Quarry for his years of service to the borough and said that he was still on some committee’s.

President James Biar wished everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year’s.

President James Bair called on the Chief of Police report.

Chief Charles Streightiff said the body cams are operating and working out along with the in-car cams.

Chief Charles Streightiff wished everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year’s.

President James Bair called on the Mayors report.

Mayor Thomas Yoder said he had nothing to report on.

President James Bair called on the Borough Engineers report.

Andy Glitzer said he had nothing to report on.

President James Bair called on the Borough Solicitors report.

Richard Wilson said that he wanted to recognize Councilman David Quarry in that he appointed him as Borough Solicitor. Richard said that David respected everyone’s opinion and was proud.

Richard Wilson said that with Councilman David Quarry, council and borough are now in a better position.

President James Bair called on the Borough Managers report.

Chris Stevens said we have had a good year, this year and thanked Councilman David Quarry for his years of service to Huntingdon Borough.

Chris Stevens reminded everyone that the borough Christmas lunch is this Friday at noon.

President James Bair called on any other business.

President James Bair reminded everyone that the Reorganizational meeting will be held on Tuesday, January 2, 2024, at 7:00 PM.

President James Bair said that due to the reorganization meeting, the Borough Committee meeting will be held on Tuesday, January 9, 2024.

President James Bair thanked everyone for the excellent year and explained the reason for the tax increase.

Councilman David Quarry said it has been an honor and privilege working with the board.

Councilwoman DeeDee Brown said we have efficient people working for the borough and we have accomplished so much more and thanked Borough Manager Chris Stevens for this.

Councilwoman DeeDee Brown said we have an outstanding Maintenance Department that has saved the taxpayers so much money and our Water & Sewer Department have improved.

Councilwoman DeeDee Brown thanked Borough Manager Chris Stevens for what he has done for Huntingdon Borough.

Councilwoman DeeDee Brown thanked Chief Streightiff for what he has done.

Vice-President David Fortson wished everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

After no further business, the Borough Council meeting was adjourned at 7:35 PM.

Minutes submitted by,  
  
  
  
Richard S. King  
Borough Secretary