Huntingdon Borough Administrative Committee Meeting Minutes  
Tuesday, February 6, 2024

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

The guest present were Kay Rossman, Kathy Weir, Holly Hoyer, Renee Lucas, Cathy Howell, Kevin Neal, Christa Reynolds, Isabella Reynolds, Terry Bumgardner, Trudy McElwain, Carol Yoder, Ron Yoder, Barbara Servello, Jack Servello, Danny Peightal, Kevin Ross, David Fryer, Robert Weir, Lisa Good, Joe Chambers, Ginny Gill, Crista Stapleton, Randy Rennel, Sue Reed, and Joe Chambers.

The members present were President James Bair, Vice-President David Fortson, Councilman Robert Jackson, Councilman David Wessels, Councilwoman DeeDee Brown, Councilman Terry Green, Councilwoman Jennifer Powell, Borough Solicitor Richard Wilson, Mayor Thomas Yoder, Chief of Police Charles Streightiff, Code Enforcement Officer James Morris, Borough Manager Chris Stevens, and Borough Secretary Richard King.

Chairman James Bair called the Administrative Committee meeting to order at 5:30 PM.

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

* Trudy McElwain talked about James Decker’s letter in the newspaper about why fix something that is not broken. Trudy said to David Wessels that he was recently elected to Council and wanted to know if he had talked to anyone about the 15th Street issue.
* David Fryer asked what the wisdom and true meaning of Public Safety was, and said you created more problems and asked Council to reconsider and put back on the agenda.
* Christa Reynolds said her property value went down since you had taken away parking. Christa wanted to know what research was done and was there a feasibility study done.
* Sue Reed said why would you try and fix something that was not broken. Sue said that it was very confusing in the newspaper and thought this was finished. Sue said it was a sneaky way this was brought up again.
* Renee Lucas said the church is dwindling and said there are 8 people in 8 different vehicles that are handicapped. Renee asked where are they going to park. Renee said the church has an elderly congregation. Renee said she thought this was done and now have people confused.
* Lisa Good said that on Thursday after the Tuesdays Council meeting, borough employees were putting up no parking signs. Lisa said that we created animosity. Lisa wanted to know how this came about.

Borough Solicitor Richard Wilson said that he was told to draft this ordinance, and he explained how the ordinance works. Richard said that because this ordinance was not approved that it reverted back to the old ordinance.

* Ginny Gill said that she has seen a lot of traffic patterns and said the stop signs are effective and there is less speeding.
* Christa Stapleton said she was concerned about safety and her child. Christa said she doesn’t know what the solution is but please reconsider this.
* Kevin Ross said that parking is an issue and there is no convenience for making this two-way.
* Joe Chambers said that he has witnessed a lot of children, and this is a safety issue and now you have a parking issue.

Chairman James Bair said there will be no changes at this meeting and said this will go back to the Public Safety Committee meeting to discuss.

* Kay Rossman said she was there to discuss her concern of the retention ponds in the Highlands. Kay said that S&A should be responsible for the maintenance. Kay said that the HOA said we are responsible for paying to have this done.

Councilman Robert Jackson said that he could be wrong, but the borough took over the ponds and these do not belong to the HOA. Robert said they own the common areas.

Vice-President David Fortson said that the borough does not take care of the Highlands, that you need to go to S&A to take care of this.

Councilman David Wessels said that when he was mayor, there was a water abatement and that the HOA started back up. David said that the Covenants was dropped.

* Kay Rossman asked if the borough could write a letter to S&A to hold them responsible?

Code Enforcement Officer James Morris said that this is a code issue, and he will make a call tomorrow.

* Kathy Weir said that I wish you would take us into the borough.

It was said that this was a protected covenant and there was nothing we could do.

* Kathy Weir said that on Morning Hills, the road is being torn up by dump trucks and backhoes. Kathy said there is water running all over the road. Kathy spoke on the group homes and asked about parking on one side of the road.
* Holly Hoyer said that on Chapel Hill by the group home, employees are parking on her lawn and destroyed the grass. She said I wished there was no parking on the road.
* Kay Rossman asked if this was residential suburban in the code, and are businesses allowed.

Code Enforcement Officer James Morris said yes and no. James said if talking about the group home, this is fair housing.

Borough Solicitor Richard Wilson said that group homes are not businesses, and they are defined in term as a group home in Zoning. Richard said that the borough cannot do anything about this.

Chairman James Bair called on the mayor’s report.

Thomas Yoder said he had nothing to report.

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

Richard Wilson said he had nothing to report on.

Chairman James Bair called on old business.

Chairman James Bair asked where do with stand with the Blair House property and Josh Williams property.

Borough Manager Chris Stevens said that he will be meeting with Josh Williams later this week.

Chairman James Bair called on new business.

Chairman James Bair said to Solicitor Wilson that there were items brought up in Public Safety Committee meeting.

Chairman James Bair said the first one was with trash pickup and doing on Street Sweeping and Maintenance days.

Borough Solicitor Richard Wilson said that trash is a hot issue, and if council wants him to move on this that you need to have a public meeting.

Chairman James Bair said the second one was with false fire alarms, that the fire company would like to see that after 2 or 3 false alarms calls that they get charged.

Code Enforcement Office James Morris said that this is the Chief of Police that enforces this.

Code Enforcement Officer James Morris said that Richard Wilson and he are working on updating the Zoning Ordinances. James said that he does not have enough time to do everything and would like Borough Council to hire a part-time Code Enforcement Officer for the spring and summer giving them 5-10 hours per week.

Executive Session was not called for.

After no further business, the Administrative Committee meeting was adjourned at 7:12 PM.

Minutes submitted by,  
  
  
  
Richard S. King  
Borough Secretary