Huntingdon Borough Council Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, April 16, 2024

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

The guest present were Gary Cramer, Jennifer Clark, James Grissinger, Stephanie Garner, Allyse Garner, Gary Garner, Derrick Garner, Betty Quarry, David Quarry, and Joseph Thompson.

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.

Borough Secretary Richard King took roll call, and the following were present, President James Bair, Vice-President David Fortson, Councilman Robert Jackson, Councilwoman DeeDee Brown, Councilman Terry Green, Councilwoman Jennifer Powell, 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 Citizen of the Month Award.

Mayor Thomas Yoder said the Sharon L Gutshall Outstanding Citizen of the Month Award is presented to Gary Garner.

Thomas Yoder said that Gary’s career in the Fire service began in 1983 as a Jr. Firefighter at the McConnellstown Fire Company. From 1983 until 2010 he served in several offices including President, Lt., Captain, Assistant Chief, Deputy Chief, until the merger in 2010, when he became Fire Chief. Gary remained Fire Chief for ten years.

Thomas Yoder said that during his tenure as Fire Chief, Gary helped to grow the services provided to all the communities served, including Huntingdon Borough, Walker Township, Oneida Township, and Henderson Township, plus the areas where the fire company provided mutual aid.

Thomas Yoder said that Gary is honored to work with all the great people that make up Huntingdon Regional Fire & Rescue.

Thomas Yoder said that Gary has served our community for 41 years.

Thomas Yoder said thank you for your service to Huntingdon Borough.

President James Bair thanked Gary Garner for what he has done over the years.

President James Bair recognized the guest 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 previous committee meetings:

* Borough Council Meeting – March 19, 2024
* Maintenance Committee Meeting – April 2, 2024
* Water & Sewer Committee Meeting – April 2, 2024
* Community Development Committee Meeting – April 2, 2024
* Public Safety Committee Meeting – April 2, 2024
* Parks, Recreation & Public Property Committee Meeting – April 2, 2024
* Administrative Committee Meeting – April 2, 2024

**Motion was made by Councilwoman DeeDee Brown to approve the above minutes and second was made by Vice-President David Fortson. Motion Carried.**

President James Bair said we will now approve the payment of the April 2024 bills.

**Motion was made by Vice-President David Fortson to approve the payment of the April 2024 bills and second was made by Councilwoman Jennifer Powell. Motion Carried.**

President James Bair said we will now approve the March 2024 Financial Statements for all borough accounts.

**Motion was made by Councilwoman DeeDee Brown to approve the March 2024 Financial Statements for all borough accounts and second was made by Councilman Robert Jackson. Motion Carried.**

President James Bair called on the committee reports.

President James Bair called on the Maintenance Committee report.

Chairman Terry Green reported that Spring Clean up, to set items out will be April 19th, 20th, and 21st. Pickup of items will be April 22nd through April 26th.

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

Chairman Robert Jackson said he had nothing to report.

President James Bair called on the Community Development Committee report.

Chairwoman Jennifer Powell reported that Mayfest will be on Saturday, April 27th.

President James Bair called on the Public Safety Committee report.

Chairwoman DeeDee Brown said she had nothing to report.

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

Chairman David Fortson reported that we will be donating Unit #31 to the Huntingdon Regional Fire & Rescue, for use by the duty officer.

Chairman David Fortson reported that we will be removing everything from the skate park, because of being unsafe. David said that we will be looking for grants and monetary donations to purchase equipment for the skate park. David said at the low end we are looking at $125,000 and it could go to $200,000.

President James Bair called on the Administrative Committee report.

Chairman James Bair said he had nothing to report.

**Executive Session was called at 7:10 PM to discuss personnel issues.**

**Executive Session ended at 7:16 PM and we will proceed with the personnel issue.**

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 all the borough employee’s, police, fire company and ambulance for the job they are doing.

President James Bair called on the Chief of Police report.

Chief Charles Streightiff said he had nothing to report.

President James Bair called on the mayor’s report.

Mayor Thomas Yoder read a Proclamation for Arbor Day.

**OFFICIAL PROCLAMATION**

 **WHEREAS,** in 1872, the Nebraska Board of Agriculture established a special day to be set aside for the planting of trees, and

 **WHEREAS,** this holiday, called Arbor Day, was first observed with the planting of more than a million trees in Nebraska, and

 **WHEREAS,** Arbor Day is now observed throughout the nation and the world, and

 **WHEREAS,** trees can be a solution to combating climate change by reducing the erosion of our precious topsoil by wind and water, cutting heating and cooling cost, moderating the temperature, cleaning the air, producing life-giving oxygen, and providing habitat for wildlife, and

 **WHEREAS,** trees are a renewable resource giving us paper, wood for our homes, fuel for our fire, and countless other wood products, and

 **WHEREAS,** trees in our city increase property values, enhance the economic vitality of business areas, and beautify our community, and

 **WHEREAS,** trees – wherever they are planted – are a source of joy and spiritual renewal.

 **NOW, THEREFORE,** I, Thomas A. Yoder,Mayor of the Borough of Huntingdon, PA, do hereby proclaim, **Friday, April 26, 2024,** as **Arbor Day** in the Borough of Huntingdon, and I urge all citizens to celebrate Arbor Day and to support efforts to protect our trees and woodlands, and

 **FURTHER,** I urge all citizens to plant trees to gladded the heart and promote the well-being of this and future generations.

**Dated this, 26th day of April 2024**

**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**Mayor, Thomas A. Yoder

Mayor Thomas Yoder then read a Proclamation for National Child Abuse Prevention Month.

 **WHEREAS,** in year 2022, there were 4,992 reports of substantiated child abuse cases and 60 child deaths due to child abuse in Pennsylvania; and

 **WHEREAS,** child abuse and neglect is a serious problem affecting every segment of our community, and finding solutions requires input and action from everyone; and

 **WHEREAS,** our children are our most valuable resources and will shape the future of Pennsylvania; and

 **WHEREAS,** child abuse can have long-term psychological, emotional, and physical effects that have lasting consequences for victims of abuse; and

 **WHEREAS,** protective factors are conditions that reduce or eliminate risk and promote the social, emotional, and developmental well-being of children; and

 **WHEREAS,** effective child abuse prevention activities succeed because of the partnership created between child welfare professionals, education, health, community-and faith-based organizations, businesses, law enforcement agencies, and families; and

 **WHEREAS,** communities must make every effort to promote programs and activities that create strong and thriving children and families; and

 **WHEREAS,** we acknowledge that we must work together as a community to increase awareness about child abuse and contribute to promote the social and emotional well-being of children and families in a safe, stable, and nurturing environment; and

 **WHEREAS,** prevention remains the best defense for our children and families.

 **NOW, THEREFORE,** I, Thomas Yoder, Mayor of the Borough of Huntingdon, do hereby proclaim April 2024 as NATIONAL CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION MONTH in the Borough of Huntingdon and urge all citizens to recognize this month by dedicating ourselves to the task of improving the quality of life for all children and families. Join Huntingdon Borough in “Turning Pennsylvania Blue” for the month of April 2024.

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Thomas Yoder, Mayor

Mayor Thomas Yoder then went over his report.

Thomas Yoder said the ribbon cutting for Lake Ray’s Nutrition at 400 Penn Street was held on March 20th. It’s always great to welcome a new business to Downtown Huntingdon.

Thomas Yoder said there was also a ribbon cutting event at the new Midnights Bar & Grill in the former Johnny’s Bar at 1301 Washington Street. Thomas said to please give both of these new businesses a try!

Thomas Yoder said he joined the Huntingdon Police Department by answering phones for the Pride Telethon. Thomas said the Borough supports the Telethon in several different ways.

Thomas Yoder reported that he has been in contact with Senator Casey’s Office concerning funding for several important projects in Huntingdon Borough. Casey’s liaison will be meeting with me to go over these projects at the end of the month.

Thomas Yoder reported that Congressman John Joyce gave the Chamber of Commerce members an update on current legislation in Washington.

Thomas Yoder said the Borough in cooperation with Juniata College received a grant from the state for over $700,000 for the Moore Street/Cold Springs Road realignment project.

Thomas Yoder said that Mayfest and the Arbor Day Celebration will be held on Saturday, April 27th. Thomas said to please plan to attend these great downtown events.

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

Andy Glitzer said that he had nothing new to report on.

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

Richard Wilson said he had nothing to report on.

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

Chris Stevens said this week is 911 Dispatcher week and we received a Proclamation from the County Commissioners. Chris said if you see one of our dispatchers to thank them.

Chris Stevens reported that Street Sweeping started on Monday.

President James Bair asked Borough Manager Chris Stevens to update everyone on the traffic signals.

Chris Stevens said they need to calibrate one more traffic signal and this will be finalized next week with PennDOT.

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