Huntingdon Borough Council Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, October 15, 2024

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

The guest present were John Gradwell, Jennifer Clark, Gary Cramer, Diane Kalos, Marti Brown, Rick Kalos, David Quarry, Betty Quarry, Michele Rupert, Jim Kalos, Joseph Thompson, Sam Rupert, Erik Rupert and Shaun Magill.

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 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, Borough Manager Chris Stevens, and Borough Secretary Richard King.

The Sharen L. Gutshall, Outstanding Citizen of the Month Award for October 2024 was then presented by Mayor Thomas Yoder.

Thomas Yoder said the Sharen L. Gutshall, Outstanding Citizen of the Month Award, is presented to Michele Kalos Rupert.

Thomas Yoder said that Michele has been involved in community service for many years in Huntingdon.

Thomas Yoder said that back in the 90’s, Michele served on the Muddy Run Storm Water Management Committee. Thomas said this committee’s work was honored by a ceremony at the State Capital Building.

Thomas Yoder said that Michele presently serves as treasurer and food booth coordinator for the VFW Teener League.

Thomas Yoder said that perhaps her most rewarding experience is with Hometown Hearts, originally the Huntingdon Soup Kitchen. Thomas said Michele became co-director in 2016, and shortly after, Hometown Hearts partnered with the Central Food Bank to start the Fresh Express program that distributes food on the third Saturday of every month.

Thomas Yoder said that Hometown Hearts is more than just a weekly meal. It provides many services for the clientele such as assisting people with taxes, arranging transportation to medical appointments, and helping people get in contact with other agencies.

Thomas Yoder said one of Michele’s biggest accomplishments was helping the victims of the Blair House Apartment fire. The kitchen was open to keep the residents warm until family members could come and pick them up and provided nightly meals for those who stayed at local hotels.

Thomas Yoder said that Michele does so many things for our community and is very worthy of this honor. Thomas said thank you for all you do for Huntingdon.

Thomas Yoder then presented Michele with a plaque and pictures were taken.

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

John Gradwell said that he was there to bring up three items and said he has already talked to the Borough Manager and Chief of Police.

John Gradwell said the first one was the tree logs piled up against the railroad trestle, and Chris Stevens told him who to contact that it did not belong to the borough.

John Gradwell presented pictures of the crosswalk near his property and said that Chris Stevens said it will be painted this week.

John Gradwell said the final one was the speeding on Warm Springs Avenue and had talked to the Chief about this.

 President James Bair called on the review and act on the following meeting minutes:

* Borough Council Meeting – September 17, 2024
* Maintenance Committee Meeting – October 1, 2024
* Water & Sewer Committee Meeting – October 1, 2024
* Community Development Committee Meeting – October 1, 2024
* Public Safety Committee Meeting – October 1, 2024
* Parks, Recreation & Public Property Committee Meeting – October 1, 2024
* Administrative Committee Meeting – October 1, 2024

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

President James Bair called on the approval of the payment of October 2024 bills.

**A motion was made by Councilwoman DeeDee Brown to approve the payment of the October 2024 bills and second was made by Councilman Robert Jackson. Motion Carried.**

President James Bair called on the approval of September 2024 Financial Statements for all borough accounts.

**A motion was made by Councilman David Fortson to approve the September 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 said he had nothing to report.

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

Chairman Robert Jackson reported the Water & Sewer Committee recommends a motion to remove Andrew Lynn and Dalton Dick from probationary status to full-time status in the Water Treatment Plant.

**A motion was made by Vice-President David Fortson to remove Andrew Lynn and Dalton Dick from probationary status to full-time status in the Water Treatment Plant and second was made by Councilwoman DeeDee Brown. Motion Carried.**

Chairman Robert Jackson reported the Water & Sewer Committee recommends a motion to renew the contract with HACH in the amount of $26,497.00.

**A motion was made by Councilman David Wessels to renew the contract with HACH in the amount of $26,497.00 and second was made by Councilwoman Jennifer Powell. Motion Carried.**

Chairman Robert Jackson reported the Water & Sewer Committee recommends a motion to remove Dylan McClellan and Kent Moyer from probationary status to full-time status in the Wastewater Treatment Plant.

**A motion was made by Vice-President David Fortson to remove Dylan McClellan and Kent Moyer from probationary status to full-time status in the Wastewater Treatment Plant and second was made by Councilwoman Jennifer Powell. Motion Carried.**

Chairman Robert Jackson reported the Water & Sewer Committee recommends a motion to approve the recommendations of the Water & Sewer Authority to increase the rates on Water & Sewer, and to approve Resolution No. 10-2024 for a water rate increase of six percent (6%) and a sewer rate increase of fourteen and one-half percent (14.5%) to be effective December 1, 2024.

**A motion was made by Councilwoman DeeDee Brown to approve the recommendations of the Water & Sewer Authority to increase the rates on Water & Sewer, and to approve Resolution No. 10-2024 for a water rate increase of six percent (6%) and a sewer rate increase of fourteen and one-half percent (14.5%) to be effective December 1, 2024 and second was made by Councilman David Wessels. Motion Carried.**

President James Bair called on the Community Development Committee report.

Chairwoman Jennifer Powell reported the Community Development Committee recommends a motion to allow the Chartered School to host their food truck rally on October 26, 2024, from 11:00 AM till 5:00 PM and to allow the closure of the 600 block of Washington Street.

**A motion was made by Councilman David Wessels to allow the Chartered School to host their food truck rally on October 26, 2024, from 11:00 AM till 5:00 PM and to allow the closure of the 600 block of Washington Street and second was made by Councilman Robert Jackson. Motion Carried.**

President James Bair called on the Public Safety Committee report.

Chairwoman DeeDee Brown reported the Public Safety Committee recommends a motion to have Park’s Security install a Bluetooth Keyless Entry System on the Police Department back door.

**A motion was made by Councilman David Wessels to have Park’s Security install a Bluetooth Keyless Entry System on the Police Department back door and second was made by Councilwoman Jennifer Powell. Motion Carried.**

Chairwoman DeeDee Brown reported the Public Safety Committee recommends a motion to have Park’s Security update the camera system in the borough building and outside the borough building.

**A motion was made by Councilman David Wessels to have Park’s Security update the camera system in the borough building and outside the borough building** **and second was made by Councilman Robert Jackson. Motion Carried.**

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

Chairman David Fortson said he had nothing to report.

President James Bair called on the Administrative Committee report.

President James Bair said that all the employees are doing an excellent job, and he commends the Police Department, Fire Department and Ambulance Division. James said the Police Department is doing an excellent job of removing bad people from our streets.

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 reminded everyone that Election Day is on November 5, 2024 and we will be moving the committee meeting day to November 12, 2024.

President James Bair called on the Chief of Police report.

Chief Charles Streightiff spoke on the speeding in the borough and reported that the officers are out every shift. Chief Streightiff said that incidents are escalating, and there are things being done in the borough.

President James Bair called on the mayor’s report.

Mayor Thomas Yoder said he attended the America250 organizational meeting where the group began brainstorming and planning for this large-scale national celebration. Thomas said each municipality will be responsible for their own festivities, and there are grant monies available from the federal government for projects celebrating our nation’s history.

Thomas Yoder said the Huntingdon County Visitors Bureau marketing committee met with their marketing director, Susan Penning, to plan strategies for the 2025 season. Thomas said that Susan is very open to the committee’s ideas and suggestions, and it was a very collaborative process and a successful meeting. Thomas said Huntingdon County has many wonderful attractions for visitors to our area.

Thomas Yoder said the United Way Day of Caring continued in September as students and businesses cleaned up parks in the borough. Thomas said the gas company did a great job at Bryan Park, although several individuals were afraid there was a major gas leak downtown when they saw so many gas company trucks in one spot!

Thomas Yoder reported that the Huntingdon Borough Zoning Board approved several variances for Juniata College’s proposed 17th Street Health Clinic and Nursing School project.

Thomas Yoder reported the Huntingdon Borough Police Department offered an opportunity for citizens to meet and discuss concerns at a “Coffee with the Cops” event held recently at Standing Stone Coffee Company. Thomas said that Chief Streightiff’s community minded spirit is much appreciated.

Thomas Yoder said that Jim Bair, DeeDee Brown and he attended the Huntingdon County Chamber of Commerce’s Annual Awards Gala at Trophy Mountain Lodge. Thomas said that this is always a wonderful event celebrating the people who are making a difference in our community each, and every day.

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

Richard Wilson said that he will save his comments for the committee meeting on November 12, 2024.

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

Chris Stevens said the town clock is off, and they are working on this to be patient.

Chris Stevens said that we should be hearing here soon on some grants.

Chris Stevens said that the 7th Street Parking Lot should be ready to go soon.

Chris Stevens reported that there will be three (3) openings in the Maintenance Department due to retirements and this has been posted with CareerLink.

President James Bair called on any other business.

Vice-President David Fortson reported that we are waiting on ramps to come in and then the skate park will be back in service for the kids or adults.

Vice-President David Fortson said there will be another pickleball court going in at Portstown Park and he has another area, he is look at.

After no further business, the Borough Council meeting was adjourned at 7:24 PM.

Minutes submitted by,

Richard S. King
Borough Secretary