Huntingdon Borough Council Meeting Minutes

The Huntingdon Borough Council meeting was held in the Borough Council Room, 530 Washington Street, Huntingdon, PA on Tuesday, January 21,2025.

The guest present were Thomas Marko, Brenda Park, Scott Fye, Adam Long, Betty Quarry, John Tkach, Joseph Thompson, and David Quarry.

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

President James Bair said that there are several additions to the agenda that was posted and said that these additions are on the agenda now under Community Development and are posted on the website.

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, 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.

Mayor Thomas Yoder then presented the Sharen L. Gutshall, Outstanding Citizen of the Month Award for January 2025 to the Catholic Knights of Columbus, Our Lady of Fatima Council, from the Most Holy Trinity Church.

Thomas Yoder said the Knights annually honor an outstanding individual with the Morris M. Terizzi Citizen of the Year Award.

Thomas Yoder said the Knights host an annual welcome breakfast prior to the Veteran’s Day Parade which is open to veterans, their families, and friends.

Thomas Yoder said they regularly enter a float with a patriotic theme in the Veteran’s Day Parade as well.

Thomas Yoder said during the yearly Kettle Drive, the Knights ring the bell for the Salvation Army.

Thomas Yoder said the Knights routinely care for and maintain grave sites at Holy Cross Cemetery in the Borough.

Thomas Yoder said thank you for giving back to your community and for making Huntingdon Borough a better place to live.

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

Brenda Park, of 1109 Mifflin Street, was there to talk about the ordinance on removing vehicles during the street sweeping schedule.

Mayor Thomas Yoder said the no parking signs are not just for street sweeping, they are for maintenance, removal of snow, recycling and any emergency that may occur.

Brenda Park said she would like to see us revise the ordinance when snow or ice falls to move vehicles. Brenda said that she had fallen and needed stitches and talked on her health issues.

President James Bair said this would need to be a case-by-case basis.

Councilman David Wessels said that in the past, Dispatchers had a book for when people called in and reported their car could not be removed due to medical emergencies, physical reasons and their car would not start.

Councilman David Wessels said that if you call in, and give your name, license plate number, make of car, the dispatcher will write this in the book, and if you did get a ticket, it would be released.

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

* Borough Council Meeting – December 17, 2024
* Maintenance Committee Meeting – January 7, 2025
* Water & Sewer Committee Meeting – January 7, 2025
* Community Development Committee Meeting – January 7, 2025
* Public Safety Committee Meeting – January 7, 2025
* Parks, Recreation & Public Property Committee Meeting – January 7, 2025
* Administrative Committee Meeting – January 7, 2025

**A motion was made by Councilman David Wessels to approve the above-mentioned meetings and second was made by Councilman Robert Jackson. Motion Carried.**

President James Bair called on the approval of the January 2025 bills.

**A motion was made by Vice-President David Fortson to approve the payment of January 2025 bills, and second was made by Councilman David Wessels. Motion Carried.**

President James Bair called on the approval of December 2024 financial statements for all borough accounts.

**A motion was made by Councilwoman DeeDee Brown to approve the December 2024 financial statements for all borough accounts and second was made by Councilman David Wessels. Motion Carried.**

President James Bair called on the committee reports.

President James Bair called on the Maintenance Committee report.

No report was given.

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

Chairman Robert Jackson reported on the borough being mandated by the state to have a secondary water source and said we are looking at several options.

President James Bair called on the Community Development Committee report.

* Chairwoman Jennifer Powell reported the Community Development Committee recommends a motion to approve and accept the Maintenance Agreement between Juniata College and Huntingdon Borough, for Juniata College to maintain a portion of the alley, between Moore Street and Mifflin Street, from 17th Street to their property line going towards 16th Street.

**A motion was made by Councilman David Wessels to approve and accept the Maintenance Agreement between Juniata College and Huntingdon Borough, for Juniata College to maintain a portion of the alley, between Moore Street and Mifflin Street, from 17th Street to their property line going towards 16th Street and second was made by Councilman Robert Jackson. Motion Carried.**
* Chairwoman Jennifer Powell reported the Community Development Committee recommends a motion to approve the plans from Juniata College for a Gateway Center for doctor’s offices and nursing school.

**A motion was made by Councilman David Wessels to approve the plans from Juniata College for a Gateway Center for doctor’s offices and nursing school, and second was made by Councilman Robert Jackson. Motion Carried.**
* Chairwoman Jennifer Powell reported the Community Development Committee recommends a motion to award the Strategic Business Plan Proposal to GHD for $49,500.

**A motion was made by Councilman David Wessels to award the Strategic Business Plan Proposal to GHD for $49,500, 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 purchase from POM, 20 to 30 parking meters.

**A motion was made by Vice-President David Fortson to approve the purchase from POM, 20 to 30 parking meters and second was made by Councilman David Wessels. Motion Carried.**

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

No report was given.

President James Bair called on the Administrative Committee report.

* Chairman James Bair reported the Administrative Committee recommends a motion to approve Resolution No. 2025-01, naming John Chris Stevens as Chief Administrative Officer (CAO) of the Non-Uniform Pension Plan.

**A motion was made by Vice-President David Fortson to approve Resolution No. 2025-01, naming John Chris Stevens as Chief Administrative Officer (CAO) of the Non-Uniform Pension Plan and second was made by Councilwoman DeeDee Brown. Motion Carried.**
* Chairman James Bair reported the Administrative Committee recommends a motion to approve Resolution No. 2025-02, naming John Chris Stevens as Chief Administrative Officer (CAO) of the Police Pension Plan.

**A motion was made by Vice-President David Fortson to approve Resolution No. 2025-02, naming John Chris Stevens as Chief Administrative Officer (CAO) of the Police Pension Plan and second was made by Councilman David Wessels. Motion Carried.**
* President James Bair reported the Administrative Committee recommends a motion to approve Resolution No. 2025-03, setting the fees for a handicapped parking space application of $500.

**A motion was made by Councilman David Wessels to approve Resolution No. 2025-03, setting the fees for a handicapped parking space application of $500, and second was made by Councilwoman DeeDee 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 all the borough employees in each department, police department, Ambulance Division and Fire Companies. James Bair said that Huntingdon Borough is a great place to live and work.

President James Bair called on the Chief of Police report.

Charles Streightiff said he had nothing to report on.

President James Bair called on the mayor’s report.

Thomas Yoder said the borough receives many positive comments on the white Edison lights that are hung across Washington Street downtown. Thomas said the borough Maintenance Department installed these when they took the Christmas lights down. Thomas said it does add to the charm of our beautiful town.

Thomas Yoder said work continues on the police website upgrade, and we met with our webmaster, Adam Steele, on Thursday morning as we look to complete this project. Thomas said it should be ready for release in early February.

Thomas Yoder reported that Pennsylvania has released its Historic Preservation Plan for 2025 through 2023, as this is an important component of tourism in the state and in Huntingdon Borough.

Thomas Yoder said the borough continues to look for new businesses for our downtown. Thomas said he can’t stress enough; how important it is for us to support all the businesses in the borough as often as we can and as much as we can.

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

Andy Glitzer said he had nothing to report.

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

Richard Wilson said he had nothing to report.

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

Chris Stevens spoke on the Strategic Business Plan Proposal and said that GHD was the only one to submit. Chris said that a DCED grant will be used for this.

Chris Stevens said that the auditors are here.

President James Bair called on any other business.

After no further business, the Borough Council meeting was adjourned at 7:23 PM.

Minutes submitted by,

Richard S. King
Borough Secretary