Huntingdon Borough Community Development Committee Meeting Minutes

The Huntingdon Borough Community Development Committee meeting was held in the Borough Conference Room, 530 Washington Street, Huntingdon, PA on Tuesday, February 4, 2025.

The guest present were Jennifer Clark, Gary Cramer, Commissioner Patrick Reeder and Tim Furlong.

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

Chairwoman Jennifer Powell called the Community Development Committee meeting to order at 3:30 PM.

Chairwoman Jennifer Powell recognized the guest present and asked for their comments.

Commissioner Patrick Reeder said they came up with an idea to get a County wide Grant Writer, Administrator and Lobbyist. Patrick said that Penn Strategies or Arise. Patrick said they will do anyone in the County.

Patrick Reeder said that Huntingdon County Commissioners is a set price but if we do the whole county then we will need financial help.

Chairwoman Jennifer Powell asked what type of contribution are you looking for.

Patrick Reeder said anywhere from $500 to $1,000 per month.

Borough Manager Chris Stevens said this is just like Delta, that is used by Juniata College and went to Harrisburg.

Patrick Reeder said the lobbyist cannot keep the Administration fee and the county would get 3 percent.

Councilman Robert Jackson asked how many grants will they do.

Patrick Reeder said it is unlimited, and the company has not hit its limits for anyone.

Borough Manager Chris Stevens said that Huntingdon Borough does 10 to 20 grants per year.

Borough Manager Chris Stevens said will you be getting quotes for this.

Patrick Reeder said yes, and you would pay less than you would for a worker.

Councilwoman Jennifer Powell said then it would cost $60,000 for county wide.

Borough Manager Chris Stevens said that we don’t compete with someone else.

It was asked who have you talked to already.

Patrick Reeder said local branches, Chamber of Commerce, Tourist Promotion and will be meeting with others.

Borough Manager Chris Stevens said to let us know how this goes, if they are in favor or not in favor of this.

Councilwoman Jennifer Powell said we are interested in this right now, but not into contributing anything yet.

President James Bair asked Patrick Reed to find out about competing grants if allowed or not.

Patrick Reeder said this is the County Commissioners priority.

Patrick Reeder said the Senators now have their slush fund back

Patrick Reeder said that Penn Strategies office is in Harrisburg, and they will give a 2-week update by email on how the grants are going.

Borough Manager Chris Stevens said that we need hard figures.

Chairwoman Jennifer Powell called on the Grants Administrator’s report.

Borough Manager Chris Stevens then spoke on the grant that we are working on.

Borough Manager Chris Stevens said that DCED came back and said no on the 2024 CDBG for the 7th Street Parking Lot. Chris said we have 2022 and 2023 for a total of around $224,000 and the quote for the parking lot is around $300,000.

Borough Manager Chris Stevens said the Huntingdon County Planning Commission is going to do a new survey and we will be keeping 2022 and 2023 money there for the 7th Street Parking Lot and said that Grannas Brothers will do it for less.

Borough Manager Chris Stevens said that the 7th Street Parking Lot will still need to be out for bid.

Borough Manager Chris Stevens said we are still trying to use the 2024 CDBG grant for this and hope the survey’s comes in by around 51 percent.

Borough Manager Chris Stevens said if we can’t use the 2024 CDBG then we will need to find another project. Chris said the amount of 2024 is $101,671.

Chairwoman Jennifer Powell asked how far are the surveys being done.

Borough Manager Chris Stevens said the whole borough, but for the 7th Street Parking lot, we can use from 9th Street down.

The committee mentioned if we can’t use the 2024 for the parking lot, then we can look at curb cuts, sidewalks or parks.

Chairwoman Jennifer Powell asked if we investigated a PA Walk Work grant.

Borough Manager Chris Stevens said we have small grants in.

Chairwoman Jennifer Powell called on the Borough Manager’s report.

Chris Stevens said we have received from the Huntingdon County Planning and Development a letter that we will be receiving an award for the Clock Tower.

Mayor Thomas Yoder then read the letter from the Huntingdon County Planning and Development and said that council should go to this. Thomas said the date is February 27, 2025 starting at 6:00 PM.

Chris Stevens said the Maintenance Department is tweaking the timing of the Town Clock.

Chris Stevens said that Jana Weaver does not want to be Events Coordinator anymore but will do Mayfest.

Chris Stevens said that Thomas Yoder and he are working on a list of responsibilities and a list of monthly things to do.

Chris Stevens said we will be taking applications for this and will meet with them.

There was a discussion on a Main Street Manager.

Chris Stevens said that he can place in the budget next year for a full-time Main Street Manager position.

Chris said some of the events are Mayfest, Octoberfest, Wine Down Weekend and bands in Bryan Park. Chris said here soon we will also have the Amphitheater for events to book.

Chairwoman Jennifer Powell asked if we should put in for a grant since this will be in the budget.

Mayor Thomas Yoder said you will need to contact the PA Downtown Center to get approval for a Main Street Manager.

Councilwoman DeeDee Brown said the Chamber of Commerce had done events at one time.

Chairwoman Jennifer Powell said we should apply to the PA Downtown Center.

Mayor Thomas Yoder said he will get in touch with George Drobnock since he knows about this.

Chairwoman Jennifer Powell called on old business.

There was nothing reported under old business.

Chairwoman Jennifer Powell called on new business.

There was nothing reported under new business.

Executive Session was not called for.

After no further business, the Community Development Committee meeting was adjourned at 4:10 PM.

Minutes submitted by,  
  
  
  
Richard S. King  
Borough Secretary