Huntingdon Borough Council Meeting Minutes

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

The guest present were Jennifer Clark, Gary Cramer, Lonnie Smith, Kathe Kozak, Joseph Thompson, Priscilla Davell, James Troha, Betty Quarry, David Quarry, Linda Goodman, Bryan Butler, Mackenzie Kuncher, Renee Lloyd and Dustin Border.

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

The invocation was given by Mayor Thomas Yoder.

The Pledge of Allegiance was presented by President James Bair.

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 (on phone), 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 Citizen of the Month Award for March 2025 to Lonnie Smith Jr.

Mayor Thomas Yoder said Lonnie is a great advocate for history and heritage tourism, which is so important to our borough and county. Celebrating and promoting history is an economic opportunity that we must continue to nurture and grow. Awareness of this important resource has been expanded through Lonnie’s numerous efforts.

Lonnie serves on the board of the Huntingdon County Historical Society and the Huntingdon County Fair Farm Museum.

Lonnie was recently appointed Museum Director at the William E. Swigart Automobile Museum.

Lonnie is the chairman and founder of the Huntingdon County History and Heritage Roundtable, which has been very instrumental in sharing our rich history.

Lonnie is also the chairman of the America250PA committee, planning for our nation’s 250 anniversary in 2026.

You can find Lonnie attending and supporting events throughout Huntingdon County. He loves history and it shows!

Thank you, Lonnie, for promoting and enriching our lives through the remarkable history of Huntingdon County. You are making a difference in our community.

And, of course, Lonnie agreed to be here tonight even though today is his birthday and he should be out celebrating. Thank you for always putting your community first. Happy Birthday!!!

Mayor Thomas Yoder asked Lonnie Smith to say something.

Lonnie Smith said this was a surprise and an honor to receive this award.

Lonnie said they are meeting monthly to discuss ideas and work with communities to celebrate this event.

Lonnie said he will be asking Huntingdon Borough to do a resolution for the Statewide Organization.

President James Bair said we will now have the audit report from Bakertilly with John Compton, John Taylor and Jacob Muthler.

(Shown on screen by Teams meeting)

John Compton then went over the qualified and unmodified opinions, summary of opinions, qualified opinion on aggregate remaining fund information, unmodified opinions on governmental activities, business-type activities and the major funds, emphasis of matter on adoption of new accounting standards, basis of accounting, matter giving rise to qualified opinion on aggregate remaining fund information, responsibilities of management for the financial statements, auditors’ responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements, supplementary information and other reporting required by government auditing standards.

John Taylor then went over the audit on statement of net positions, statement of activities, balance sheet, statement of revenue, expenditures and changes in fund balances, statement of assets, liabilities and net positions, statement of cash flows and the notes to financial statements.

John Taylor then went over the report on internal control and schedule of findings and responses.

Councilwoman Jennifer Powell asked John Taylor to address how many new people would we need.

John Taylor said you had hired a new person in the office this year. John said you need to explore who was doing what and multiple performances in place. John said you have enough to segregate and do cross training.

Jennifer Powell asked if he could send us the feedback on this and john Taylor said yes.

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

David Quarry, 1320 Oneida Street, said that Juniata College has been using the softball field at Weaver Park and agrees that the college maintains this field.

David Quarry said to Councilman David Fortson to use the $200,000 the right way.

David Quarry said he believes we are making the right decision on the softball field.

Brian Butler, 47 W 32nd Street, spoke on having chickens in the borough and the ordinance.

President James Bair said that the ordinance is being rewritten with changes and there will be discussions on this.

Jennifer Powell said to Borough Solicitor Wilson what is the next step on this ordinance.

Richard Wilson said this will be discussed at the April committee meeting, and if approved he will be recommended to advertise the ordinance and then it will be brough to the Borough Council meeting in April for a vote.

Richard Wilson said to come to the April committee meeting and give your input.

Kathe Kozak, 2207 Wooded Way, spoke on the size of the properties and the farm animals lower the values of the homes. Kathe said maintaining the coups will be an issue and she has real concerns. Kathe said this should be accepted by the adjoining neighbors and they should show consideration to the neighbors.

President James Bair said that we are looking at all parts on the ordinance.

**Executive Session was called at 7:58 PM to discuss personnel issues.**

**Executive Session ended at 8:05 PM with the following information of personnel issues.**

To make a motion to provide a conditional offer of employment to the Huntingdon Borough Police Department to a person on the Civil Service listing.

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

* Borough Council meeting – February 18, 2025
* Maintenance Committee meeting – March 4, 2025
* Water & Sewer Committee meeting – March 4, 2025
* Community Development Committee meeting – March 4, 2025
* Public Safety Committee meeting – March 4, 2025
* Parks, Recreation & Public Property Committee meeting – March 4, 2025
* Administrative Committee meeting – March 4, 2025

**A motion was made by Councilwoman Jennifer Powell to approve the minutes and second was made by Councilman David Wessels. Motion Carried.**

President James Bair called on the approval of payment of March 2025 bills.

**A motion was made by Councilman David Wessels to approve the payment of March 2025 bills and second was made by Councilman Robert Jackson. Motion Carried.**

President James Bair called on the approval of the February 2025 financial statements for all borough accounts.

**A motion was made by Councilman David Wessels to approve the February 2025 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.

There was nothing reported under the Maintenance Committee.

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 report.

Chairwoman Jennifer Powell said she had nothing to report.

President James Bair called on the Public Safety Committee report.

There was nothing reported under Public Safety.

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

Chairman David Fortson said to take care of your parks and to report any troubles you see.

President James Bair called on the Administrative Committee report.

* The Administrative Committee recommends a motion to approve the Non-Binding Letter of Intent to Sell the Softball Field in Weaver Park to Juniata College for $200,000 with the terms and conditions set forth in the Non-Binding Letter of Intent to Sell.

President James Bair then called for a roll call vote.

 President James Bair Yes
 Vice-President David Fortson Yes
 Councilman Robert Jackson Yes
 Councilman David Wessels Yes
 Councilwoman Jennifer Powell Yes

Borough Secretary Richard King said there were 5 votes for yes and 0 votes for no. Majority Carried.

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, Dispatch, Maintenance, Water, Sewer and Administrative Office) fire department and EMS.

President James Bair called on the Chief of Police report.

Charles Streightiff said he had nothing to report.

President James Bair called on the mayor’s report.

* Thomas Yoder said that Huntingdon Borough won the Community Improvement Award, which promotes excellence in development, for the restoration of the historic town clock, located in the spire of the Presbyterian Church. This clock has been part of the Borough’s history since 1872. The award was presented by the Huntingdon County Planning Office and the Chamber of Commers
* Thomas Yoder said that April is Sexual Assault Awareness and Child Abuse Month. The Abuse Network will be displaying teal ribbons on the parking meters downtown to increase awareness in the community.
* Thomas Yoder said the borough met with Pam Grugan, the BloomTown coordinator, and began discussions on flowers and hanging baskets for the summer months. We will be looking for more volunteers to help with watering, which is a daily necessity during hot, dry weather.
* Thomas Yoder said he attended the Huntingdon County Visitors Bureau Marketing Committee meeting in February, and we will have another meeting next week. Susan Penning, marketing director, her co-workers, and the committee members work very hard at innovative ideas to promote tourism in the beautiful area of Pennsylvania.
* Thomas Yoder said Juniata College in conjunction with the borough continues to work on the Cold Springs Road/Moore Street realignment project as well as the 17th Street Nursing School/Medical Clinic Project. Both projects will enhance our community and address specific needs of the community.
* Thomas Yoder said several of us attended the State of the County breakfast arranged by the Chamber of Commerce. The county commissions discussed current projects, plans, and shred their views of important upcoming actions.
* Thomas Yoder said the borough met with the engineering firm for the Strategic Business Plan kickoff. The committee brainstormed ideas to be included in this important undertaking.
* Thomas Yoder said James Bair, DeeDee Brown and he attended the ribbon cutting for Krouse’s New Image Gym located in Downtown Huntingdon. The event was sponsored by the Huntingdon Chamber of Commerce. Keith Krouse, the new owner, has made some great improvements and offers training options to suit your needs. The gym is a very welcoming, friendly place to work out and improve your health and well-being.

President James Bair called on the Borough Engineers report.

Andy Glitzer said he had nothing to report.

President James Bair called on the Borough Solicitors report.

Richard Wilson said he had nothing to report.

President James Bair called on the Borough Managers report.

Chris Stevens said he had nothing to report.

After no further business, the Borough Council meeting was adjourned at 8:19 PM.

Minutes submitted by,

Richard S. King
Borough Secretary