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, April 1, 2025.

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, Borough Engineer Qian Zhang, Code Enforcement Officer James Morris (3:50 PM), Borough Manager Chris Stevens and Borough Secretary Richard King.

The guest present were Jennifer Clark, Gary Cramer, Joseph Thompson, Mackenzie Kuncher, Renee Lloyd, Hannah Lloyd, Bryan Butler, Wayne Kasselbohm and Lonnie Smith.

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.

There were no comments made by the guest.

Chairwoman Jennifer Powell called on the Grant Administrators report.

Borough Manager Chris Stevens said he has not heard anything on the grants.

Borough Manager Chris Stevens said the guys have been tweaking the town clock. Chris said the enclosure has been placed and now the Pendulum (time keeping element) is swinging too far.

Borough Manager Chris Stevens said that Jana Weaver is still doing Mayfest and Christa McGeary from HCB&I is helping with this.

Mayor Thomas Yoder said he had a meeting on the Main Street Manager, and the person will be coming here for the May committee meeting to talk about it.

Chairwoman Jennifer Powell called on the Borough Managers report.

Chris Stevens reminded everyone that Mayfest is Saturday, April 26, 2025.

Chairwoman Jennifer Powell called on the mayor’s report.

Thomas Yoder spoke on the PA Downtown Center grants and person will be here to explain and will have a PowerPoint to present.

Thomas Yoder said that one organization needs to belong to this and doesn’t think we will need to join.

Thomas Yoder said that he will be presenting the Arbor Day Proclamation at 11:00 AM on Saturday, April 26, 2025 in Portstown Park.

Thomas Yoder said that Lonnie Smith is here looking for a depository for the America250PA, and sponsors of the liberty bell. Thomas then turned it over to Lonnie Smith.

Lonnie Smith spoke on the America250PA and talked about placing a painted liberty bell in town. Lonnie said the cost of this is $10,000.00 and he is looking for 4 sponsors of $2,500.00. Lonnie then passed out samples of the liberty bell.

Lonnie Smith said that right now, Juniata County is holding the money, but he needs to find someone to be a depositor for their fundraising.

Lonnie Smith spoke about the artist and said the bell is made from fiberglass and we need a place to put this bell.

Thomas Yoder said the borough would be interested if the bell was placed in the borough.

Borough Manager Chris Stevens asked if the 4 donors picked the artist and style.

Thomas Yoder said that Juniata College has an art department.

Borough Manager Chris Stevens asked if there needs to be 4 donors or can you just have 1.

Lonnie Smith said you can just have 1 donor.

Thomas Yoder told Lonnie Smith to contact the President of Juniata College to see if they are interested.

Chairwoman Jennifer Powell asked what the upper limit of sponsorship is.

Thomas Yoder said that Juniata College could give $5,000.00 and the borough could give $5,000.00.

Borough Manager Chris Stevens said no more than $2,500.00.

Lonnie Smith said this would be a historical event to show for 250 years.

Chairwoman Jennifer Powell said we are willing to commit $2,500.00.

Chairwoman Jennifer Powell said we are working on a Strategic Business Plan, where a person is coming in from Texas to focus on groups and bringing in bigger property owners.

Chairwoman Jennifer Powell called on old business.

Councilman Robert Jackson updated everyone on the LPFM Station.

Councilman Robert Jackson said the Chamber of Commerce had sent out emails for fundraising.

Councilman Robert Jackson said he had talked to Amy Merritts about keeping track of the donations with names, addresses, in case we need to send money back. Robert said he would like an updated list regularly.

Councilman Robert Jackson said he was contacted by the Rotary to come to a meeting in June to talk about this.

Chairwoman Jennifer Powell asked when the emails went out.

Councilman Robert Jackson said around the 20th of March.

President James Bair said we have been having meeting on the TextMyGov and when it is completed, we will go over this with the committee.

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 3:59 PM.

Minutes submitted by,

Richard S King
Borough Secretary