Huntingdon Borough Public Safety Committee Meeting Minutes

The Huntingdon Borough Public Safety Committee meeting was moved to the Borough Council Room, 530 Washington Street, Huntingdon, PA on Tuesday, April 1, 2025 due to the amount of people present.

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.

The guest present were Jennifer Clark, Gary Cramer, Joseph Thompson, Mackenzie Kuncher, Renee Lloyd, Hannah Lloyd, Bryan Butler, Meryl Dominguez, Aaron Keeney, Kathe Kozak, Lee Allison, Michel Harker, Tim Guisler, Wayne Kasselbohm, Tim Furlong, Andrew Campos, Andi Bradsher and Brian Miller.

Chairwoman DeeDee Brown called the Public Safety Committee meeting to order at 4:00 PM.

Chairwoman DeeDee Brown recognized the guest present and asked for their comments.

Meryl Dominguez said she lives at the corner of 12th & Warm Springs, and she would like to see a stop sign placed there. Meryl asked what are the steps she needs to take to get this.

Borough Manager Chris Stevens said we are working on a business plan, and this would be a road management, where there would be traffic controls, and a study needs to be done.

Mackenzie Kuncher said she was there again on the chicken ordinance and passed out the ordinance.

Mackenzie Kuncher presented many points to the residents in a letter she read.

Kathe Kozak said she was there to oppose this ordinance.

Kathe Kozak said this ordinance was passed in Mount Union and now they are doing away with it.

Kathe Kozak said she had concerns and said the ordinance was passed last year and thought this was a dead issue.

Mayor Thomas Yoder then spoke on other towns with this ordinance.

Code Enforcement Officer James Morris said that we did some more research on this.

Kathe Kozak said there is noise and odors on having chickens.

Vice-President David Fortson said you have the same thing with dogs and cats.

Kathe Kozak said there is a lot of maintenance, food, water, waste, viruses, bacteria, attracting flies, mosquitoes, rodents, predators, fire hazard with heat lamps, extension cords, nuisance complaints and should get opinions from the county officials.

 A person (MA) (no name on sign in sheet) said that she applauds anyone that does this. She said if this passes, who is going to monitor the 4 chickens.

Chairwoman DeeDee Brown said if there are any complaints, then the Code Enforcement Officer will be there.

Brian Miller said there were great points brough up. Brian said this is a financial responsibility and both parties need to be happy.

Kathe Kozak asked if she got a petition started, how many signatures would she need.

Chairwoman DeeDee Brown said that the ones that want chickens will get a petition started also. DeeDee said that the decision has not been made yet.

President James Bair said the proper procedures goes through the Code Enforcement Officer, then committee and then to Borough Council.

It was asked what is this going to do to our property values.

Brian Butler said he owns a property in State College and there are animals on other properties, that it did not drop the value.

Renee Lloyd handed out a paper on the Huntingdon PA News Facebook page that did a study on having or not having chickens and 69 percent were ok with this.

Vice-President David Fortson said that these are public opinions, and they are never going to end. David said that some people want chickens and some don’t.

Wayne Kasselbohm said there are 128 homes in the highlands home association.

Tim Guisler said this pool was sent out and wondered what limitations were there.

Councilwoman Jennifer Powell said the borough did not do this and asked where does this end. Jennifer said this country is in tough economic times right now.

Brian Miller said that the HOA can ban this in their area.

Councilman Robert Jackson said you would need 100 percent agreeing.

Wayne Kasselbohm said there are zero covenants, since the contract expired with S&A Homes.

Lee Allison asked how the highlands are part of the borough.

Borough Manager Chris Stevens said this was annexed from Oneida Township.

Renee Lloyd said she appreciated the article in the daily newspaper done by the mayor.

Chairwoman DeeDee Brown called on the Code Enforcement Officers report.

James Morris said there is an owner of 4 parcels off W 31st Street, who is in the process of developing plans to place a prefab modular home on each lot.

James Morris said he needs several questions answered before proceeding. James asked if the borough is willing to open the paper alley, approximately 33’ wide, that runs beside 36 W 31st Street and the paper alley behind 36 W 31st Street, which is approximately 17’ wide. and if so, will it be at the owner’s expense. James said that once this is completed, who will be responsible for maintaining the road and will they require sidewalks and lights.

Borough Manager Chris Stevens said this person needs to bring his plans in for us to look at.

James Morris said there is a person interested in purchasing our property at 600 Penn Street.

Chairwoman DeeDee Brown called on the Chief of Police report.

Charles Streightiff then went over his report with the committee.

Charles Streightiff said that National Night Out is scheduled for August 1, 2025.

Charles Streightiff said that Brooke Colledge is on the range this week.

Charles Streightiff said that Dakota Walters is deployed and will not return till November 2025.

Charles Streightiff said he is working on the Corporal test to be given.

Charles Streightiff said that the Juniata College Public Safety would like to close 17th Street from Mifflin Street to Moore Street on April 25, 2025 for the groundbreaking ceremony for the new medical building.

**The Public Safety Committee recommends a motion to allow Juniata College to close 17th Street, between Mifflin Street and Moore Street on April 25, 2025 for the groundbreaking ceremony for the new medical building.**

Charles Streightiff said council will need to approve Phillip Miller’s hiring at the Borough Council meeting and then he will start April 23, 2025.

**The Public Safety Committee recommends a motion to approve the hiring of Phillip Miller to the Huntingdon Police Department.**

Chairwoman DeeDee Brown called on the mayor’s report.

Thomas Yoder spoke about chickens and roosters that he had.

Chairwoman DeeDee Brown called on the Borough Managers report.

Chris Stevens said he had nothing to report.

Chairwoman DeeDee Brown called on the fire companies report.

Tim Furlong gave the incidents handles, events held and upcoming events.

Chairwoman DeeDee Brown called on old business.

Councilwoman Jennifer Powell talked about the revised chicken ordinance and pools. Jennifer said that once we have the TextMyGov up and running, that we can send something out and get responses back.

Borough Manager Chris Stevens said that we are having weekly meetings on this, and it will probably be about a month before it is up and running.

President James Bair said this TextMyGov, you can opt in or opt out if you do not want it. James said it will be on our website and Facebook page.

Chairwoman DeeDee Brown called on new business.

There was nothing reported under new business.

Executive Session was not called for.

After no further business, the Public Safety Committee meeting was adjourned at 5:03 PM.

Minutes submitted by,

Richard S. King
Borough Secretary