Huntingdon Borough Council Meeting Minutes

The Huntingdon Borough Council meeting was held in the Borough Council Room, 530 Washington Street, Huntingdon, PA on Tuesday, May 20, 2025.

The guest present were Gary Cramer, Jennifer Clark, Terry McCartney, Michael Holland, Bryan Butler, Betty Quarry, David Quarry, Joseph Thompson, Shae Allison, and Mackenzie Kuncher.

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

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, Councilwoman DeeDee Brown, Councilman Terry Green, Councilwoman Jennifer Powell, 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 gave Terry McCartney his fire police oath.

President James Bair then called on the opening of the paving bids received.

The bid from New Enterprise Stone & Lime was opened and the total bid amount was $141,370.65.

The bid from Glenn O. Hawbaker was opened and the total bid amount was $183,852.00.

The bid from Grannas Bros. Stone & Asphalt Company was opened and the total bid amount was $140,848.03.

President James Bair said the lowest bid received was from Grannas Bros. Stone & Asphalt and will be awarded after all bids are reviewed by the Borough Engineer and Borough Solicitor.

Mayor Thomas Yoder then presented the Sharen L. Gutshall Outstanding Citizen of the Month Award, for May 2025 to Lawerence Biemiller.

Mayor Thomas Yoder said that Lawerence continues to heighten awareness of the importance of historic preservation and heritage tourism in the borough.

Mayor Thomas Yoder said the Daily News articles that he authors, called “Buildings & Grounds” focuses on the beautiful architecture that is often otherwise overlooked, yet significant to the historical integrity of this town.

Mayor Thomas Yoder said that Lawerence serves on the board of the Huntingdon County Historical Society and is the president of Huntingdon Landmarks, where he works to preserve historical structures, like the railroad station.

Mayor Thomas Yoder said the Huntingdon Borough Clock is one of two 2024 winners of the Community Initiative Award presented by the Pennsylvania Historic Preservation Office. It was Lawerence who initiated this process and completed the application for this prestigious award.

Mayor Thomas Yoder said Thank You, Lawerence, for your continued efforts to recognize and celebrate Huntingdon Borough history. It is an integral part of our community and important to our economic success.

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

Brian Butler, of 47 W 32nd Street, asked if you can opt out of the TextMyGov.

Borough Manager Chris Stevens said yes.

Brian Butler spoke on the 6th Street Parking Lot, and said at the lower end at 7th Street, you come in by OIP and go out the other side. Brian said that near 6th Street, both are being used for in and out and should be made the same and we should look at this.

Vice-President David Fortson said that we would need to do a Traffic Study first.

President James Bair said this will be brought to the Public Safety Committee meeting next month.

David Quarry spoke on the port-a-potties at Portstown Park and asked when the bathrooms were going to be opened and these removed.

Vice-President David Fortson said that parts had to be ordered and this has been fixed, so they should be opened the end of this week.

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

* Borough Council Meeting – April 15, 2025
* Maintenance Committee Meeting – May 6, 2025
* Water & Sewer Committee Meeting – May 6, 2025
* Community Development Committee Meeting – May 6, 2025
* Public Safety Committee Meeting – May 6, 2025
* Parks, Recreation & Public Property Committee Meeting – May 6, 2025
* Administrative Committee Meeting – May 6, 2025

**A motion was made by Councilwoman DeeDee Brown to approve the above minutes and second was made by Vice-President David Fortson. Motion Carried.**

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

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

President James Bair called on the approval of the April 2025 Financial Statements for all borough accounts.

**A motion was made by Councilwoman DeeDee Brown to approve the April 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.

Chairman Terry Green said he had nothing to report.

President James Bair called on the Water & Sewer Committee.

* Chairman Robert Jackson reported the Water & Sewer Committee recommends a motion to approve the application for payment #2 from WSL, Inc., for the Amphitheater Restroom project in the amount of $23,300.47.

**A motion was made by Councilwoman DeeDee Brown to approve the application for payment #2 to WSL Inc., for the Amphitheater Restroom project in the amount of $23,300.47 and second was made by Vice-President David Fortson. Motion Carried.**

President James Bair called on the Community Development Committee.

* Chairwoman Jennifer Powell reported the Community Development Committee recommends a motion to place on the 2025 CDBG project list, the Huntingdon County Library to redo their entrance ramp of $45,000.00, and the Huntingdon Community Center to replace the lighting at Detwiler Field to LED lighting of $80,000.00.

**A motion was made by Councilwoman DeeDee Brown to place on the 2025 CDBG list, the Huntingdon County Library to redo their entrance ramp of $45,000.00, and the Huntingdon Community Center to replace the lighting at Detwiler Field to LED lighting of $80,000.00 and second was made by Vice-President David Fortson. Motion Carried.**
* Chairwoman Jennifer Powell reported the Community Development Committee recommends a motion to allow Mr. & Mrs. Scaccia to move forward on the process of building on their lots they own near West 31st Street.

**A motion was made by Vice-President David Fortson to allow Mr. & Mrs. Scaccia to move forward on the process of building on their lots they own near West 31st Street and second was made by Councilwoman DeeDee Brown. Motion Carried.**

President James Bair called on the Public Safety Committee.

Chairwoman DeeDee Brown said she had nothing to report.

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

Chairman David Fortson said he had nothing to report.

President James Bair called on the Administrative Committee.

Chairman James Bair said he had nothing to report.

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 of the employees and special thanks to the Water Department for spending 54 hours at the plant during the last storm we had. James thanked the Fire Company, Ambulance and Police Department and said they were the best anywhere.

President James Bair thanked Borough Manager Chris Stevens and Borough Secretary Richard King for the way the room is set up. James said they had to set up for court being held here then tear it back down.

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 reported that the Huntingdon County Visitors Bureau Marketing committee met at Lake Rays Nutrition in late April. In addition to an informative meeting ,we enjoyed some of Lake Rays delicious, healthy drinks.

Thomas Yoder said he was invited to speak at a Juniata College business class on the topic of leadership. The students had many questions and interesting comments concerning the different approaches to leadership in today’s world.

Thomas Yoder reported that Mayfest was a great success for Downtown Huntingdon even though it rained in the morning. Christa McGeary did an outstanding job; this was her first event as Borough Events Coordinator. Thomas said he wanted to thank her for her hard work, which included helping me collect garbage at the very end!

Thomas Yoder reported that the Huntingdon Landmarks continue to work to preserve historic buildings in the borough. Currently that railroad station is for sale, and it is important to find just the right owners for this important property.

Thomas Yoder reported that the Huntingdon County Visitors Bureau held its annual Tourism Summit at Lake Raystown Resort’s conference center. It is always great to see individuals and organizations being honored for their efforts to make Huntingdon County a better place to live and to visit.

Thomas Yoder said the borough had a meeting with Congressman Joyce to discuss numerous topics of concern, including the closed campgrounds at Seven Points, the railroad station, the railroad bridge that connects Portstown and Riverview Parks, downtown revitalization, and other community projects.

Thomas Yoder said several of us from the borough attended the groundbreaking for the 17th Street nursing school/community medical clinic. This is a very exciting project for both the college and community.

Thomas Yoder reported that DeeDee Brown and he attended the elected officials’ reception at the Gage Mansion sponsored by the Huntingdon County Chamber of Commerce. It is always a great opportunity for networking and making important connections.

Thomas Yoder reported that Project Bloomtown will be hanging the flower baskets on the parking meter post on Sunday afternoon, so that they will be up in time for the Memorial Day Parade. Please come out on Monday at 10:00 AM to honor and celebrate our Veterans. Let’s have a record crowd at the parade this year!

Thomas Yoder said that he will be doing a wedding ceremony this Thursday in his garden.

Thomas Yoder reported that the Ribbon Cutting for the Town Clock will be held on June 1, 2025 at 11:30 AM.

President James Bair called on the Borough Engineers report.

President James Bair said that Qian Zhang had sent her report to all of us.

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 said that the Isett Community Swimming Pool will be opened this Saturday at 12:00 Noon.

President James Bair called on any other business.

President James Bair said for everyone to have a happy Memorial Day.

After no further business, the Borough Council meeting was adjourned at 7:24 PM.

Minutes submitted by,

Richard S. King
Borough Secretary