Huntingdon Borough Council Meeting Minutes

The Huntingdon Borough Council meeting was held in the Borough Council Room, 530 Washington Street, Huntingdon, PA on Tuesday, July 15, 2025.

The guest present were Betty Quarry, David Quarry, Priscilla Dowell, Lashae Allison, Emma Allison, Mackenzie Kuncher, Brian Ankney, Hannah Lloyd, Renee Lloyd, Ezra Lloyd, Judah Lloyd and Bryan Butler.

The Huntingdon Borough Council meeting was called to order by President James Bair 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, 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 presented the Sharen L. Gutshall Outstanding Citizen of the Month Award for July 2025 to Christa McGeary.

Mayor Thomas Yoder said that Christa recently became the events coordinator for the borough and has hit the ground running.

Mayor Thomas Yoder said that Christa’s marketing and organizational skills have greatly enhanced borough events and has brought record crowds downtown.

Mayor Thomas Yoder said that Christa serves as the entrepreneurial coach at Huntingdon County Business & Industry, which is an advantage for her position with the borough.

Mayor Thomas Yoder said thank you Christa for your creative spirit, strong work ethic and your determination to make a difference in your hometown.

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

Hanna Lloyd of Brumbaugh Avenue asked if we were going to talk about the chickens.

President James Bair said this is later in the agenda to bring up for a vote.

Brian Ankney of 813-815 Mifflin Street was there to talk about parking tickets and a person blocking his driveway.

President James Bair said we will now review and act on the minutes of the following meetings:

* Borough Council Meeting – June 17, 2025
* Maintenance Committee Meeting – July 1, 2025
* Water & Sewer Committee Meeting – July 1, 2025
* Community Development Committee Meeting – July 1, 2025
* Public Safety Committee Meeting – July 1, 2025
* Parks, Recreation & Public Property Committee Meeting – July 1, 2025
* Administrative Committee Meeting – July 1, 2025

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

President James Bair said we will now have the approval of the July 2025 bills.

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

President James Bair said we will now have the approval of the June 2025 Financial Statements for all borough accounts.

**A motion was made by Councilwoman DeeDee Brown to approve the June 2025 Financial Statements for all borough accounts and second was made by Councilman David Wessels. Motion Carried.**

President James Bair said we will now have the committee reports.

President James Bair called on the Maintenance Committee report.

Chairman Terry Green reported the Maintenance Committee recommends a motion to approve the payment of Application No. 3 from WSL Inc., in the amount of $86,358.50 for the Amphitheater Restroom Project.

**A motion was made by Councilwoman DeeDee Brown to approve the payment of Application No. 3 to WSL Inc., in the amount of $86,358.50 for the Amphitheater Restroom Project and second was made by Councilman Robert Jackson. Motion Carried.**

President James Bair called on the Water & Sewer Committee report.

Chairman Robert Jackson said that the Bulk Water Station is operational, and a lot of water has gone through it already.

Chairman Robert Jackson said that at the last committee meeting, we will need to test in the near future the biosolids for PFAS.

President James Bair called on the Community Development Committee report.

Chairwoman Jennifer Powell said she had nothing to report.

President James Bair called on the Public Safety Committee report.

Chairwoman DeeDee Brown reported the Public Safety Committee recommends a motion to move forward with the transition from Insync, who was bought out by ARM’s Technology in the amount of $17,800 for the Police Department Reporting program.

**A motion was made by Councilman David Wessels to move forward with the transition from Insync, to ARM’s Technology in the amount of $17,800 for the Police Department Reporting program and second was made by Councilman Robert Jackson. Motion Carried.**

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

Chairman David Fortson reported the Parks, Recreation & Public Property Committee recommends a motion to approve the subdivision of Weaver Park and the Softball Field. David said that we are going to table this and not approve this subdivision until we do some more research.

**A motion was made by Vice-President David Fortson to table this until we do some more research on this and second was made by Councilman Robert Jackson. Motion Carried.**

Chairman David Fortson said the Parks look really good.

President James Bair called on the Administrative Committee report.

Chairman James Bair reported the Administrative Committee recommends a motion to approve the new Ordinance No. 2025-993 amending portions of the Zoning Code of the Borough of Huntingdon establishing regulations for the keeping of domesticated chickens as an “permitted use” in the Residential Conservation (RC), Residential Suburban (RS) and Residential Urban (RU) districts with certain restrictions and penalties for the violation thereto or not to approve the new ordinance, which will convert back to the current ordinance then.

President James Bair said that we will now do a roll call vote on this.

Borough Secretary Richard King then proceeded to do the roll call vote.

* President James Bair No
* Vice-President David Fortson Yes
* Councilman Robert Jackson No
* Councilman David Wessels No
* Councilwoman DeeDee Brown Yes
* Councilman Terry Green Yes
* Councilwoman Jennifer Powell Yes

Borough Secretary Richard King then reported there were 4 yes votes and 3 no votes. Richard said that majority rules and Ordinance No. 2025-993 passed.

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.

James Bair said he wanted to thank all of the departments for doing a wonderful job. James said that in this last storm, all of the departments, including the 911 center where this had gone out and shut down, that the guys gave their all in dealing with situations that occurred.

James Bair said that all of this works from Borough Manager Chris Stevens down to the Chief of Police.

James Bair said that we had pump issues at the pool and the guys gave their all to get the pool back up and running.

James Bair called for a round of applause.

James Bair said the residents don’t understand how much money that departments are saving the taxpayers by doing things on their own instead of having contractors come in which would cost a lot more money.

James Bair said that he greatly appreciates everyone.

President James Bair called on the Chief of Police report.

Charles Streightiff said that he wanted to remind everyone that National Night Out is scheduled for August 1st.

President James Bair called on the mayor’s report.

Thomas Yoder said the July 3rd fireworks celebration and the 40th annual Car Cruise were a huge success. Many thanks to the Geissinger family, to those who donated to the fireworks fund, Mike Simone who coordinated the cruise, and to Christa McGeary who marketed the event, and organized food and entertainment in the park. This event had a record 159 entries and had a record crowd. It was a wonderful evening downtown.

Thomas Yoder said the Huntingdon County Visitors Bureau marketing committee met to discuss the plans and funding for next year. Susan Penning, marketing director, announced that she will be leaving to take a teaching position. Susan has done an outstanding job and will be missed.

Thomas Yoder said he was appointed to the main board of the HCVB. Thomas said his appointment will officially begin in August.

Thomas Yoder said he was appointed to the KISH Bank Huntingdon County Advisory Board. Thomas said his first meeting was held in Reedsville on June 24th.

Thomas Yoder said the borough continues to work on our strategic plan with GHD Engineering. Thomas said we have been exploring the possibility of a Downtown Mainstreet program which would include façade and other grant possibilities.

Thomas Yoder said that Pam Grugan and her family volunteered to do community service in the borough. Thomas said they pulled weeds and spent time cleaning up the parks. Thomas said that Pam is also the driving force behind Project Bloomtown, which is responsible for the hanging baskets downtown. Thomas said we owe Pam and her family many thanks for their wonderful community spirit.

Thomas Yoder said the restrooms at the Amphitheater on Flagpole Hill are nearing completion. Thomas said this project has been slow moving since the COVID Epidemic, be we are making progress. Thomas said this will be a great addition to our community.

President James Bair called on the Borough Engineer’s report.

President James Bair said we have received the engineers report and this was looked over.

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 7th Street Parking Lot bids will be going out soon for paving.

Chris Stevens thanked Cisney & O’Donnel and the Maintenance Department for their help at the pool repairing items.

President James Bair called on any other business.

President James Bair said the Chicken Ordinance had passed and the Code Enforcement Officer will be enforcing this and hope this works out.

After no further business, the Borough Council meeting was adjourned at 7:20 PM.

Minutes submitted by,

Richard S King
Borough Secretary