



Ebensburg Borough Council Meeting
Monday, June 27, 2016
6:30 p.m.

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Borough Council
Doug Tusing, President
Susan Barber, Vice-President
John Cobaugh
Cecilia Houser
Theresa Jacoby
Dave Kuhar
Joe Miller
Mayor
Randy Datsko

AGENDA

CALL TO ORDER & PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Members of the public are invited to comment at this time on any item appearing on the agenda.

1. CONSENT AGENDA

All items listed on the Consent Agenda are considered to be routine and will be acted upon by a single motion. There will be no separate discussion of these items unless members of the Council request specific items to be removed for separate action.

Item 8B: Hire Cassandra Gabrelson as lifeguard, and Rose Hensel and Krista Berzonski as YPCC assistants, all at the rate of \$8.50/hr.

Item 9A: Approve the minutes of the May 23, 2016 regular monthly meeting of Borough Council.

Item 9B: Approve the Financial Statement.

Item 9C: Approve payment of bills.

Recommended Action – Approve the consent agenda.

2. APPOINTMENTS TO ADDRESS COUNCIL

3. MAYOR'S REPORT

Item 3A: Report on Police Department

4. COUNCIL PRESIDENT COMMENTS

Item 5A: Report from Severn Trent Services on Wastewater Plant Operations

Plant Supervisor Bernie Kozlovac will provide a verbal report on projects and activities at the wastewater plant during the month.

Recommended Action – No action required.

Item 5B: Wastewater Project

1. A series of three public meetings were held to explain the project and answer any questions. A total of 60-70 persons attended the meetings. There were many questions, and the public seemed generally supportive of the project.
2. The revisions to the Wastewater Rules & Regulations are nearly completed, and are expected to be approved by the Municipal Authority in July. They will be presented to Council at the July meeting to be incorporated into the new Wastewater Ordinance.
3. Ordinance #631 is being finalized for presentation to Council in July. It will repeal the current Wastewater Ordinance (Ord. 558, 10/27/2008, as amended by Ord. 618, 1/26/2015) and will impose the requirements for pressure testing prior to connection or reconnection and prior to sale of property. The same Ordinance will be forwarded to Cambria Township for adoption.

The Ordinance will need to include language addressing the interim period between now and project completion for pre-sale certifications. Most properties will not pass a pressure test and will require a new service lateral. In many cases, such work will have to be postponed until at least final design, when the location and depth of the new collection main is known. The language should allow for the current owner to escrow the necessary funds, with the new owner agreeing to cover any difference. The new owner could simply acknowledge the responsibility to make the property compliant as the project is completed.

4. The Municipal Authority has approved an engineering services agreement with its engineer, Stiffler-McGraw for design of the wastewater project. System design will begin immediately, and continue as the final mapping project is received in July.

Recommended Action – No action required.

Item 5C: Reservoir Drainage Structure

The Public Works Director will explain work recently completed to replace a 20” drain line at the water treatment plant, how that relates to the evaluation of the drainage structure, and measures being taken to determine exactly what work will be required to the drainage structure. Once all of that is determined, final design and permitting will be completed.

Recommended Action – No action required.

Item 5D: Disinfection Byproducts

The Municipal Authority considered a \$120,000 proposal to install removal equipment in the Ogden Road water storage tank for the removal of disinfection byproducts, HAA5 and TTHM. Staff will be conducting more extensive water testing in front of and beyond the

storage tank to compare samples and evaluate recent changes implemented by Johnstown Water Authority. It is hoped that the problem is already under control. If not, the removal equipment will need to be installed in order to ensure high water quality.

Recommended Action – No action required.

6. RECREATION COMMITTEE

Barber & Jacoby

Item 6A: Middle School Field

Joe Sinclair from Central Commons, LLC spoke to Council last month to propose that Council consider leasing the recreational field located on North Center Street across from the site of the former middle school. Central Commons would like to lease the field to the borough for \$1/month on a month-to-month basis so that the field can once again be used by local sports teams for practice. Council asked the Solicitor and Manager to research the issue and report this month.

Legalities

The Solicitor will report on any legal concerns. In general, the property can be listed as an additional insured location for liability insurance at no additional premium. If the lease is recorded, the owner will be protected from liability to the extent provided by a recorded lease. The borough's liability insurance will not extend to the owner.

There is concern about parking. The prior use of the field for recreation created numerous parking problems for residents along Bolton Street. The only practical parking available for the field is the parking lot across Center Street. Utilizing that parking lot creates several new concerns.

Parking

A crosswalk would be necessary to allow safe pedestrian crossing from the parking lot to the field. Associated problems include:

1. The parking lot is significantly higher than the road, making ADA compliance problematic.
2. This would be a mid-block crosswalk, where drivers are even less likely to yield to pedestrians.
3. The crosswalk will lack line-of-site visibility to northbound drivers.
4. Among the required crosswalk warning devices would be an overhead mast sign due to limited line-of-site.
5. ADA compliant approaches would be necessary on both sides of the road.
6. The fence along Center Street would have to be extended, with a single entrance gate, to discourage random pedestrian crossings at various points on Center Street.

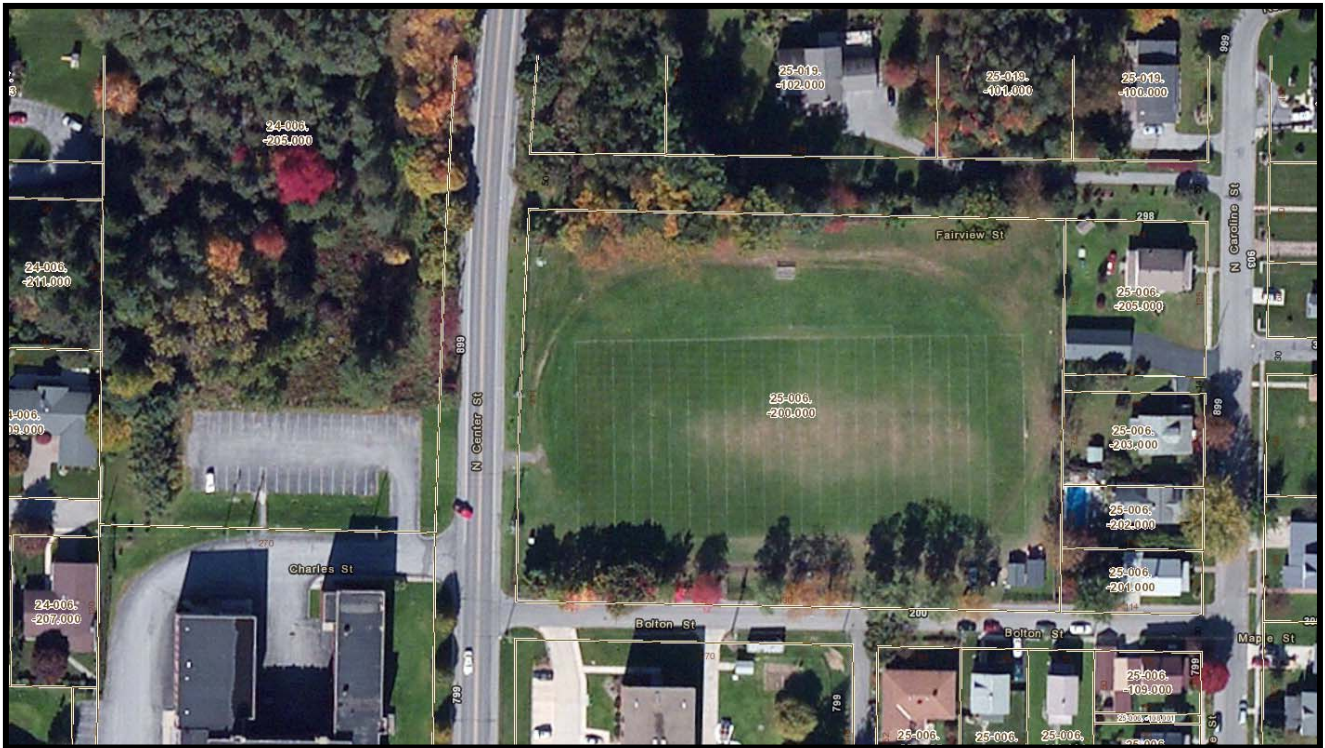
Installing a safe crosswalk at this particular location is a relatively expensive endeavor. The cost of all required components including the advance warning signs, crossing signs, overhead sign, ADA modifications, additional fence and the crosswalk itself would easily exceed \$25,000.

Field Size

The minimum regulation dimensions (yards) for a soccer field are 70 x 110. Memorial Field soccer field is 63 x 107. The current football field (see aerial photo below) at the middle school field is 53 x 120.

Making the middle school field 70 x 110 would require some site grading, and would allow space for bleachers along the sideline. Making it the same size as Memorial Field would require no grading.

There is not adequate space on the property to accommodate any on-site parking.



Facility Condition

1. The grass surface of the field is in good condition.
2. There are several trees along Bolton Street that are dead or dying. Large dead limbs should be removed. Cost estimate is \$1,000.
3. Both sets of existing wood bleachers are deteriorated and need to be replaced. Cost estimate is \$8,500.
4. The wood steps from Bolton Street to the field are deteriorated and should be replaced. Cost estimate \$1,000.
5. The two storage buildings at the field are in good condition.

Maintenance

Once the facility is under the borough's care, better maintenance of the property must be ensured. The perimeter fence is overgrown with brush and weeds. Most of the fence bordering Center Street needs to be replaced, and the remainder of the perimeter fence is in poor condition. The property is just over three acres and needs to be maintained like a yard.

Recommendations

The Recreation Director feels that the property is an important community asset, that there is a need in the area for additional soccer facilities, but has concerns about the cost of making the facility safe and usable.

Management recommends that Council pass on the offer.

1. The lack of suitable parking is a significant issue, and the inherent danger in crossing Center Street, even with a properly constructed crosswalk, is reason enough to rule out the use of the field.
2. The Borough already offers significant recreational opportunities, at great cost.
3. Our limited staff already finds it difficult to keep up with maintenance of the existing recreational facilities. This is a very large parcel.
4. Our very limited recreation staff is not currently involved in soccer programs, and does not have the time to get involved in scheduling and managing yet another program and facility.

Recommended Action – Dependent on discussion.

Item 6B: Trail Signage

Allegheny Ridge Corporation (ARCorp) is involved in economic development, historic preservation, outdoor recreation, and environmental conservation. They assist economically struggling communities along a 320-mile corridor in Central/Western Pennsylvania by delivering heritage tourism infrastructure through partnerships with public and private sectors.

On behalf of Ebensburg and Saltsburg (Indiana County) boroughs, ARCorp has obtained a DCNR grant through Southern Alleghenies Planning & Development Commission to improve signage linking the trails in each town with the respective business district. In Ebensburg, the project will include new crosswalk markings on South Center Street and South West Street, and directional signs along the trail directing trail users to stores and restaurants in the downtown.

As the two towns are combined in a single funding application, the Commonwealth Financing Authority is requiring a cooperative agreement between the towns and ARCorp. The match for this grant is 50/50, or about \$1,500.

Recommended Action – Approve the cooperative agreement between Ebensburg Borough, Saltsburg Borough and ARCorp for funding a trail signage project.

7. STREET COMMITTEE

Cobaugh, Miller & Houser

Item 7A: West Street/Lovell Avenue Intersection

Council granted tentative approval last month to Ordinance #629, adding a stop intersection on northbound West Street at Lovell Avenue. The proposed Ordinance has been advertised for public inspection and is ready for final adoption.

Recommended Action – Grant final approval to Ordinance #629 establishing a stop intersection on northbound West Street at Lovell Avenue.

Item 7B: Full-Width Lane Paving

Council granted tentative approval last month to Ordinance #630, requiring full lane width paving for street restoration. The proposed Ordinance has been advertised for public inspection and is ready for final adoption.

Recommended Action – Grant final approval to Ordinance #630 requiring full lane width paving for street restoration.

Item 7C: West Sample Street Parking

Dean Gittings spoke to Council last month about congested parking on West Sample Street. The Street Committee will look at the issue and report this month.

Recommended Action – Dependent on discussion.



8. ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE

Barber, Jacoby & Kuhar

Item 8A: Police Sergeant

Chief Wyland and Mayor Datsko have recommended that Officer Scott Stoltz be promoted to the position of Sergeant.

Recommended Action – Approve the promotion of Officer Scott Stoltz to Sergeant, effective July 1, 2016.

* **Item 8B: Part-time Recreation Positions**

Due to two recent hires accepting summer jobs elsewhere, and a shuffling of staff from the YPCC to the swimming pool, it is necessary to fill vacant positions.

Recommended Action – Hire Cassandra Gabrelson as lifeguard, and Rose Hensel and Krista Berzonski as YPCC assistants, all at the rate of \$8/50/hr.

9. GENERAL BUSINESS

* **Item 9A: Minutes of Previous Meeting(s)**

The minutes of the previous regular meeting are presented for Council review and approval.

Recommended Action – Approve the minutes of the previous meeting(s).

* **Item 9B: Financial Statement**

The financial statement for May 2016 is presented for approval.

Recommended Action – Approve the May 2016 financial statement.

- * Item 9C: Bills
A list of bills totaling \$188,443.51 is submitted for approval.

Recommended Action – Approve payment of the bills as submitted.

Item 9D: Resident Survey

At last month’s meeting Council received a summary of the resident survey, and a long list of each and every comment received. Council will receive a follow-up on many of the comments and suggestions. A complete report on the survey will also be included in the upcoming newsletter.

Recommended Action – No action required.

Item 9E: Municipal Parking Lot

In August 2013 Council approved a 3-year extension of the municipal parking lot lease on West High Street at Cherry Street. The lease, for \$1,000/mo., expired September 2015, and automatically renews for successive 1-year periods at the same rate. Mrs. Williamson is requesting that the rate be increased to \$1,200/mo. effective September 1st.

Williamson mentioned that the stormwater fee added to the expense of the property. The annual stormwater fee is \$600. Staff reminded Williamson that the borough paid \$32,600 for resurfacing the property in 2013. The owner is agreeable to a negotiated rate of \$1,100/mo.

Recommended Action – Dependent on discussion.

10. DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Item 10A: Police Department

Chief Wyland will provide a verbal report on the police department’s activities during the month. A written report was e-mailed to Council separately.

Item 10B: Public Works Department

Public Works Director Jeff Evans will provide a verbal report on the public works department’s activities during the month.

Item 10C: Community Development

Community Development Director Danae Koss will provide a verbal report on the community development department’s activities during the month.

A complete update of the borough’s website has been completed, and Danae will review those changes.

Item 10D: Recreation Department

Recreation Director Samantha Kemock will provide a verbal report on the recreation department’s activities during the month.

- * Item 10E: Codes Enforcement
A monthly codes enforcement report was forwarded to Council.

- * Item 10F: Ebensburg Municipal Authority
A copy of the minutes of the last municipal authority meeting is included in Council's packet.
- * Item 10G: Ebensburg Planning Commission – No activity
- * Item 10H: Ebensburg Zoning Board – No activity

11. MEDIA COMMENTS/QUESTIONS

Representatives of the media are invited to comment and ask questions at this time on any issues, whether or not on the agenda.

12. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Members of the public are invited to comment at this time on any issues, whether or not on the agenda.

13. ADJOURNMENT

Copies of all staff reports and documents subject to disclosure that relate to any item of business referred to on the agenda are available for public inspection the Thursday before each regularly scheduled meeting at the Borough office, located at 300 West High Street, Ebensburg, Pa. Any documents subject to disclosure that are provided to members of the Borough Council regarding any item on this agenda are available for public inspection at the Borough office or at www.ebensburgpa.com.

In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, if you need special assistance to participate in this meeting, please contact the Borough office (814) 472-8780 or eburg@ebensburgpa.com. Notification 48-hours before the meeting will enable the Borough to make reasonable arrangements to ensure accessibility to this meeting.