

The regular monthly meeting of the Ebensburg Borough Council was called to order on Monday, August 28, 2017 at 6:30 p.m. at the Ebensburg Municipal Building, 300 W. High Street, Ebensburg, by Council President Doug Tusing.

Present: Doug Tusing, President
Susan Barber, Vice President
Cecilia Houser
Dave Kuhar
John Cobaugh
Theresa Jacoby
Joe Miller

Others: Randy Datsko, Mayor
Terry Wyland, Chief of Police
Jeff Evans, Public Works Director
Mark Wirfel, Water Treatment Plant Supervisor
Daniel Penatzer, Borough Manager
Danea Koss, Community Development Director
Dirk Johnson, Recreation Director
Blair Pawlowski, Solicitor
Josh Byers, The Mountaineer-Herald
Jocelyn Brumbaugh, The Tribune Demorcat
Sean Sauro, The Altoona Mirror

Audience: 4

A. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

B. **Public Comments** – Mr. Tusing noted that the meeting was being recorded by Josh Byers.

C. **Consent Agenda**

Ms. Barber made a motion to approve the consent agenda containing the following items.
(Cobaugh) Motion passed unanimously.

1. Approve the minutes of the July 24, 2017 regular monthly meeting of Borough Council.
2. Approve the Financial Statement.
3. Approve payment of the bills.

D. **Appointment to Address Council** – Mr. Bill Shaffer of Scanlan Electric Supply expressed concern that the borough has not shopped with them since August of 2016. He said that he has heard from other local businesses that the borough doesn't support local businesses.

E. **Mayor's Report** – Mayor Datsko reminded everyone that school started back last week and to be careful to watch for pedestrians and to stop for pedestrians at the crosswalks.

F. **Council President** – Mr. Tusing reported that the Penn State Master Gardener's have been working diligently on the community garden behind the YPCC. He added that there will be

vegetable gardening, pollinator/flower gardens, perennial gardens and handicapped-accessible gardens.

G. Water/Wastewater Committee

Mr. Mark Wirfel, plant supervisor, provided a verbal report of plant activities including 30 million gallons of clean water returned to Howells Run, 16 tons of sludge sent to landfill and no excursions for the month of July.

1. **Wastewater Project Update** – Mr. Kuhar shared that the permit for the project has been received and the Pennvest application has been submitted. The Pennvest board's meeting is scheduled for October 18th.
2. **Civil Complaint** – Mr. Kuhar reported that the borough has been joined in a civil complaint filed in the Court of Common Pleas regarding reimbursement of damages that resulted to private property during a backup of the sewage. The legal documents have been forwarded to the insurance company, who will be defined in the matter. The amount requested is \$3500.00.

H. Recreation Committee

1. **YPCC Loan** – Ms. Jacoby reported that the YPCC loan was acquired in 2001 in the amount of \$600,000. The Borough has always made inflated payments to retire it early. The balance of the loan is now around \$61,000. The interest rate on the loan is just over 4%. The Borough earns much less than that on investments, thus it makes sense to pay it off with funds on hand.

Ms. Jacoby made a motion to pay off the YPCC loan in the amount of approximately \$61,000. (Miller) Motion passed unanimously.

I. Street Committee

1. **Tanner Street Bridge** – Mr. Miller reported that the Tanner Street bridge was last repaired in 1977. It consists of steel I-beams, girders and a large corrugated metal pipe. The I-beams are rusting, the metal pipe is rotted and the bricks are collapsing. PennDOT has a grant program that would reimburse the borough 80% of project costs, but the project must be included in PennDOT's Traffic Improvement Plan (TIP). In order to be included in the TIP, a formal bridge inspection and report is necessary. The 2019 TIP is being finalized now, so it is urgent that the inspection be completed immediately. The borough engineer has submitted a proposal to perform the inspection at a cost of \$4,380.

Mr. Miller made a motion to approve a bridge inspection and report to be performed by Kimball on the Tanner Street bridge at a cost of \$4,380. (Houser) Motion passed unanimously.

J. Administration Committee – None.

K. General Business

1. Outdoor Burning

Mr. Penatzer reported that Ordinance #638 was proposed last month. It prohibits open burning at all times, allowing recreational fires, with restrictions. Council requested additional information regarding burning regulations, and was provided a copy of the current burning ordinance for review.

The consensus of Council was to keep the current burning ordinance as is.

2. Street Sweeper

Mr. Penatzer resumed the discussion from last month concerning the jointly-owned street sweeper where it appeared that the consensus of Council was reluctance to sell the borough's share of the sweeper to Cambria Township, or to incur the high cost of a new sweeper.

Further discussions were held with the Township and the borough suggested that a log be developed detailing each municipality's use of the machine by engine hours. The township doesn't believe that will work and has offered to sell their share of the sweeper to the borough.

Borough staff does not wish to buyout the township, so the staff is recommending to Council that the matter of a new street sweeper be referred to the administrative committee for further discussion during the budget process, allowing them to address it over time in the capital budget. In the interim, staff will utilize the log of engine hours, distributing ongoing maintenance costs accordingly.

3. Garbage Bids

Mr. Penatzer announced that the 3-year garage collection and recycling contract expires at the end of 2017 and that the contract has been advertised, with bids due September 5th.

4. Timber Sale

A timber sale at the rear of the airport was approved by Council in March. The borough/municipal authority own a total of 1,300 acres, primarily situated in Cambria Township.

Darrell Wilson, the borough's forester, wanted to delay until drier ground conditions. The sale has now been advertised, with bids due September 5th. After bids are received, a bid tabulation will be presented to Council for consideration, at which time the bid may be accepted or denied.

L. Department Reports

1. **Police Department** – Chief Wyland reported that body cameras are working and a grant from the Moose was received. He added that the Downtown Shutdown was rained out and that there was a good turnout for Homecoming.
2. **Public Works Department** – Mr. Evans reported on last month's activities including an update on the DAF system, SCADA software, playground fence project and parking lot project.
3. **Community Development Department**
Ms. Koss reported on last month's activities including Volunteer Night & Main Street Happy Hour night invitations, Downtown Shutdown and Homecoming updates, status of PotatoFest planning and the Fall Foliage Ride.
4. **Recreation Department** – Mr. Johnson reported on last month's activities including the Beer & Wine 5k, updates at the Tennis Center and the painting project in the breezeway and lobby at the YPCC.

M. Media Comments/Questions – None.

N. Public Comments

Mr. Bill Link, Spruce Street asked if the private sewer repair work would be required, at all costs.

O. Executive Session – Council entered into executive session at 7:07 PM.

There being no further business Mr. Miller made a motion to adjourn. (Kuhar) Motion passed unanimously.

Meeting Adjourned: 7:36 PM

Minutes Recorded by: Danae Koss, Community Development Director