The regular monthly meeting of the Ebensburg Borough Council was called to order on Monday, March 27, 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

Cecilia Houser

Dave Kuhar

Theresa Jacoby

John Cobaugh

Joe Miller

Absent: Susan Barber, Vice-President

Others: Daniel Penatzer, Borough Manager

Jeff Evans, Public Works Director

Randy Datsko, Mayor

Terry Wyland, Chief of Police

Danea Koss, Community Development Director

Blair Pawlowski, Solicitor

Josh Byers, The Mountaineer-Herald

Sean Sauro, The Altoona Mirror

Randy Griffith, The Tribune Democrat

Audience: 7

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**

Mr. Miller made a motion to approve the consent agenda containing the following items.

(Houser) Motion passed unanimously.

1. Approve the minutes of the February 27, 2017 regular monthly meeting of Borough Council.

2. Approve the Financial Statement.

3. Approve payment of the bills.

D. **Appointment to Address Council** – None.

E. **Mayor’s Report –** None.

F. **Council President** – None.

G. **Water/Wastewater Committee**

1. A report from Mark Wirfel, plant supervisor, was provided in Council’s packet. There were no excursions for the month of March.

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2. **Wastewater Project Update**

* **Scope of Work** - Mr. Kuhar reported the permit application has been completed and sent to DEP. There are no further updates expected until mid-Summer.
* **Pressure Testing Notices** – Mr. Kuhar reported that initial notices for the required pressure testing of sewer laterals were mailed on March 7th to customers in Elderwood and Industrial Park sections of the service area.

3. **Disinfection Byproducts**

Mr. Kuhar reported that the need for flushing of the Saltlick line and the cleaning of the Ogden tank was discussed last month. The line from Saltlick to the tank has already been flushed. Utility Service Company will be in soon to clean the tank. The line will then be flushed from the tank to the Industrial Park.

4. **Delinquency Report**

Mr. Kuhar reported that from time to time staff updates the members on the status of delinquent utility accounts. The balance over 90 days due is $571 and the balance over 120 days due is $4,076.

Considering that we bill in excess of $3.8 million annually (water, sewer, stormwater, garbage), having less than $5,000 delinquent is extraordinary. A delinquency rate of under two-tenths of one percent speaks well of our customers, and of the dedication and attention that Rose Myers pays to our billing system on a continual basis.

5. **Chapter 94 Report**

The annual Chapter 94 report for wastewater operations has been completed and submitted to DEP. A copy is posted on the website.

H. **Recreation Committee –** None.

I. **Street Committee -** None.

J. **Administration Committee** **–** None.

K. **General Business**

**Garbage Dumpsters**Mr. Penatzer shared that Council granted tentative approval last month to Ordinance #637, amending regulations applicable to garbage dumpsters. The Ordinance is intended to lessen the amount of litter being blown from dumpsters and ensure that dumpsters are regularly services.

Mr. Kuhar made a motion to approve draft Ordinance #637, with noted amendment to omit Section 3, C, regarding servicing hours, regulating dumpsters. (Houser)

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Roll call was taken:

Barber Yes Kuhar Yes

Tusing Yes Jacoby No

Cobaugh Yes Houser Yes Motion passed.

**Timber Sale**

Mr. Penatzer shared that Mr. Darrell Wilson, the borough’s forester, is recommending a timber sale on borough-owned property at the rear of the airport. The last sale was in 2008. This sale is on 140 acres and would include twelve different species. The sale should produce over 305,000 board feet of timber. Proceeds of the sale are estimated at $130,000.

Mr. Wilson will prepare the bid documents and the contracts, and advertise the sale. Notices will be mailed out to 15-20 logging companies, and at least six bidders are expected.

Mr. Cobaugh made a motion to approve advertising a timber sale on property at the rear of the airport. (Kuhar) Motion passed.

**Spring Clean Up**

Mr. Penatzer announced that Spring Clean Up is scheduled for regular garbage days on April 25th and 26th.

**County Parking Lot**

The county parking lot on Center Street, opposite the front of the courthouse, is badly crumbled and in need of repair. The county is not able to afford the cost of the project. Staff recommends a cooperative project that would improve the parking lot, complement the streetscape, and make the project affordable.

The borough will underwrite the costs of the proposed improvements. In exchange, the county would agree to provide an additional liquid fuels allotment to the borough in future years for borough projects that are eligible for liquid fuels funds. This will be especially helpful to the borough when streets will need to be repaired following the wastewater project.

The cost of the project $33,000 total. The borough would pay those costs up front, and the county would allocate an equal amount in liquid fuels funds over the next two years.

The borough will perform the removal of lights and guardrails, electrical service extensions, sign replacement and line striping. We will purchase and install the new streetlights, and will provide black sign posts. We will undertake all design and bidding costs, and will provide inspection services for the project. The county would provide ongoing electricity for the operation of the streetlights and parking meter station.

Ms. Houser made a motion to approve seeking bids for resurfacing of the county parking lot. (Miller) Motion passed.

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**Retire Your Old Glory**

Mr. Penatzer introduced a community-based campaign to collect and properly retire American flags when they are no longer usable, called Retire Your Old Glory.

Because the office is frequently asked how and where to properly dispose of old flags, this program will provide a bin to be placed in the lobby of the borough building into which residents can deposit old flags. The initial cost of the program, including the bin, is $500. Either the Legion or the VFW will agree to pay for that cost.

Boy Scout Troop 98 has agreed to manage the program on an ongoing basis. They will periodically collect the flags, report the number of flags collected and ceremonially dispose of the flags.

The borough’s obligation would be to promote the proper manner of disposing of old flags and the use of the bin in the borough’s newsletter and website, and to pay the annual $25 fee.

Ms. Houser made a motion to approve participation in Retire Your Old Glory. (Jacoby) Motion passed.

L. **Department Reports**

1. **Police Department** – Chief Wyland reported on last month’s activities including the repair of the cruiser, completion of all officer trainings and all officers are now carrying Narcan.

2. **Public Works Department –** Mr. Evans reported on last month’s activities including updates at the water treatment plant, two small service line repairs, sewer design work**,** new lamppost installation and pothole lawn repair.

1. **Community Development Department**

Ms. Koss reported on last month’s activities including 2017 national accreditation for the Main Street program, membership renewals and mailings, live demonstrations at Art in Bloom, chamber partnership opportunities and Wheels & Wings.

1. **Recreation Department** – Ms. Jacoby mentioned that Ms. Kemock is planning a Flash Light Easter Egg Hunt on April 7th for 5th to 8th grade kids. There is a social skills workshop being planned for autistic children as well as a YPCC fundraiser on May 20th.

M. **Media Comments/Questions** – None.

N. **Public Comments** – Mr. Steve Lieb, 620 N. Caroline Street asked if there was a written contract in place with the County for the parking lot project.

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Mr. Jerry McMullen, W. Lloyd Street asked if the borough will be reimbursed for the man hours they will have in the county parking lot project.

Mr. Bill Link, N. Spruce Street asked when the yard waste dumpster will be coming back.

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

Meeting Adjourned: 7:00 PM

Minutes Recorded by: Danea Koss, Community Development Director