

The regular monthly meeting of the Ebensburg Borough Council was called to order on Monday, May 23, 2016 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
John Cobaugh
Joe Miller
Cecilia Houser
Dave Kuhar

Others: Daniel Penatzer, Borough Manager
Randy Datsko, Mayor
Terry Wyland, Chief of Police
Jeff Evans, Public Works Director
Danea Koss, Community Development Director
Samantha Kemock, Recreation Director
Bernie Kozlovac, Plant Supervisor
Blair Pawlowski, Solicitor
Rachel Cain, Mountaineer-Herald
Kelly Cernetich, Altoona Mirror
Joe Sinclair, Central Commons LLC

Absent: Theresa Jacoby

Audience: 3

A. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

B. **Public Comments** – Mr. Dean Gittings, W. Sample Street, addressed parking concerns on W. Sample Street.

C. **Consent Agenda**

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

1. Approve the minutes of the April 25, 2016 regular monthly meeting of Borough Council.
2. Approve the Financial Statement and quarterly fund transfers.
3. Approve payment of the bills.

D. **Appointment to Address Council** – Mr. Joe Sinclair from Central Commons, LLC made a request to Council for them to consider leasing the recreational field located on North Center Street beside the site of the former middle school. Central Commons, LLC 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 will discuss and make a determination for the next meeting.

E. Mayor's Report

1. Mayor Datsko reported that he has been made aware of parking concerns on the 300 & 400 blocks of W. Sample Street. He deferred to Mr. Dean Gittings to elaborate on what the current parking situation is and what the problems are. The Streets Committee will look into this before the next meeting.
2. Mayor Datsko addressed concerns with motorists not stopping at the crosswalks. He added that the police department did a survey and gave out warnings to 49 people. Starting June 1st the police department will begin writing citations and fining.

F. Council President – None.

G. Water/Wastewater Committee

1. There were no excursions for the month of April 2016 at the wastewater plant. Plant flows averaged 0.796 mgd.
2. Mr. Kuhar shared that the municipal authority took several actions in preparation for the upcoming wastewater project. A letter of explanation will be mailed to all customers later in the week detailing the project and the new rate structure. Public meetings have been scheduled for June 7th, 6 pm, June 8th, 1 pm and June 11th, 1 pm.
3. Mr. Kuhar added that the drawdown of the lower reservoir has been completed and that the drainage structure is being evaluated and final design and permitting will be completed.
4. Mr. Kuhar informed Council that a quote received from PAX Water Technologies for a project on the Ogden tank was twice as much as expected. Further research is being done.
5. Mr. Kuhar shared that the permit for the Beech Street stormwater project has been received that day.

H. Recreation Committee

1. Mr. Penatzer informed Council that the grant for the Nathan's Divide feasibility study has been pulled and the project is on hold until they decide how they want to proceed. He added that the borough would likely not be asked to serve as the applicant, going forward, because the group has now established their own 501(c)(3).

I. Street Committee

1. West Street/Lovell Avenue Intersection

Mr. Cobaugh informed Council that several suggestions have been made to add a stop sign on West Street, northbound approaching Lovell Ave. It was suggested that there may be increased traffic coming from the rear of the new Sheetz store as well as the new Al's Tire location.

Mr. Cobaugh made a motion to grant tentative approval to Ordinance #629 establishing a stop intersection on northbound West Street at Lovell Avenue, and advertise for public inspection. (Houser) Motion passed unanimously.

2. Full-Width Lane Paving

Since the upcoming wastewater project will result in many borough streets being excavated, staff is recommending that an Ordinance be adopted requiring full-width paving.

Ms. Houser made a motion to grant tentative approval to Ordinance #630 requiring “full width lane paving” for street restoration, and advertise for final inspection. (Cobaugh) Motion passed unanimously.

3. PennDOT Paving Project

Borough crews have completed all prep work for PennDOT’s resurfacing project on High Street and enter Street. Five new water valves were installed on North Center Street. Those areas will be sawcut in the near future and a permanent patch applied. Old stormwater basins were replaced on South Center Street above Prave Street. Those basins were at risk of collapse. The old double basins were replaced with triple basins on both sides of Center street. Mr. Penatzer added that PennDOT awarded the bid to New Enterprise.

J. Administration Committee

1. Summer Office Position

Mr. Barber made a motion to hire Jill Bracken as summer office assistant at the rate of \$8.50/hr. (Miller) Motion passed unanimously.

2. Summer Maintenance Position

Ms. Barber made a motion to hire James McCulley as a summer maintenance worker at the rate of \$8.50/hr. (Kuhar) Motion passed unanimously.

K. General Business

1. Resident Survey

Mr. Penatzer shared that staff will prepare a follow-up for Council next month on many of the comments and suggestions received through the resident survey. A complete report will also be included in the upcoming newsletter.

L. Department Reports

1. Police Department

Chief Wyland provided a written report on last month’s activities including an increase in complaints related to jaywalking and, he added, that the department has been inundated with calls about IRS phone scams. The department is working with an IRS rep out of Pittsburgh and they are looking to set up education al programs at the Senior Center.

2. Public Works Department

Mr. Evans reported on last month’s activities of staff maintenance including an update on meter valves on Center Street, routine maintenance at the water plant, Park Street leak repairs and hydrant flushing.

3. **Community Development**

Ms. Koss reported on last month's activities including preparations for the schedule of summer community events, the upcoming Memorial Day Parade and Ceremony, the historic designation project, the opening of 1st Summit Bank and merger of Ebensburg Office Supply and W.B. Mason.

4. **Recreation Department**

Ms. Kemock reported on last month's activities including approval for Silver Sneakers, an update on the youth soccer clinic with Mount Aloysius, preparation for the pool opening, and the addition of a roller hockey league. Ms. Kemock also gave an update on the Tennis Center open house and other events.

6. **Planning Commission** – None

7. **Ebensburg Zoning Board** – The Zoning Board denied an amended special exception for an additional parking area at 400 North Center Street.

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

N. **Public Comments** –None

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

Meeting Adjourned: 7:20 PM

Minutes Recorded by:

Danea Koss, Community Development Director