

The regular monthly meeting of the Ebensburg Borough Council was called to order on Monday, May 22, 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
Joe Miller

Absent: Theresa Jacoby
Randy Datsko, Mayor
Terry Wyland, Chief of Police
Jeff Evans, Public Works Director

Others: Daniel Penatzer, Borough Manager
Danea Koss, Community Development Director
Dirk Johnson, Recreation Director
Blair Pawlowski, Solicitor
Josh Byers, The Mountaineer-Herald
Sean Sauro, The Altoona Mirror
Katie Smolen, The Altoona Mirror

Audience: 5

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.
(Cobaugh) Motion passed unanimously.

1. Approve the minutes of the April 24, 2017 regular monthly meeting of Borough Council.
2. Approve the Financial Statement.
3. Approve payment of the bills with one abstention by Councilor Barber on amount owed to Barber Oil Company.

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

E. **Mayor's Report** – None.

F. **Council President** – Mr. Tusing welcomed the borough's new recreation director, Dirk Johnson.

G. Water/Wastewater Committee

1. Mark Wirfel, plant supervisor, reported on activities at the water treatment plant. The plant returned 34 million gallons of clean water to Howells Run, all tests and operational requirements were met for April, 15.9 tons of sludge were sent to the landfill and there were no excursions for the month. Mr. Wirfel added that all licenses are in order and that Sherry Burkett has been promoted to lab supervisor.

H. Recreation Committee

1. Swimming Pool

Ms. Barber reported that the pool is scheduled to open on Saturday, May 27th. The pool was acid-washed this year prior to refilling. She added that the borough crews replaced several heater and pump parts, landscaping has been completed and the new pool manager has met with all new lifeguards.

2. Tennis Center Lighting

Sylvania has not yet completed the rebate application. \$40,000 of the \$49,000 total bill is being paid to Sylvania, and the balance is withheld pending completion of the application.

I. Street Committee - None.

J. Administration Committee

1. Recreation Director

Ms. Barber announced that the recreation director position was vacated last month and the position was advertised. Twenty-five applicants were received and twelve of the applicants were interviewed. Three of the twelve received a follow-up interview. The selection committee was comprised of Council's administrative committee and recreation board, with the Borough Manager participating in the second round of interviews.

The committee unanimously recommended Dirk Johnson for the position.

Make it a matter of record that Dirk Johnson was hired as Recreation Director, effective May 15th, at a salary of \$38,900.

K. General Business

1. Penelec Street Lights

Mr. Penatzer shared there are 224 street lights in Ebensburg Borough owned by Penelec. This does not include the Victorian streetlights along High Street and Center Street that are owned by the Borough. The borough-owned street lights are supplied power through a conventional meter, and the borough is billed on a kWh basis. The Penelec-owned street lights are billed monthly on a flat rate, costing a total of \$2,900 per month.

Penelec has a program to change out the old sodium vapor fixtures for new LED lights. There is no cost to the borough, and the change could save as much as \$600 per month.

Most of the Penelec streetlights are now 70W. Penelec is suggesting that a 50W LED would be closest to being equal, however, the direction of the light will be more confined. Staff recommends switching to 50W LED in a remote sample area, such as the north end of Caroline Street and the loop along Roland and Tibbott streets. If the new lighting is acceptable, the project could then continue throughout town.

The change to LED involves replacement of the entire fixture. The installation is only done by the trouble shooting teams as time permits. The complete conversion will take more than a year.

Ms. Houser made a motion to approve conversion by Penelec to LED streetlights, beginning in the northeast corner of town and progressing accordingly. (Kuhar) Motion passed unanimously.

2. County Parking Lot

Mr. Miller shared that in March Council approved a joint project with the County for resurfacing of the parking lot on Center Street, opposite the front of the courthouse. Bids were received for the project and opened on May 15th:

Quaker Sales	\$33,679.90
Grannas Brothers	\$41,192.30
Duey, Inc.	\$41,802.34
New Enterprise	\$42,681.25
LTM Paving	\$43,599.20

The project cost estimate was \$31,900. Staff recommends that the bid be awarded to Quaker Sales.

Mr. Miller made a motion to award a contract for resurfacing of the county parking lot to Quaker Sales in the amount of \$33,679.90. (Cobaugh) Motion passed unanimously.

L. Department Reports

1. **Police Department** – Chief Wyland reminded everyone that school would be out soon and to watch for kids riding bikes. He added that kids must obey the rules of the road and wear helmets. The department is working on a grant to be able to provide bike helmets to kids. He added that he will have two officers returning from medical leave.
2. **Public Works Department** – Mr. Evans reported on last month's activities including a flooding problem at the water treatment plant, completed washout inspections of the Hillcrest and Ogden Road tanks, and a mainline replacement on Poplar Street. He added that the Beech Street stormwater project on the east side of Julian Street was completed. Work remains to be completed on the Fair property. He added that the pool has been

emptied and press washed and acid washed and the yard dumpster is out of use and has been requiring almost daily dumping. The crew is planning to move it to the Babcock property when the gate access system is operational.

3. Community Development Department

Ms. Koss reported on last month's activities including Art in Bloom wrap-up, updates on Wheels & Wings and the Downtown Shutdown and Homecoming. She announced that the County Commissioners and D.A.'s Office would be sponsoring a baseball clinic with the Altoona Curve during Homecoming on July 29th.

- 4. Recreation Department** – Mr. Johnson reported on last month's activities including thanking Phil Miller, Tyler Weigle and Jeff Evans and public works department for their work in getting the pool ready to open for the season. He added that Cory Myers is working to get a roller hockey league together and will be utilizing the skate park.

M. Media Comments/Questions – None.

N. Public Comments –

Ms. June Fether of E. Alton Street shared that there is water run-off pushing rocks and stones into the street in the intersection of Locust and Alton.

Mr. Bill Link of N. Spruce Street asked if we are the mercy of the gas company to fix the roads.

Commissioner Chernisky said that he is trying to attend a Council meeting for each borough. He shared information about the county's comprehensive plan focusing on bridge repairs, blight, jobs and drugs. He cited specific examples of implementing property transfer and car registration fees to go toward blight removal and bridge repairs. He shared his contact information and encouraged anyone to call his personal cell phone if they need to reach him for anything.

Mr. Ray Johnson asked if a map of the wastewater project was available online.

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

Meeting Adjourned: 7:04 PM

Minutes Recorded by: Danae Koss, Community Development Director