



Ebensburg Borough Council Meeting
Monday, August 26, 2013
6:30 p.m.

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Borough Council
Doug Tusing, President
Deborah Nesbella, Vice-President
Susan Barber
Cecilia Houser
Terry Illig
Dave Kuhar
Joe Lutz

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 9A: Approve the minutes of the July 29, 2013 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

5. WATER & WASTEWATER COMMITTEE

Kuhar

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: Water Project

The water project was discussed in detail at the municipal authority meeting. Details are included in the minutes of the municipal authority meeting, contained in the packet.

Recommended Action – No action required.

6. RECREATION COMMITTEE

Illig, Houser & Nesbella

Item 6A: Jencks Dam

Work has begun on the Jencks Dam project. The spillway has been cleared of all vegetation. Trees were removed from the banks of the stream, and riprap stone was placed. The area looks much better.



The dam was treated for weeds this summer at the same time Lake Rowena was treated. It will take through at least 2014 for those to clear.

We have had discussions with the Pa Fish Commission about restricting fishing on Jencks Dam to children, and making it “catch & release”. It is possible to do that, but the lengthy process to have that approved is not worth the effort. We can impose those restrictions on our own without formal approval, but the Fish Commission will not be able to enforce it. Staff does not believe that is critical. The Fish Commission asked to be able to first conduct a survey of the dam for numbers of fish and species next spring before we impose the restriction.

Recommended Action – No action required.

Item 7A: Highway Signs

Council is provided with a copy of a letter addressed to PennDOT expressing concerns for the inadequate signage leading to Ebensburg on major highways. The three main concerns addressed include:

- 1) The name of the Route 219 exit at Route 22 should be better identified as an Ebensburg exit, and not Blairsville/Hollidaysburg.
- 2) The lack of any sign leading up to the Ebensburg exit on Route 22 eastbound.
- 3) The lack of any sign for Center Street near the Uni-Mart.

PennDOT staffers met with borough staff on August 1st to propose several solutions.

- 1) A new 10' x 3.5' sign will be installed 800' north of the existing "Exit 1 Mile" sign in the northbound lane of Route 219, indicating that the next two exits can be used for Ebensburg.
- 2) A new 6.5' x 3' sign will be added on Route 22 eastbound just west of the PennDOT shed. There is not room at the exit for a conventional exit sign due to Conigy Road and a swale.
- 3) Signs will be placed east and west on Route 22 indicating that a turn can be made at Center Street into Ebensburg



Considering the high cost and complicated process of changing the name of an exit, borough staff believes that PennDOT has made a good-faith effort to solve our problem, and recommends that we agree to PennDOT's proposal. The change will take some time for administrative approvals, but will likely be done this fall.

Recommended Action – Dependent on discussion.

Item 7B: West Sample Street Parking

A resident asked Council to consider limiting parking on West Sample Street near the intersection with Beech Street. Drivers approaching Sample Street when traveling north on Beech Street have difficulty seeing oncoming traffic. Signs prohibiting parking "Here to Corner" were suggested.



Looking left when pulling from 100 block of North Beech St.



Looking right when pulling from 100 block of North Beech St.

Staff finds that vehicles on Sample Street are legally parked, and does not believe the intersection is any more obstructed than any other. The number of vehicles parked on Sample Street should decrease when the new Nulton parking lot is completed this fall.

Recommended Action – Dependent on discussion.

Item 7C: Pedestrian Safety

Council is provided with a copy of a letter addressed to PennDOT seeking authorization to install several signs intended to improve pedestrian safety. PennDOT has approved the installation of the “Reduced Speed Ahead” signs and the green pedestrian/arrow signs. They cannot approve the signs at the entrances to town, as PennDOT’s guidance states that pedestrian signs are limited to the actual locations of crosswalks.



The necessary signs and posts will be ordered and installed this fall. Mayor Datsko and Chief Wyland are working on a public awareness campaign for increased enforcement.

Recommended Action – No action required.

Item 7D: Ordinance Amendment, Grass & Weeds

Although we have been enforcing it for years, the Borough lacks any specific language in the Sidewalk Ordinance or the Grass Ordinance that requires sidewalks to be kept clear of grass and weeds. Ordinance #606 is proposed to include that language in the Grass Ordinance.



The photo of North Marian Street to the right is typical of areas where new sidewalks have been installed. One or two residents wish to replace the brick sidewalks, but then fail to maintain the bricks.

Recommended Action – Grant tentative approval to Ordinance #606 prohibiting grass and weeds in sidewalk surfaces, and to advertise for public inspection.

8. ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE **Barber & Lutz**

9. GENERAL BUSINESS

- * Item 9A: Minutes of Previous Meeting(s)
The minutes of the previous meeting are presented for Council review and approval.

Recommended Action – Approve the minutes of the previous meeting.

- * Item 9B: **Financial Statement**
The financial statement for July 2013 is presented for approval. A 12-month fund balance analysis is also included.

Recommended Action – Approve the July 2013 financial statement.

- * Item 9C: **Bills**
A list of bills totaling \$206,946.67 is submitted for approval.

Recommended Action – Approve payment of the bills as submitted.

Item 9D: Downtown Signage Guidelines

The Main Street Partnership wishes to have guidelines adopted to assist downtown businesses with ideas and designs for appropriate signage. Council has been provided with a draft of the proposed guidelines.

Signs do more than reflect the overall image and success of a business. They contribute color, variety and detail to the character of the downtown area. Signs displayed in the downtown should be compatible with the downtown’s historic character and charm.

The proposed guidelines are just that; guidelines. The Partnership recommends that the guidelines eventually be incorporated into the Zoning Ordinance, and become mandatory for all signs in the central business district. The Zoning Ordinance currently regulates the size, number and locations of signs. For now, the guidelines would simply be a recommendation, with one exception. If the business owner applies for a façade grant, then the involved signs will have to comply with the adopted guidelines.

Recommended Action – Adopt the Ebensburg Signage Guidelines, and forward to the Ebensburg Borough Planning Commission for consideration in future zoning amendments.

Item 9E: Garage & Yard Sales

The number of garage and yard sales within the borough is increasing, as are the number of unsightly fliers being left on utility and light poles. The borough has long had an ordinance that regulates garage sales, but it did no more than limit the number of sales at a given property. Staff has drafted an ordinance to replace the existing ordinance, modeled after garage sale ordinances in place in many other municipalities.

Ordinance #607 defines what all is considered to be a garage sale; limits the frequency and hours; limits the number, size and location of signs; and requires that signs be removed immediately after the sale.



Sign for a May sale still up in August

The proposed ordinance, as did the old, requires that a permit be obtained. There is no charge for the permit. The applicant for the permit is responsible for compliance, including the removal of all signs.

Recommended Action – Grant tentative approval to Ordinance #607, replacing the Garage Sale Ordinance, and advertise for public inspection.

Item 9F: Welcome Signs

The second “Welcome to Ebensburg” sign sponsored by the Ebensburg Rotary Club has been completed in the Mylo Park Area. Staff will landscape the area around the sign this week.



Incredibly, there is no electric service close to the site. Penelec would have to erect three spans of wire to provide service. Staff is negotiating that price, and is also considering a solar cell for the light.

Recommended Action – No action required.

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 Dave Dodson 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.

Item 10D: Recreation Department

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

* Item 10E: Codes Enforcement

A monthly codes enforcement report is provided in Council’s mailbox.

* 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

1) Ed Menie

The zoning hearing board approved a variance for the side setback for a swimming pool at 520 West Highland Avenue.

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.