



Ebensburg Borough Council Meeting
Monday, June 24, 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 May 20, 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

Item 2A: Darrell Wilson, Consulting Forester

Mr. Wilson was asked to attend to review with Council the Borough's woodlands, their locations and condition, and to discuss long-term timber management.

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. Severn Trent’s Annual Report was distributed to Council.

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

7. STREET COMMITTEE

Lutz & Houser

* **Item 7A: East Ogle Street Sidewalk**

The contractor has completed all work on this sidewalk project. The street is expected to be resurfaced in the next few weeks. New signage will be installed as soon as it arrives, along with the parking meters. Trees will be planted later in the fall.



Recommended Action – No action required.

Item 7B: Sidewalk Ordinance Amendment

Ordinance #605 was first proposed in April, amended and re-advertised in May, and is now ready for final adoption. It prescribes the specific segments of streets on which sidewalks are required.

Two comments were received relative to the proposed Ordinance. An owner in the 200 block of South Marian Street was concerned that a sidewalk on the west side would eliminate the existing off-street parking at the front of the building. The proposed Ordinance does not alter the sidewalk alignment in that block. An owner on East Crawford Street expressed concern that adequate space does not exist for a new sidewalk at the front of his house. A response to that letter was provided to Council.

Recommended Action – Grant final approval to Ordinance #605.

Item 7C: Street Paving

The bids for the 2013 street paving project were opened on June 3rd. The following bids were received.

Grannas Brothers	\$ 49,467.00
New Enterprise Stone & Lime	\$ 52,388.85
HRI, Inc.	\$ 62,290.00
Quaker Sales Corp.	\$ 64,160.50
Glenn Johnston, Inc.	\$124,248.00

The project estimate was \$55,400. The project will be paid for with \$33,500 in County Aid Liquid Fuels and \$15,967 from the Liquid Fuels Account. No general fund money will be used for this year's project. The project includes the 100 and 200 blocks of East Ogle Street, all of South Sugar Street, and the 100 and 200 blocks of North Sugar Street.

Recommended Action – Award a bid in the amount of \$49,467.00 to Grannas Brothers for street resurfacing.

Item 7D: Parking Lot Paving

The bids for paving of the municipal parking lot were opened on June 3rd. The following bids were received.

Grannas Brothers	\$ 32,672.30
Quaker Sales Corp.	\$ 33,627.50
New Enterprise Stone & Lime	\$ 34,823.25
LTM Paving	\$ 40,767.45



The project estimate was \$20,000. The per/ton cost of paving the parking lot is 16% higher than paving of a street due to the more complicated nature of the work. We also added some base repair work that is necessary at the bottom of the parking lot prior to paving.

The project is included in the 2013 capital budget and will be paid for from the borough's capital reserve.

Recommended Action – Award a bid in the amount of \$32,672.30 to Grannas Brothers for street resurfacing.

Item 7E: Crosswalk Safety

Staff is proposing a change in signing for the crosswalks along High Street and Center Street.

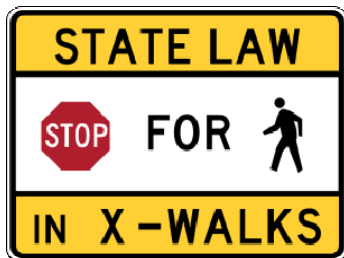
The Borough currently utilizes the yellow upright signs placed in the center of the street to warn motorists of the crosswalks and to be aware of and yield to pedestrians. While the signs are generally effective, there are some disadvantages to their use.

1. The signs tend to narrow the travel lanes. While that serves to slow traffic, it generates frequent complaints from motorists.
2. The signs in the center of the street present a problem for wider vehicles, especially considering the amount of truck traffic there is in town.
3. The signs are only seasonal, as they must be removed from the street for winter street maintenance.
4. The signs are frequently struck by vehicles. By the end of each summer the signs are badly damaged, and have likely caused scratches to the sides of vehicles.

- The signs have been used for so many years that drivers have become accustomed to seeing them, and pay less attention to them.

Staff suggests that we instead take a 4-prong approach to improving crosswalk safety.

First, new signs would be installed at the entrances to town warning drivers that the speed limit decreases to 25 m.p.h. ahead. The newer style sign with the arrow should be used rather than the conventional sign with text, and will be more noticeable.



Second, new signs would be installed at the entrances to town reminding drivers that the law requires them to yield the right-of-way to pedestrians within crosswalks.

Third, new signs would be installed in each direction at each of seven crosswalks (Triumph Street, Julian Street, Cherry Street, Caroline Street, Reddinger Street, Sample Street and the courthouse). These would be green, per MUTCD guidance, with the arrow pointing directly at the crosswalk.



Fourth, increased enforcement is important. The new signs will be very noticeable, and will give all drivers the impression that Ebensburg is concerned for pedestrian safety and that we are serious about enforcement. It will be important for us to make that impression reality, and to develop a reputation for enforcement.

The new proposed signs are all MUTCD compliant but, nonetheless, will require the approval of PennDOT prior to installation.

Recommended Action – Approve a petition to PennDOT to approve the installation of new signs aimed at improving pedestrian safety.

8. ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE

Barber & Lutz

Item 8A: Employee Manual & Police SOP Updates

Four updates to the borough’s employee manual and police procedures are proposed: Distracted Driving, Use of Tasers, Heart & Lung, and Social Media. Council has been provided with copies of the policies.

Recommended Action #1 – Adopt Resolution #2013-06 adopting amendments to the Ebensburg Borough Employee Manual relative to distracted driving and social media.

Recommended Action #2 – Adopt Resolution #2013-07 adopting amendments to the Ebensburg Borough Police Department SOP and Code of Conduct relative to distracted driving, use of tasers, Heart & Lung benefits, and social media.

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 May 2013 is presented for approval. A 12-month fund balance analysis is also included.

Recommended Action – Approve the May 2013 financial statement.

* Item 9C: Bills
A list of bills totaling \$227,127.53 is submitted for approval.

Recommended Action – Approve payment of the bills as submitted.

Item 9D: Lloyd Street Alley

A gravel alley along the west side of the municipal parking lot has been causing recurring problems for many years. During every rain, large amounts of gravel are washed down the alley, across Lloyd Street and deposited along the south side of Lloyd Street near Julian Street. The condition causes great inconvenience for the residents in that area, requires that borough crews repeatedly sweep the area, and creates a safety hazard for bicycles and motorcycles using the street.

The alley serves a parking lot at the rear of the pet store. The property owner, Altoona Homes, has received numerous letters concerning the hazard, but has failed to make any improvements to the parking lot or alley. The property is now owned by Northwest Bank.



Residents of the 200 block of West Lloyd Street are seeking a solution to the problem. The Borough does not maintain alleys. Paving the alley would be quite an expensive project, and would still allow the gravel from the parking lot to wash down across the paved alley.

Staff suggests covering the alley and seeding it. There would be five options available then for access to the parking lot at the rear of the pet store. First, an arrangement could be sought with Music Mart for access from Julian Street. Second, the lot could be accessed from High Street through the alley. Third, the borough could vacate two parking spaces in the municipal lot

and allow access from there. Fourth, the property owner could be charged a fee for vacating the meters for that access. And fifth, those using the parking lot could drive on the grass alley, as is done in other parts of town. None of these options for alternative access are ideal, but it will solve the problem.

Recommended Action – Dependent on discussion.



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 – No activity

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.