



Ebensburg Borough Council Meeting
Monday, May 19, 2014
6:30 p.m.

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Borough Council
Doug Tusing, President
Susan Barber, Vice-President
Cecilia Houser
Theresa Jacoby
Dave Kuhar
Joe Lutz
Joe Miller
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 April 28, 2014 regular monthly meeting of Borough Council.

Item 9B: Approve the Financial Statement.

Item 9C: Approve payment of bills.

Item 10G: Grant final approval to the Sheetz land development plan.

Recommended Action – Approve the consent agenda.

2. APPOINTMENTS TO ADDRESS COUNCIL

Item 2A: Monsignor David Lockard

Monsignor David Lockard wishes to discuss the stormwater fees under consideration.

Item 2B: Rick Mock

Mr. Mock wishes to discuss the proposed sidewalk in front of the NAPA building at 602 West High Street.

3. MAYOR'S REPORT

Item 3A: Report on Police Department

4. COUNCIL PRESIDENT COMMENTS

5. WATER & WASTEWATER COMMITTEE

Kuhar & Houser

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 Plant Operations

Discussions are continuing with Severn Trent over the possibility of Severn Trent managing, under contract, the water treatment plant.

Recommended Action – No action required.

Item 5C: Elevated Storage Tank

The elevated Hillcrest storage tank is scheduled to be painted this summer. It is necessary to replace six large valves at the tank in order to assure continued operations during the painting project. Two worn check valves will be replaced at the same time. The cost of materials, available on the State bid list, is \$28,716. Prices were sought for installation. Staff recommends that a contract be awarded to Hickes Associates, with labor costs of \$9,572.00.

Recommended Action – Award a contract to Hickes Associates in the amount of \$28,716.00 for materials and \$9,572.00 for labor for valve replacement at the elevated tank.



6. RECREATION COMMITTEE

Barber & Jacoby

7. STREET COMMITTEE

Lutz, Miller & Houser

Item 7A: Street Patching

The spot patching of streets should be completed by May 20th. Several complaints were received regarding the number of sites milled at one time, and the length of time between milling and paving. We normally do not have near as many sites to patch. We like to have the holes ready for the blacktop so the product does not cool in the truck. In hindsight, with so much patching to do, the project should have been done in phases.

Recommended Action – No action required.



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 April 2014 is presented for approval.

Recommended Action – Approve the April 2014 financial statement.

- * Item 9C: Bills
A list of bills totaling \$100,381.55 is submitted for approval.

Recommended Action – Approve payment of the bills as submitted.

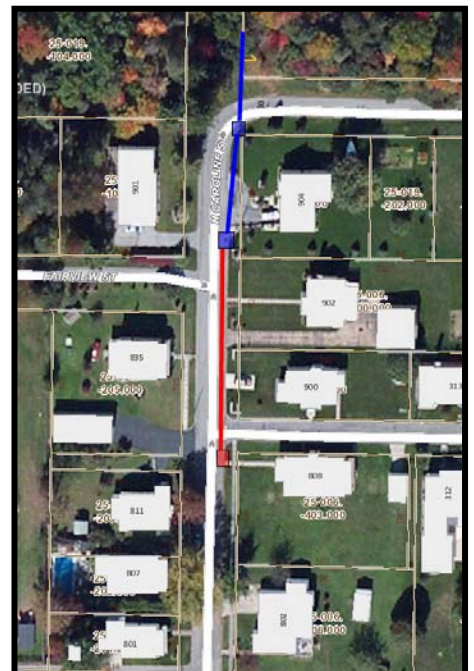
Item 9D: Street Paving Preparations

Staff recommends that a minor stormwater issue be corrected in North Caroline Street prior to paving. Large amounts of stormwater run down Bolton Street toward Caroline Street beginning at Turner Apartments. The water pools at Caroline Street and floods into yards. The problem can be corrected by installing a new catch basin on Caroline Street at Tibbott Street, and connecting it to an existing catch basin 190 feet north (red in drawing). Placing

the basin at this site will be most effective in catching the water from Bolton Street and Caroline Street, and reducing the amount of water continuing to Tibbott Street. Those basins flow toward the reservoir, and do not impact the stormwater situation under discussion in other parts of the northeast corner of town. The new pipe will be 18”, the same size as the existing pipe.

In addition, an existing catch basin on Caroline Street north of Crawford Street requires simple replacement.

Recommended Action – Approve installation of a new catch basin, and 190 feet of stormwater line on North Caroline Street at Tibbott Street.



Item 9E: Stormwater

The stormwater report and recommendations are expected to be received by the June meeting. In the meantime, it might be worth addressing some of the misinformation that is being circulated.

The actual stormwater fee has not yet been determined, and cannot be finalized until the report is received. However, Council has made it clear that the residential fee must be limited to \$100 annually. Some rumors have incorrectly described this fee as \$100/month. Obviously, it is not. Stormwater is now considered a utility, and the fee will appear on all customers' bi-monthly utility bill, thereby spreading the annual fee out over six payments.

The residential fee will represent One Residential Equivalent Unit (REU). Non-residential properties will each be assigned a factor that is based upon the actual amount of impervious surface on the property. That factor will be multiplied times the ERU to determine the annual fee for each property.

The development of a Borough stormwater plan and associated projects has now been ongoing for multiple years. Studies are finally being completed, and Council has identified this area as a high priority with regard to the protection of borough residents as well as their homes and businesses. Simply put, as a Borough we must address these stormwater issues. Unfortunately current budgets and taxation levels do not provide the needed revenue.

Through the implementation of this new utility fee, Council will make every effort to minimize the impact on property owners. In this regard, the following points have already received conceptual support of Council:

- By assessing this fee as a utility, all property owners are rightly being asked to pay their fair share – including those who are currently exempt from paying real estate taxes. While this may create a hardship for some government agencies or non-profits, it does spread the burden across a wider pool of property owners, thus easing the load on everyone. In fact, if the needed revenue were to be sought through normal tax channels, the effective tax rate would need to increase by 8½ mils – a jump of over 65%.
- Council has agreed to reduce the fee for the first year by 50%, before charging the full rate at the beginning of the second and succeeding years.
- Council has expressed an interest in capping the fee for very large commercial properties.
- The program will include a list of potential credits that residents and business owners can apply for (still under development).

As we work to finalize the implementation of this program over the coming months, as always, we welcome the input of residents and business owners. However, we ask that everyone keeps in mind the fact that this issue must be addressed, and as such, the discussion should center on how best to accomplish that.

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

1) Sheetz

The Planning Commission has granted final approval to the Sheetz Land Development Plan on West High Street.

Recommended Action – Grant final approval to the Sheetz land development plan.

* Item 10H: Ebensburg Zoning Board

1) Freeman

The zoning board approved a special exception for a professional office at 303 South Center Street for Attorney Robert Freeman.

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.