

The regular monthly meeting of the Ebensburg Borough Council was called to order on Monday, April 27, 2015 at 6:30 p.m. at the Ebensburg Municipal Building, 300 W. High Street, Ebensburg, by Council Vice President Susan Barber.

Present: Doug Tusing, President  
Susan Barber, Vice President  
Joe Lutz  
Cecilia Houser  
Dave Kuhar  
Theresa Jacoby

Others: Daniel Penatzer, Borough Manager  
Randy Datsko, Mayor  
Blair Pawlowski, Solicitor  
Bernie Kozlovac, Plant Supervisor  
Terry Wyland, Chief of Police  
Danea Koss, Community Development Director  
Kelly Cernetich, The Altoona Mirror  
Brian Fronk, Mainline News

Absent: Joe Miller

Audience: 5

A. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

B. **Public Comments** – None.

C. **Consent Agenda**

Mr. Lutz made a motion to approve the consent agenda, containing the following items: (Kuhar)  
Motion passed unanimously.

1. Approve the minutes of the March 23, 2015 regular monthly meeting of Borough Council.
2. Approve the Financial Statement.
3. Approve payment of bills with an abstention from Ms. Barber on the amount owed to Barber Oil Company.

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

E. **Mayor's Report** – Mayor Datsko reported that recently the Ebensburg Police Department was left a monetary donation from a resident's estate. He added that the money will be well spent.

F. **Council President Comments** – Mr. Tusing thanked Ms. Barber for conducting last month's meeting in his absence. He also commended the Art in Bloom committee on another great event. He added that it appeared to have been the most well attended reception in years past.

G. **Water/Wastewater Committee**

1. There were no excursions for the month of March 2015. Plant flows averaged 1.932 MGD. Mr. Kozlovac, Plant Supervisor, provided a verbal report on activities at the wastewater plant during the month.
2. **East Triumph Street Stormwater** – Snyder Excavating has begun work on the E. Triumph Street Stormwater project. It was necessary for borough crews to lower a water main on the south side of Triumph Street to allow adequate clearance for the new stormwater main. Snyder's work was delayed due to an accident at its own facility, but work is now continuing.

3. **North Beech Street Stormwater** – Both private property easements have been obtained for the Beech Street stormwater project. Notice to proceed was issued to Snyder Excavating on April 14<sup>th</sup>.

H. **Recreation Committee** – Ms. Jacoby encouraged everyone to vote for the Cambria County War Memorial in the Kraft Hockeyville USA contest now through Wednesday, April 29<sup>th</sup>.

I. **Street Committee**

1. **Sample Street Parking**

Tammy Monito of Ebensburg Senior Center asked last month for a solution to a parking problem on West Sample Street at the exit from the senior center parking lot. Council agreed to look at the situation.

The street committee is recommending that two “No Parking Between Signs” signs be installed opposite the exit from the senior center to prohibit parking, allowing for an adequate turning radius from the parking lot.

Ms. Houser made a motion to approve restricted parking in the 300 block of West Sample Street with appropriate signage. (Lutz) Motion passed unanimously.

2. **West High Street Parking**

In order to satisfy PennDOT requirements for sight distance, Council last month granted tentative approval to Ordinance #623 prohibiting parking 80 feet west of the proposed 1<sup>st</sup> Summit Bank driveway. The police and staff recommend that the prohibition be enforced by using “No Parking Between Signs” signs. This method will negate the need for an Ordinance amendment.

Ms. Houser made a motion to rescind the March 23<sup>rd</sup> motion to grant tentative approval to Ordinance #623 and to approve restricting parking in the 500 block of West High Street with appropriate signage. Motion passed unanimously.

3. **Street Paving**

There are no streets within the borough that require resurfacing this year. The next planned project, in 2016 or 2017, includes a cluster of streets on the west side of town including Chris Street, a portion of South West Street, North West Street, Lincoln Street, Carroll Street and three blocks of West Crawford Street.

A letter was mailed to Bishop Carroll informing them of a future project involving Carroll Street, and inviting them to participate in the project if they choose to resurface their portion of Carroll Street above Lincoln Street at the same time. No action is required at this time.

J. **Administration Committee**

1. One temporary worker is to be hired to administer this year’s street sign inventory program. All street signs must be inspected, evaluated for condition, scheduled for replacement and replaced as necessary.

Ms. Jacoby made a motion to approve the hiring of Brianna Wasser for temporary street sign inventory position, at the rate of \$8.00/hr. (Kuhar) Motion passed unanimously.

2. **Summer Workers**

Applications for summer positions were due on March 23<sup>rd</sup>, and staff has reviewed those. The following are recommended for summer employment.

Summer Maintenance

Nathan Knopp	East High Street	2 <sup>nd</sup> yr.
Joshua Surkovich	North Spruce Street	2 <sup>nd</sup> yr.
Sam Caplea	East Horner Street	1 <sup>st</sup> yr.
Zachary Nedwreski	Municipal Road	1 <sup>st</sup> yr.

Summer Public Works

Steven Papuga	Maple Avenue	4 <sup>th</sup> yr.
Edward Ritchey	William Penn Avenue	1 <sup>st</sup> yr.

There were no other applicants for the above positions.

Swimming Pool Manager

Kimberly Franey is available to return again in 2015 as the swimming pool manager.

Lifeguards

Emily Hansen	East Crawford Street	8 <sup>th</sup> yr.
Luke Marcinko	East Highland Avenue	5 <sup>th</sup> yr.
Miranda Nalisnick	Pindleton Ridge Road	4 <sup>th</sup> yr.
Josh Remillard	East Sample Street	4 <sup>th</sup> yr.
Allison Risaliti	East Highland Avenue	4 <sup>th</sup> yr.
Ashley Evans	Pensacola Road	4 <sup>th</sup> yr.
Jessica Schaffer	North Julian Street	3 <sup>rd</sup> yr.
Jordan Johnson	East Highland Avenue	3 <sup>rd</sup> yr.
Erica Kozorosky	North Marian Street	3 <sup>rd</sup> yr.
Tyler Weigel	Pinelock Street, Mineral Point	3 <sup>rd</sup> yr.
Cooper Gilkey	Pinelock Street, Mineral Point	2 <sup>nd</sup> yr.
Jocelyn Simmers	Vetera Road	2 <sup>nd</sup> yr.
Madyson Simmers	Vetera Road	1 <sup>st</sup> yr.
Marc Garzarelli	East High Street	1 <sup>st</sup> yr.
Sydney Gilkey	Pinelock Street, Mineral Point	1 <sup>st</sup> yr.
Phillip Miller	A-Frame Road	1 <sup>st</sup> yr.

There were six other applicants for the above positions, all from outside of the borough.

Concessions

Bethany Bauer	Sylvan Glen Drive	1 <sup>st</sup> yr.
Lindsey Monito	Maplebrook Road	1 <sup>st</sup> yr.

Office Assistant

Ashley Heuston, a graduate of Mount Aloysius College, is recommended as the summer office assistant.

Ms. Jacoby made a motion to approve the hiring the following persons to the respective positions. (Lutz) Motion passed unanimously.

Hire the six persons recommended above for summer maintenance positions at rate of \$8.00/hr.

Hire Kim Franey as swimming pool manager at rate of \$12.00/hr; 35 hrs/week.

Hire the sixteen persons recommended above for lifeguard positions at rate of \$8.00/hr.

Hire Bethany Bauer and Lindsey Monito for concessions at rate of \$8.00/hr.  
Hire Ashley Heuston as summer office assistant at rate of \$8.00/hr.

Hire Ron Jacobs as the summer work supervisor at rate of \$13.15/hr.  
Hire Jack Habas for landscaping at rate of \$8.55/hr.

### **3. Clerk**

Patti Carnes has gone on permanent disability. The position was advertised, with applications due on March 27<sup>th</sup>. Twenty-one applications were received for the position, and four of the applicants were interviewed.

Ms. Jacoby made a motion to approve the hiring of Tracy Strom as Clerk I, at the rate of \$12.61/hr. (Kuhar) Motion passed unanimously.

### **4. Clerk II Position**

The hourly wage for the clerk position was reset at the last hiring in 2011. The Clerk II position was created then in order to continue Patti Carnes at her current rate. That position should now be abolished so that both clerks are at the same pay rate. Mr. Lutz made a motion to abolish the Clerk II pay grade. (Barber) Motion passed unanimously.

### **5. Public Works Director**

Dave Dodson resigned effective April 17<sup>th</sup>. The position was advertised, with applications due on April 20<sup>th</sup>. Eight applications were received for the position, and five of the applicants were interviewed on April 24<sup>th</sup>. The Committee will make a recommendation to Council in executive session at the end of tonight's meeting.

### **6. Public Works Laborer**

A vacancy exists in the public works department. The position was advertised, with applications due on April 13<sup>th</sup>. Forty-five applications were received for the position. The selection process is on hold pending the appointment of a new Public Works Director.

### **7. Police Arbitration**

The Borough's employee hospitalization plan was renewed in March with UPMC, the current carrier. Although the existing plan was no longer available from UPMC, the carrier recommended the product that most closely resembled the existing plan. The new plan is basically the same, and continues to be the best coverage offered. There are subtle changes to several of the plan's deductibles.

The premium increased 26% at renewal, raising the annual cost of providing healthcare to four police officers to over \$76,000. While all other employees contribute 15% toward the cost of healthcare, the police contribute only 4%.

Despite the minor changes to the plan, the fact that the new plan already increases the Borough's costs by another \$15,600 annually, and despite the fact that the former plan is no longer available, the police have chosen to take the matter to binding arbitration, apparently insisting that changes imposed by the carrier are trumped by a collective bargaining agreement. The arbitration hearing is scheduled for July 14<sup>th</sup>. No action required at this time.

### **8. Amendment to Deferred Compensation Plan**

AmeriServ has recommended that the existing employee deferred compensation plan be amended to include language relative to new options available to the employees. Roth investments are now available as elective deferrals. Ms. Barber made a motion to adopt Resolution #2015-03 amending

and restarting the Deferred Compensation Plan. (Lutz) Motion passed unanimously with an abstention from Ms. Jacoby due to employment.

## **K. General Business**

### **1. Tax Collector Fees**

Ordinance #486 dated December 1999 authorized the tax collector to assess and retain a fee of \$10 for tax certifications issued. Many tax collectors also assess a fee for a duplicate billing, most often provided to a mortgage company. The tax collector has requested that she be authorized to collect such a fee for duplicates. Further, since the tax collector manages her own accounts, it is necessary to authorize her separately to assess a fee for NSF checks.

Most municipalities include the above fees in a single Ordinance. Ordinance #622 is proposed repealing Ordinance #486 and authorizing all fees in a single Ordinance.

The Ordinance was granted tentative approval last month, was advertised for public inspection, and is ready for final adoption. Mr. Kuhar made a motion to grant final approval to Ordinance #622 authorizing the tax collector to assess a fee for tax duplicates and NSF checks. (Lutz) Motion passed unanimously.

### **2. Website Recognition**

Ebensburgpa.com was awarded 1<sup>st</sup> Place as the best municipal website in Pennsylvania by the Pennsylvania State Association of Boroughs. The award will be presented at the Association's annual conference in Lancaster on April 28<sup>th</sup>. Congratulations to staff members for keeping the website informative and always current.

### **3. Security Cameras**

One of the projects identified in the 2015 capital budget was installation of security cameras at several borough-owned facilities. Gittings Security has provided a quote. Staff is requesting Council's guidance on whether all sites in the proposal should be included in the project, or if they should be prioritized and selectively installed.

There is \$7,000 in the capital budget intended to cover the garages, the yard waste dumpster, the police office and the Babcock site. The proposal also includes the front of the municipal building and municipal building hallway; YPCC lots, lobby and gym; Memorial Field and concession areas; and swimming pool areas at a total cost of \$14,528. The new system will allow public viewing of some of the sites via our website. All sites will be available to staff via internet and cell phones. All are easily searchable and retrievable.

The consensus of the board was to move forward with the complete new system of cameras. Mr. Kuhar made a motion to approve the proposal submitted by Gittings Private Investigations & Security for the equipment and installation of the new camera system. (Lutz) Motion passed unanimously.

## **L. Department Reports**

- 1. Police Department** – Chief Wyland reported on last month's activities including an update on the new cruiser and he informed Council that all the officer trainings had been completed and they are up to date.
- 2. Public Works Department** – No report.

3. **Community Development** – Ms. Koss reported on last month’s activities including an updates on Art in Bloom, Wheels & Wings and PotatoFest. She also added that the Main Street Partnership has been named one of 40 accredited main street programs in Pennsylvania by the National Main Street Center. Lastly, she added that Ebensburg will be featured in the “Your Town” series coordinated by WJAC the week of July 20<sup>th</sup>.
4. **Recreation Department** – Ms. Jacoby reported on activities including the Vines of Hope community clean up day, the Ebensburg Roller Hockey league, the 16<sup>th</sup> Annual YPCC Golf Tournament fundraiser, and updates on activities at the Tennis Center.
5. **Codes Enforcement** – A monthly codes enforcement report was provided to Council.
6. **Ebensburg Municipal Authority** – A copy of the minutes of the last municipal authority meeting was included in Council’s packet.
7. **Ebensburg Zoning Board** – The zoning board granted a variance to Donald Cessna for a private garage on a vacant lot at 411 West Crawford Street. Garages are intended to be accessory to a residence.

**M. Media Comments/Questions**

Ms. Cernetich asked if anyone would like to make a comment on the pending arbitration hearing.

Mr. Fronk asked if all the new security cameras were listed in the meeting agenda.

**N. Public Comments**

Mike Illig of Street asked if there would be maintenance fees along with the equipment costs of the new security cameras.

Bill Link of North Spruce Street asked where the homeless couple that broke into the church were found to be living.

Bill Link of North Spruce Street, in reference to Item 8G, added that he thought the police contribution of 4% to their healthcare plan was a bit high.

Mr. Tusing mentioned that next month’s meeting would be held on the third Monday, May 18<sup>th</sup>, rather than the fourth due to the Memorial Day holiday.

**O. Executive Session**

Council entered into an executive session at 7:32 pm to discuss a hiring.

**P. Adjournment**

There being no further business, Ms. Barber made a motion to adjourn. (Lutz) Motion passed unanimously.

Meeting Adjourned: 7:58 p.m.

Minutes Recorded by:

Danea Koss, Community Development Director