

The regular monthly meeting of the Ebensburg Borough Council was called to order on Monday, August 26, 2013 at 6:30 p.m. at the Ebensburg Municipal Building, 300 W. High Street, Ebensburg, by Council President Doug Tusing.

Present: Doug Tusing, President
Deb Nesbella, Vice President
Susan Barber
Cecilia Houser
Dave Kuhar
Joe Lutz

Others: Blair Pawlowski, Solicitor
Randy Datsko, Mayor
Daniel Penatzer, Borough Manager
Dave Dodson, Public Works Director
Terry Wyland, Chief of Police
Bernie Kozlovac, Plant Supervisor
Danea Koss, Community Development Director
Ian Wissinger, Mountaineer-Herald

Absent: Terry Illig

Audience: 1

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:
(Barber) Motion passed unanimously.

1. Approve the minutes of the July 29, 2013 regular monthly meeting of Borough Council.
2. Approve the Financial Statement.
3. Approve payment of bills.

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

E. **Mayor's Report** – None

F. **Council President Comments** – Mr. Tusing mentioned that the August 19th Municipal Authority meeting was held at the Water Treatment Plant and commented on how much more professional the plant looks. He encouraged anyone who is interested to go and see the improvements that have been made.

G. **Water/Wastewater Committee**

1. There were no excursions for the month of July 2013 at the wastewater plant. Plant flows averaged .897 mgd.
2. Mr. Kozlovac, Plant Supervisor, provided a verbal report on activities at the wastewater plant during the month which included work on roadway drainage ditch, repair of a major leak on the process water line, installation of a new yard hydrant, and hauling 22.6 dry tons of sludge to the landfill.

H. Recreation Committee

1. Work has begun on the Jencks Dam project. Efforts to restrict the dam to children and make it “catch & release” were made with the PA Fish Commission, however, it was determined that the lengthy process was not worth the effort. The borough will impose these restrictions on its own. The Fish Commission will first conduct a survey of the dam for number of fish and species before the restrictions are imposed next spring.

I. Street Committee

1. Concerns regarding inadequate highway signage leading to Ebensburg have been addressed with PennDOT. Borough staff met with PennDOT staff on August 1st to review proposed solutions. Borough staff and Council agreed on the proposed solutions and a total of 4 new signs will be placed on 219 and 22 to more clearly identify Ebensburg’s exits. The new signage will likely be done this fall.
2. A request from a resident concerning the need for additional signage prohibiting parking “Here to Corner” on West Sample Street was addressed. Council agreed that the current signage is adequate and also noted that parking should decrease when the new Nulton parking lot is completed this fall.
3. PennDOT has approved the installation of signs intended to improve pedestrian safety. “Reduced Speed Ahead” signs and green pedestrian/arrow signs will be placed. The 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.
4. Ms. Houser made a motion to grant tentative approval to Ordinance #606 prohibiting grass and weeds in sidewalk surfaces, and to advertise for public inspection. (Lutz) Motion passed unanimously.

J. Administration Committee - None

K. General Business

1. Mr. Penatzer updated Council on a set up of proposed signage guidelines for businesses in the Central Business District of Ebensburg. The Main Street Partnership wishes to have the guidelines adopted to assist businesses with ideas and designs for appropriate signage. For now, the guidelines would be a recommendation, with one exception. If a business owner applies for a façade grant, they would have to comply with the adopted guidelines. Mr. Lutz made a motion to adopt the Ebensburg Signage Guidelines, and forward to the Ebensburg Borough Planning Commission for consideration in future zoning amendments. (Houser) Motion passed unanimously.
2. Mr. Penatzer updated Council on the bridge replacement project over the Ghost Town Trail. General plan and traffic control drawings from PennDOT were present for Council to review. Traffic will be maintained over the bridge throughout the entire project. All businesses and homes will maintain access. Two crosswalks will be implemented as well as a straight lane and turning lane at the intersection of W. High & New Germany Road. The project is scheduled to begin in April of 2015 and will take approximately one year to complete.
3. Mr. Penatzer informed Council that the number of garage sales is increasing therefore increasing the number of unsightly fliers being left on utility and light poles. Mr. Lutz made a motion to grant tentative approval to Ordinance #607, replacing the Garage Sale Ordinance, and advertising for public inspection. (Barber) Motion passed unanimously.

4. Mr. Penatzer informed Council that the new “Welcome to Ebensburg” sign has been completed. He explained that there is no electric service close to the site and staff is negotiating a price with Penelec to bring service to the sign. Solar power is also being considered.

L. Department Reports

1. **Police Department** – Chief Wyland reported on last month’s activities and provided a year-to-date written incident report. Chief Wyland confirmed that the traffic issues that arose from Downtown Shutdown would be resolved for next year. He also reported that Parking Enforcement Officer Charles attended and passed a class by the PA Dept of Agriculture for certifying the time on parking meters as the state is no longer doing it. There were no complaints over the weekend for The Castle Pub’s outdoor event held on Saturday, August 24th.
2. **Public Works Department** - Mr. Dodson reported on last month’s activities including installation of swings at Lake Rowena and the Borough Pool, continued smoke and sewer testing, resolution of a water issue in the borough and in Emerald Estates, and repairing a water leak on Virginia Street. Mr. Dodson also reported that two operators have taken the water operator exam with one passing. The other one will be re-tested in September.
3. **Community Development**
Ms. Koss reported on the community development department activities during the last month including the wrap-up of the Concert in the Park series, Volunteer Appreciation Night and awarding of the Volunteer of the Year to Sue Glass and an Outstanding Service Award to Appalachian Youth Services, the cancellation of Shots & Stogies, and updates on PotatoFest and Dickens.
4. **Recreation Department – None**

M. Media Comments/Questions

1. Ian Wissinger from the Mountaineer Herald asked where the bridge replacement project meetings took place and how much the project was going to cost.

N. Public Comments - None

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

Meeting Adjourned: 7:12 p.m.

Minutes Recorded by:

Danea Koss
Community Development Director