

The regular monthly meeting of the Ebensburg Borough Council was called to order on Monday, December 16, 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
Dave Dodson, Public Works Director
Bernie Kozlovac, Plant Supervisor
Danea Koss, Community Development Director
Matt Pfeil, Recreation Director
Theresa Jacoby, Incoming Council Member
Kelly Cernetich, The Altoona Mirror

Absent: Terry Illig
Terry Wyland, Chief of Police
Daniel Penatzer, Borough Manager

Audience: 12

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 November 25, 2013 regular monthly meeting of Borough Council.
2. Approve the Financial Statement.
3. Approve payment of bills.

D. **Appointments to Address Council**

Mr. Dan Savino addressed Council to make them aware of his interest in bringing auto racing to the Cambria County Fairgrounds on Friday evenings. However, he is concerned with the curfew of 10 pm stated in the current noise ordinance, and he is requesting an extension of the curfew until 12 am. Council responded with questions on what time attendees and drivers would actually exit the Fairgrounds if the races didn't end until 12 am, as well as how race delays would be handled. Mr. Savino responded that at the end of each feature the racers would exit, leaving only the last feature racers to get packed up to leave after midnight. He assured Council that everyone would be cleared out by 1 am, at the latest, and that race delays would not be an issue as the end time would be strictly enforced. Public comments were requested at this time. Mr. Robert Datsko respectfully asked Council to keep the ordinance in place as stated. Ms. Melissa Menie raised

concerns with regard to traffic through town at this late hour. Mr. Bill Link spoke in favor of bringing racing to Ebensburg suggesting that Ebensburg needs this to bring people into town. Ms. Rosemary Kramer raised concerns with the curfew extension stating that this would be too late for guests of the Fairview Bed & Breakfast. She also noted that during fair week, traffic in and out of the fairgrounds gets very congested. Ms. Nesbella asked for Mr. Pawlowski to explain the application process. Mr. Tusing stated that the purpose of Mr. Savino bringing his request to the meeting was to see if there was an interest from council to revisit the ordinance. Mr. Lutz stated that a lot of time and research went into putting the ordinance in place. Mr. Tusing then asked Council if there was an interest in revisiting the ordinance to extend the end time, to which there was no response. Mr. Savino then asked to confirm that racing would be permitted on Saturdays between the hours of 1 pm and 10 pm.

E. **Mayor's Report** – Mayor Datsko reported that Chief Wyland was unable to attend but that he wanted to mention that winter parking and sidewalk shoveling are now in effect. Also, there are a few missing parking signs that are in the process of being replaced.

F. **Council President Comments** – Mr. Tusing thanked everyone for participating in the Dickens of a Christmas weekend. He also thanked the public works department for all the work they did in preparing the lights and decorations for the weekend.

G. Water/Wastewater Committee

1. There were no excursions for the month of November 2013 at the wastewater plant. Plant flows averaged .956 MGD and 19.2 dry tons of solids were hauled away to the landfill. Mr. Kozlovac, Plant Supervisor, provided a verbal report on activities at the wastewater plant during the month.

H. Recreation Committee – None

I. Street Committee - None

J. Administration Committee

1. The position of Assistant Chief was last held by Officer Tony Sebetich. Sergeant Rob Sapp has satisfied the pre-requisites for the position and has been serving when needed as Acting Chief. Staff recommends that he be promoted to the position. Mr. Lutz made motion to approve the promotion of Sergeant Robert Sapp to Assistant Chief, \$22.73/hr., effective 12/23/2013. (Houser) Motion passed unanimously.
2. It is necessary to hire an additional full-time police officer due to an extended illness in the department. Staff recommends that the position be advertised, with applications due at the end of January. A lengthy testing procedure will follow, and the position is expected to be filled in April. It will be necessary to appoint a written examination administrator. Staff is recommending that Bill Gamble Municipal Police Testing of Oakdale be appointed to administer and grade the written test. Ms. Barber made a motion to authorize the advertisement of a full-time police officer position in accordance with civil service requirements. (Kuhar) Motion passed unanimously. Mr. Kuhar added that while we are going through candidate interviewing and testing, it might be a good idea to think about adding on another full-time officer. Mr. Tusing commented that the new hire

would bring us to four full-time officers and that the 2014 budget has already been approved.

3. Ms. Barber made a motion to adopt Resolution #2013-21 naming on behalf of the civil service commission, Bill Gamble Municipal Police Testing, as the written examination administrator for the police hiring process.

K. General Business

1. The Bureau of Aviation requires airports to solicit proposals for engineering at least every five years. A Request for Proposals (RFP) was issued in November. Four responses to that RFP were received. Mr. Lutz made a motion designate L. Robert Kimball as the consulting engineer for the Ebensburg Municipal Airport. (Kuhar) Motion passed unanimously.
2. An important component of any future stormwater or wastewater design will be up-to-date aerial photography. The time for taking any aerial photography in this area is very limited. It must be accomplished when there is no snow cover and when there is no foliage. For the most effective result, it is work that must be accomplished in the next few months, as conditions permit.

Staff recommends that Council approve obtaining only aerial photography at this time, so that Kimball can move forward on a day with optimum conditions. Ms. Barber made a motion to approve a contract with L.R. Kimball for obtaining new aerial photography at a cost of \$12,080.

3. Peoples Natural Gas Company is requesting an easement for installation of a new natural gas main across the northwest corner of the Lake Rowena property, next to Ebensburg Oil & Gas. Mr. Lutz made a motion to approve granting of an easement to Peoples Natural Gas Company at the entrance to Lake Rowena. (Barber) Motion passed unanimously.

L. Department Reports

1. **Police Department** – None.
2. **Public Works Department** - Mr. Dodson reported on last month's activities including fixing lights at the water treatment plant, taking calls for plowing, sewer back-ups and testing and repairing heat at the rental house.
3. **Community Development** – Ms. Koss reported on the Dickens of a Christmas event including Light-Up Night, the Christmas Parade, and event cancellations. She added that it was time to send out the membership renewal mailing which would go out this week, the January E-Newsletter was in production and the January Borough Newsletter had been sent to the printer.
4. **Recreation Department** – Mr. Pfeil reported that there were 334 participants at the Breakfast with Santa this year. He also publically thanked the Ebensburg Woman's Club, Claire Therese Photography, Gina Tusing and Dunkin Donuts

M. Media Comments/Questions – None

N. Public Comments - None

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

Meeting Adjourned: 7:03 p.m.

Minutes Recorded by:

Danea Koss
Community Development Director