

The regular monthly meeting of the Ebensburg Borough Council was called to order on Monday, March 23, 2015 at 6:30 p.m. at the Ebensburg Municipal Building, 300 W. High Street, Ebensburg, by Council Vice President Susan Barber.

Present: Susan Barber, Vice President  
Joe Miller  
Cecilia Houser  
Dave Kuhar  
Theresa Jacoby

Others: Daniel Penatzer, Borough Manager  
Randy Datsko, Mayor  
Blair Pawlowski, Solicitor  
Dave Dodson, Public Works Director  
Matt Pfeil, Recreation Director  
Terry Wyland, Chief of Police  
Danea Koss, Community Development Director  
Kelly Cernetich, The Altoona Mirror  
Brian Fronk, Mainline News  
Tammy Monito, Ebensburg Senior Center

Absent: Doug Tusing, President  
Joe Lutz

Audience: 9

A. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

B. **Public Comments** – None.

C. **Consent Agenda**

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

1. Approve the minutes of the February 23, 2015 regular monthly meeting of Borough Council.
2. Approve the Financial Statement.
3. Approve payment of bills.

D. **Appointments to Address Council** – Tammy Monito from the Ebensburg Senior Center asked Council to consider removing parking spaces on the 300 block of West Sample Street as the CamTran buses are having difficulty exiting the Senior Center. Ms. Monito invited members of Council to come and take a look any afternoon at 1:30 pm when the buses would be exiting. Council agreed to investigate the situation and make a recommendation at the April meeting.

E. **Mayor's Report** – None.

F. **Council President Comments** – None.

G. **Water/Wastewater Committee**

1. There were no excursions for the month of February 2015. Plant flows averaged 1.102 MGD. Mr. Kozlovac, Plant Supervisor, provided a verbal report on activities at the wastewater plant during the month.
2. **Frozen Water Lines**  
The Ebensburg Municipal Authority discussed the high number of frozen water lines this winter, and the change in policy of borough staff not thawing the lines. Staff is investigating options for

acquiring the appropriate equipment to thaw lines, and will be recommending a policy on how to better respond in the future. No action required.

H. **Recreation Committee** – None.

I. **Street Committee** – None.

J. **Administration Committee** – None.

K. **General Business**

**1. Police Vehicle**

The following bids were received for the sale of the 2010 police car:

McIlwain Bus Lines	Johnstown, PA	\$6,211.00
Chicago Motors	Chicago, IL	\$5,107.00
Bayridge Motors	Staten Island, NY	\$4,355.00
Kim Gaudino	Freedom, PA	\$3,210.00

Mr. Miller made a motion to approve the sale of the 2010 police car to McIlwain Bus Lines for \$6,211.00. (Houser) Motion passed unanimously.

**2. Tax Collector**

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.

Ms. Houser made a motion to grant tentative approval to Ordinance #622 authorizing the tax collector to assess a fee for tax duplicates and NSF checks, and advertise for public inspection. (Kuhar) Motion passed unanimously.

**3. Cambria County Boroughs Association**

Ebensburg Borough will be hosting the spring dinner meeting of the Cambria County Boroughs Association on Tuesday, April 21<sup>st</sup> at the Noon Collins Inn. Mr. Penatzer asked members of Council to let him know if they are planning to attend.

**4. Middle School Field**

The Central Cambria School Board is entertaining an offer on the two parcels on the west side of Center Street. The third parcel, the former football field, is not an integral part of that deal. Although included in the offer, the portion offered for the football field is far below the 6-figure appraisal of that parcel. The Board wants to offer the Borough the first chance to acquire the field, and to submit a proposal on that parcel only. The consensus of Council is that there is no interest at this time to make an offer on this property.

**5. 1<sup>st</sup> Summit Bank**

1<sup>st</sup> Summit Bank is encountering a problem obtaining a highway occupancy permit for its new office on West High Street. The required sight distance cannot be achieved if parking is permitted in front of the neighboring residence at 516 West High Street. The bank is offering to provide a

driveway for the residence so that off-street parking would be available. They ask then that the borough prohibit parking in two of the three existing spaces on West High Street, allowing for adequate sight distance for vehicles leaving the bank parking lot.

Mr. Kuhar made a motion to grant tentative approval to Ordinance #623 to prohibit parking 80 ft from western edge of driveway at the proposed bank development. (Houser) Motion passed unanimously.

#### **L. Department Reports**

1. **Police Department** – Chief Wyland reported on last month’s activities and thanked Council for the purchase of the new police cruiser.
2. **Public Works Department** – Mr. Dodson reported on last month’s activities including work at the Water Treatment Plant, leaking valve on N. Center St, frozen service lines, water damage repairs at the borough building and tennis center and pothole repairs.
3. **Community Development** – Ms. Koss reported on last month’s activities including updates on the member networking meeting, new business openings and she added that applications are now being received for Art in Bloom, the Farmers’ Market, Wheels & Wings and PotatoFest.
4. **Recreation Department** – Mr. Pfeil reported on last month’s activities including basketball and cheerleading clinics to be offered this year, as well as 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.

#### **M. Media Comments/Questions**

Ms. Cernetich asked for confirmation that the Borough would not be interested in purchasing the middle school field. She also asked how the number of frozen pipes this year compares to past years and how long the waiting list is for residents to get help with frozen pipes.

#### **N. Public Comments**

Robert Lukas of North Locus Street commended local emergency services who responded to his 911 call for a potential flooding hazard at his residence.

Ken Cummins of North Julian Street expressed concern that a portion of the funds for the purchase of the new utility vehicle would be taken from the stormwater fund. Council explained that the funds would not be taken from the stormwater fund, and that they would be taken from the wastewater and water funds, and from the Ebensburg Main Street Partnership.

Tom Bortel of East Sample Street expressed his concern that taking away parking spaces from in front of the residence at 516 West High Street could pose a problem for the other properties along that block and may negatively affect the property value.

#### **O. Executive Session**

Council entered into an executive session at 7:32 pm to discuss three personnel matters.

**P. Adjournment**

There being no further business, Mr. Miller made a motion to adjourn. (Jacoby) Motion passed unanimously.

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Meeting Adjourned: 8:03 p.m.  
Minutes Recorded by:

Danea Koss, Community Development Director