

The regular monthly meeting of the Ebensburg Borough Council was called to order on Monday, November 25, 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
Terri Illig

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
Matt Pfeil, Recreation Director
Gary Jubas, Attorney, Cambria County Fairgrounds
Joe Miller, Incoming Council Member
Theresa Jacoby, Incoming Council Member
Rachel Vasilko, The Mountaineer-Herald
Kelly Cernetich, The Altoona Mirror

Absent: Dave Kuhar

Audience: 20

A. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

B. **Public Comments** – Mr. Eric Rummel and Mr. Robert Datsko spoke in opposition of allowing racing at the Cambria County Fairgrounds. They cited noise and dust as the two biggest concerns for Ebensburg residents.

C. **Consent Agenda**

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

1. Approve the minutes of the October 28, 2013 regular monthly meeting of Borough Council.
2. Approve the Financial Statement.
3. Approve payment of bills.

D. **Appointments to Address Council**

Attorney Gary Jubas addressed council to open a discussion on bringing racing back to the Cambria County Fairgrounds. He introduced Mr. Dan Savino who spoke on behalf of the group in attendance in support of bringing weekend racing to the fairgrounds. Mr. Savino introduced himself and a few of his colleagues. He explained that he understands the concerns of Ebensburg residents, but that there has been significant progress made to suppress dust and control the noise. He talked about putting in a clay track and

distributed information on dust suppressants they would use. He also explained that mufflers would now be required on some of the vehicles and others would be outfitted with exhaust pointing towards the ground. They would ultimately like to race on Sundays between the hours of 3 pm to 7:30 pm beginning in April and ending in September. A Q&A with council followed and concluded with Mr. Tusing asking if anyone on council was interested in revisiting the current Ordinance which would prohibit racing on Sundays, to which there was no response.

E. Mayor's Report – No comments.

F. Council President Comments – Mr. Tusing congratulated incoming Borough Council members Joe Miller and Theresa Jacoby.

G. Water/Wastewater Committee

1. There were no excursions for the month of October 2013 at the wastewater plant. Plant flows averaged .686 MGD. Mr. Kozlovac, Plant Supervisor, provided a verbal report on activities at the wastewater plant during the month which included painting at blower building, preventative maintenance on head works equipment, installation of new outlets in old chlorine building, picking up debris and winterization of plant areas.

H. Recreation Committee – None

I. Street Committee

1. The preliminary sidewalk design was reviewed with a team of PennDOT engineers on November 13th in Hollidaysburg. The following issues were addressed:
 - a. On-street parking in front of the NAPA store will not be permitted due to the lack of required site distance for vehicles pulling out from Spruce Street and the NAPA driveway. Staff has spoken to Sassano about limiting the width of the driveway depression at Sassano's, and he is agreeable to that. Thus, the only solution available for customer parking at NAPA is the current parking on the Sassano lot.
 - b. PennDOT does not like that the proposed sidewalk ends in the middle of a block on Route 422. They suggest completing that curb and sidewalk to Truman Street. That will clean the Truman Street intersection up, add green space by expanding the private yard. The property owners are being informed of their addition to the project.
 - c. PennDOT agrees that stopping the sidewalk at the entrance to Lake Rowena would require only one set of pedestrian buttons rather than three. Any curb installed beyond that intersection should be at full reveal and not depressed so as to not encourage pedestrian use where no crosswalk exists.
No action is required.

J. Administration Committee

1. Ms. Barber made a motion to grant final approval to the 2014 annual budget. (Lutz)
Motion passed unanimously.

	Revenues	Expenditures	Surplus
General Fund Budget	\$1,836,880	\$1,823,970	\$12,910
Water Fund Budget	\$1,542,000	\$1,514,190	\$ 810
Wastewater Fund Budget	<u>\$1,554,600</u>	<u>\$1,530,520</u>	\$24,080
Total Operating Fund	\$4,933,480	\$4,895,680	\$37,800

2. An Ordinance is required each year to establish the real estate tax for the coming year. Ordinance #608 was granted tentative approval last month, was advertised for public inspection, and is ready for final adoption. Ms. Barber made a motion to grant final approval to Ordinance #608, establishing the 2014 real state tax. (Lutz) Motion passed unanimously.
3. A Resolution is required each year to establish fees to be charged for various services for the coming year. All fees, with the exception of the garbage fee noted in Item 8A, remain unchanged from 2013. Mr. Lutz made a motion to adopt Resolution #2013-19 establishing the fees to be charged in 2014 for various purposes. (Barber) Motion passed unanimously.
4. A Resolution is adopted each year to establish the wages to be paid to borough employees, as recommended by the administrative committee and included in the 2014 budget. The contractual increases are 2% to AFSCME. Administrative, non-union and regular part-time employees receive 2%. Seasonal employees remain at minimum wage. The full-time police receive 3%. Mr. Lutz made a motion to adopt Resolution #2013-20 establishing wages for 2014. (Barber) Motion passed unanimously.

K. General Business

1. Mr. Penatzer informed council that The Bureau of Aviation requires airports to solicit proposals for engineering at least every five years. Ebensburg Borough last went through the process in 2008. An RFP will be issued and a formal process will be conducted.
2. Mr. Penatzer announced that the last day for vacuuming leaves or receiving yard waste at the rear of the municipal building will be Friday, November 29th.

L. Department Reports

1. **Police Department** – Chief Wyland reported on last month’s activities. He informed council that there is a new taser policy and all officers are up to date on this. He also mentioned that they are short-staffed but are working through it.
2. **Public Works Department** - Mr. Dodson reported on last month’s activities including sewer back-ups, sinkhole repairs, replacement of trees, winterizing Memorial Field, etc. Mr. Illig asked if the flushing of the hydrants, to be done this summer, will clear up the dirty water problems. Mr. Dodson replied that it will definitely help the problem.

3. **Community Development** – Ms. Koss reported on upcoming member and community events. She updated council on Dickens of a Christmas events, a new business moving into the borough and the January Borough Newsletter.
4. **Recreation Department** – Mr. Pfeil reported that Mr. Chuck Girona donated a universal gym machine, two new weight racks and a 6' wall mirror to the YPCC. He worked with staff to get them set up and to reorganize the weight room. There are currently 256 members.

M. Media Comments/Questions

1. Ms. Cernetich of The Altoona Mirror, asked if PennDOT's recommendations for the sidewalk project will affect the cost.

N. Public Comments - None

Mr. Illig announced that it would be his last council meeting. He was presented with a clock for his service on Council. There being no further business, Mr. Illig made a motion to adjourn. (Nesbella) Motion passed unanimously.

Meeting Adjourned: 7:44 p.m.

Minutes Recorded by:

Danea Koss
Community Development Director