

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

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

Absent: Dave Kuhar

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

Audience: 7

A. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

B. Public Comments

Mr. George Smith, W. Sample Street, shared concerns with the new high curb that was installed and with vehicles encroaching into the right of way on Spruce Street.

Ms. Chris Dumm, 523 W. Sample Street, expressed concerns about the width of the street.

Ms. Linda Eckenrode, 604 W. Sample Street, stated that her mother's driveway exits onto Spruce Street. She added that there is a high volume of traffic and that two cars can't pass through at the same time – someone has to pull over.

Ms. Kat Smith, 517 W. Sample Street, stated that she feels it should be changed back to one-way and making it a two street made a bad situation worse. She added that it's a shear nuisance and very frustrating.

C. Consent Agenda

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

1. Approve the minutes of the October 26, 2015 regular monthly meeting of Borough Council.
2. Approve the Financial Statement.
3. Approve payment of bills with one abstention from Councilor Barber on amount owed to Barber Oil Company.

D. Appointments to Address Council – None.

E. Mayor's Report – Mayor Datsko reported that several residents have contacted him to express their concerns with drivers running stop signs.

F. **Council President Comments** – Mr. Tusing congratulated John Cobaugh on his successful run for a borough council seat. Mr. Tusing added that he's looking forward to working with Mr. Cobaugh and having him on council.

G. **Water/Wastewater Committee**

1. There were no excursions for the month of November 2015. Plant flows averaged 0.61 MGD. Mr. Kozlovac, Plant Supervisor, provided a verbal report on activities at the wastewater plant during the month.

H. **Recreation Committee** – None.

I. **Street Committee**

1. **North Spruce Street One-Way**

Mr. Lutz shared that Council was asked to consider making North Spruce Street one way and staff provided measurements of the street as compared to other similar streets. Chief Wyland provided an accident data summary going back 5 years showing that there were no reportable accidents on Spruce Street.

Ms. Jacoby made a motion to make the 100 & 200 blocks of N. Spruce Street going south one-way. (Houser) Roll call was taken.

Tusing	No	Houser	Yes	
Barber	No	Jacoby	Yes	
Miller	No	Lutz	No	Motion was denied.

J. **Administration Committee**

1. **2016 Annual Budget**

The 2016 budget was presented to Council last month and has been advertised for public inspection. The 2016 Operating Budget calls for revenues of \$5,238, 770 and expenditures of \$5,099,110. The general fund budget is balanced with no increase in real estate taxes.

Ms. Barber made a motion to grant final approval to the 2016 annual budget. (Lutz) Motion passed unanimously.

2. **Tax Ordinance**

Ms. Jacoby made a motion to grant final approval to Ordinance #626, establishing the 2016 real estate tax. (Barber) Motion passed unanimously.

3. **FOP Negotiations**

The administrative committee continues to meet with police officers relative to renewal of the collective bargaining agreement that expires at the end of 2015.

K. **General Business**

1. **Parking Ordinance**

Mr. Lutz made a motion to grant final approval to Ordinance #627 amending parking regulations. (Houser) Motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Lutz made a motion to adopt Resolution #2015-11 establishing parking meter rates. (Miller) Motion passed unanimously.

2. Historic Designation

Mr. Penatzer shared with the board the desire to renew an application to obtain a National Register Historic Designation for portions of the borough that was abandoned in 1998. The designation will enhance marketing of the borough, without limiting any rights to property owners. He explained that the application process is very complicated and requires the use of an experienced consultant.

Ms. Barber made a motion to award a contract to Preservation Pennsylvania in the amount of \$8,865 to prepare and submit a nomination for historic designation to the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission.

Mr. Tusing noted that historic designation was part of a comprehensive plan that was done for borough several years back.

3. 2016 Fee Resolution

Mr. Penatzer explained that each year a Resolution is required to establish fees to be charged for various services for the coming year. This year, there are two changes recommended for the fee schedule.

The garbage fee will increase 5.72%. The customer rate should be adjusted from \$16.85/mo. to \$17.85/mo. to cover that increase.

The current fee charged for land use applications such as zoning hearings, land development applications and stormwater applications is \$275. Because the actual cost almost always exceeds that amount and the customer must be invoiced to cover the difference, staff recommends that the application fee be increased to \$325.

Mr. Miller made a motion to adopt Resolution #2015-12 establishing the fees to be charged in 2016 for various purposes. (Jacoby) Motion passed unanimously.

4. 2016 Salary Resolution

Mr. Penatzer explained that a Resolution is adopted each year to establish the wages to be paid to borough employees as recommended by the administrative committee, reviewed last month with Council, and included in the 2016 budget.

Ms. Jacoby questioned the percent increase differential among the following positions; recreation assistant, custodian, summer crew leader, landscaper and pool manager. She added that she thought they should receive the same percentage increase across the board.

Mr. Lutz made a motion to adopt Resolution #2015-13 establishing wages for 2016. (Barber) Roll call was taken.

Barber	Yes	Lutz	Yes	
Miller	Yes	Tusing	Yes	
Houser	Yes	Jacoby	No	Motion passed.

5. Credit Card Payments

Mr. Penatzer informed the board that the borough is currently incurring an average of \$900 each month in credit card processing fees for payments for utility bills, application fees, event vendor fees and recreation events. He stated that governments are permitted to assess the user of the credit card any fees incurred, and e-Gov is a system that many local governments use to have the credit card fees automatically added to the user's bill.

Ms. Barber made a motion to approve the use of e-Gov for processing credit card payments and assessing associated fees to the user. (Lutz) Motion passed unanimously.

L. **Department Reports**

1. **Police Department** – Chief Wyland reported that winter parking will go into effect on December 1st and signs will be posted at the beginning of each block. He added that a resident had donated \$100 to the police department. Chief Wyland shared that there would be a Use of Force training seminar coming up.
2. **Public Works Department** – Mr. Evans reported on last month's activities including updates at the water treatment plant, updates at the pump stations, and he reported that the yard waste dumpster would be closed in December.
3. **Community Development** – Ms. Koss reported on event preparations for the upcoming Dickens of a Christmas, the historic designation application process, the new Sheetz store grand opening and the Small Business Saturday events.
4. **Recreation Department** – Ms. Jacoby reported on the success of Kourtney Cavalier qualifying for state champ in Hershey, and Hannah Swope qualifying for runner-up in the state for long-jump. She added that the YPCC is seeing a lot of use and there is quite a bit of positive feedback on the new equipment.
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 Planning Commission** – None.
8. **Ebensburg Zoning Board** – The zoning hearing board granted a conditional use variance to Matthew and Adrienne Rosmus to operate an automobile service facility at 300 Tanner St.

M. **Media Comments/Questions** – Mr. Cernetich asked for confirmation on which salaries were approved in regards to item 8G of the agenda.

N. **Public Comments** – Mr. Lutz commended borough manager and administrative committee for maintaining the 2016 budget with no tax increase.

O. **Executive Session** - Council entered into an executive session to discuss a personnel matter.

P. **Adjournment**

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

Meeting Adjourned: 8:05 p.m.

Minutes Recorded by: Danae Koss, Community Development Director