

The regular monthly meeting of the Ebensburg Borough Council was called to order on Monday, October 28, 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
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
Jim Loncella, RACRA President
Jim Link, RACRA
Sue Link, RACRA
Rachel Vasilko, The Mountaineer-Herald
Kelly Cernetich, The Altoona Mirror

Absent: Deb Nesbella, Vice President
Danea Koss, Community Development Director
Matt Pfeil, Recreation Director

Audience: 4

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:
(Kuhar) Motion passed unanimously.

1. Approve the minutes of the September 23, 2013 regular monthly meeting of Borough Council.
2. Approve the Financial Statement and quarterly funds transfer.
3. Approve payment of bills.
4. Schedule a Council Workshop for Monday, November 18, 2013
5. Adopt Resolution #2013-17 authorizing an application to DCED for a façade grant in the amount of \$35,000.

D. **Appointments to Address Council**

Mr. Jim Loncella, president of RACRA, previously provided a balance sheet and P&L Statement for RACRA, and copies were included in Council's packet. Mr. Loncella has also provided a history of grants awarded to Ebensburg Airport, and the section of the Airport Compliance Manual relative to grant obligations.

E. **Mayor's Report** – Mayor Datsko informed council that he signed a proclamation designating November as Pancreatic Cancer Awareness month.

1. Police Department - Chief Wyland reported on parking issues that needed to be addressed during PotatoFest.

F. **Council President Comments** – Mr. Tusing would like a press release to be distributed, going forward, for the Halloween parade.

G. **Water/Wastewater Committee**

1. There were no excursions for the month of September 2013 at the wastewater plant. Plant flows averaged .738 mgd. Mr. Kozlovac, Plant Supervisor, provided a verbal report on activities at the wastewater plant during the month which included repairs to outside lights, cleaning and servicing UV tank, plant winterization, signing of contract with First Energy for electricity and hauling of 11.4 dry tons of sludge to the landfill.
2. Mr. Kozlovac reported that the water project is 100% complete and staff continues to fine tune the operation of the DAF clarifier. The installation of new water meters at commercial accounts continues.

H. **Recreation Committee** - None

I. **Street Committee**

1. Keller Engineers is nearing completion of the design of new sidewalks on West High Street, Rowena Drive and South Center Street. A site meeting was conducted on October 2nd with PennDOT traffic engineers to review ADA access issues prior to submission of a highway occupancy permit application for the project.

Preliminary sidewalk plans are being coordinated with the design of the new PennDOT bridge on West High Street.

There are three issues related to project design that Council will need to decide:

- A. Route 422 Intersection - a crosswalk will be required at the Route 422 intersection. The necessary crossing signal with pedestrian heads and buttons already exists there. The Borough will be required to make minor upgrades to those signals.
- B. Manor Drive Intersection - three crosswalks will be required at the Manor Drive intersection, along with the installation of new pedestrian crossing signals. This requirement will add approximately \$47,000 to the project cost. Staff will seek an amended signal permit from PennDOT for the addition of the pedestrian signals. The amended signal permit is required prior to the highway occupancy permit application. Alternative solutions include:

Option #1 – Stop the project at the lake entrance. Only one crosswalk across Rowena Drive would be required (\$18,000).

Option #2 – Use Option #1, and add curb only between the intersection and the bridge. This would allow the Manor Drive radius to be widened, and still add the aesthetic benefit to that entrance to town.

Option #3 – Stop the project at some point short of Manor Drive. There is no good place to do this. The intersections of Tanner Street, Lakeview Road and Woolenmill Street are all staggered such that stopping

anywhere west of Manor Drive leaves the approach into town with an unfinished appearance. Further, the new sidewalk and curb recently installed at the Animal Hospital should be incorporated in the project, which takes the project nearly to Manor Drive.

The design of the Manor Drive intersection will include a modification to the turning radius for westbound traffic turning onto Manor Drive, and the addition of a green space at the front of Country Sisters.

C. On-Street Parking 500 & 600 Blocks – a concern was raised about customer parking in front of the NAPA store at 600 West High Street. There are two measures available to correct the problem, and staff recommends that both be used, including adding on-street parking to the 500 & 600 blocks of West High Street.

A public meeting was conducted on October 1st for all property owners affected by the project. Two owners raised concerns about limiting parking, and one of those can be resolved. One owner expressed broad objection to the entire project. Staff has been meeting with other owners of properties where specific issues are anticipated, and is successfully resolving those.

The timing of this project is not yet known. Staff remains hopeful that it can be completed in 2014. The project cost estimate, the cost of PennDOT compliance, and the pace of PennDOT approvals may push the project into 2015.

2. Mr. Lutz made a motion to approve the addition of a new crosswalk on West High Street at Spruce Street. This will satisfy PennDOT's crosswalk requirement and avoid a crossing signal. (Illig) Motion passed unanimously.
3. Mr. Lutz made a motion to approve Option #2, above, regarding the Manor Drive intersection. This option will stop the project at the lake entrance and will require only one crosswalk across Rowena Drive. In addition it will add curb only between the intersection and the bridge at Manor Drive. This would allow the Manor Drive radius to be widened, and still add the aesthetic benefit to that entrance to town.

Lutz	Yes	Tusing	Yes	
Houser	Yes	Illig	Yes	
Kuhar	No	Barber	No	Motion passed.

4. Mr. Lutz made a motion to approve the addition of on-street parking spaces on the south side of the 500 and 600 block of West High Street in order to address concerns raised regarding customer parking at the NAPA store. (Kuhar) Motion passed unanimously.

J. Administration Committee

1. Ms. Barber made a motion to grant tentative approval to the 2014 annual budget and advertise for public inspection. (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

	2013	2014	Change
General Fund Budget	\$1,798,290	\$1,823,620	1.4%
Water Fund Budget	\$1,477,910	\$1,538,520	4.1%
Wastewater Fund Budget	<u>\$1,185,360</u>	<u>\$1,527,850</u>	<u>28.9%</u>
Total Operating Fund	\$4,461,560	\$4,889,990	9.6%

2. Mr. Lutz made a motion to grant tentative approval to Ordinance #608, establishing the 2014 real estate tax. (Kuhar) Motion passed unanimously.
3. Mr. Lutz made a motion to adopt Resolution #2013-18, transferring plan assets and adopting the Ameriserv Trust and Financial Services Company Act 457 Deferred Compensation Plan along with the Trust Agreement and Adoption Agreement. (Barber) Motion passed unanimously.

K. General Business

1. Mr. Illig made a motion to award a contract to Schictel's Nursery in the amount of \$1,880.00 for the purchase of street trees. (Barber) Motion passed unanimously.

L. Department Reports

1. **Police Department** – Chief Wyland reported on last month's activities.
2. **Public Works Department** - Mr. Dodson reported on last month's activities.
3. **Community Development** – None
4. **Recreation Department** – None
5. **Ebensburg Planning Commission** – The planning commission reviewed a preliminary sketch plan of a proposed subdivision of property owned by Becky Carlin. The property is situated at the rear of Pizza Hut, off of Park Street.

6. **Ebensburg Zoning Board** – The Zoning Hearing Board approved two variances for the proposed parking lot at 309 West High Street. Nulton desired to have parking spaces and a parking aisle slightly smaller than that required. The Board also denied an appeal of a ruling relative to bollards installed at the Nulton property along North Beech Street. In addition, a special exception was made for Strittmatter for a beauty salon at 308 West Triumph Street.

M. **Media Comments/Questions** - None

N. **Public Comments** - None

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

Meeting Adjourned: 8:00 p.m.

Minutes Recorded by:

Rose Myers
Recording Secretary