

The regular monthly meeting of the Ebensburg Borough Council was called to order on Monday, October 26, 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
Dave Kuhar
Theresa Jacoby
Cecilia Houser

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
Matt Pfeil, Recreation Director
Kelly Cernetich, The Altoona Mirror
Brian Fronk, Mainline News
Randy Griffith, The Tribune Democrat

Audience: 5

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: (Miller)
Motion passed unanimously.

1. Approve the minutes of the September 28, 2015 regular monthly meeting of Borough Council.
2. Approve the Financial Statement.
3. Approve payment of bills.
4. Appoint Christina Koren to fill the unexpired term of Dr. Kirsch on the Ebensburg Main Street Partnership, term expires 2015.

D. **Appointments to Address Council** – None.

E. **Mayor's Report** – None.

F. **Council President Comments** – Mr. Tusing was happy to report that construction season is coming to an end. He added that, as a resident who was affected by the sidewalk project, the process seemed to go very smoothly and he commended Delozier on their professionalism and communication throughout the project.

G. **Water/Wastewater Committee**

1. There were no excursions for the month of September 2015. Plant flows averaged 0.451 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. Sidewalk Project

Mr. Miller shared that the contracted portion of the sidewalk project is completed and PennDOT has performed their final inspection. Documents have been submitted to close out the grant and the contractor has been paid. Borough crews will complete installation of new street signs over the next few weeks, and will install the new streetlights as weather permits.

2. North Spruce Street One-Way

Mr. Lutz shared that Council was asked to consider making North Spruce Street one way. A joint letter was received from area property owners and provided to Council. The consensus of the board was to table the issue to the next meeting while staff has a chance to look it and take some measurements.

J. Administration Committee

1. 2016 Annual Budget

Mr. Penatzer gave an overview of the 2016 annual budget and provided a copy of the complete budget to all Council members. He noted that the draft budget maintains taxes and utility rates at their current levels.

Ms. Barber made a motion to grant tentative approval to the 2016 annual budget and advertise for public inspection. (Lutz) Motion passed unanimously.

2. Tax Ordinance

Mr. Lutz made a motion to grant tentative approval to Ordinance #626, establishing the 2016 real estate tax. (Barber) Motion passed unanimously.

3. YPCC Housekeeping

The 2016 draft budget includes a new part-time position for housekeeping at the YPCC. Staff recommends that the position be filled now. Mr. Lutz made a motion to hire Mike Sirja for YPCC housekeeping at a rate of \$8.50/hr. (Kuhar) Motion passed unanimously.

K. General Business

1. Parking Ordinance

Mr. Penatzer discussed non-uniformity between the amount of fine that is assessed for parking violations and what the borough's current parking ordinance prescribes. The police department is recommending amendments to parking enforcement procedures, some of which require an ordinance amendment.

In addition to the outlined amendments, there was discussion and consensus from council to also change the existing ordinance's days of operation to Monday to Friday, rather than Monday to Saturday and to make the hours 9:00 am to 5:00 pm, rather than 9:00 am to 6 pm.

Mr. Lutz made a motion to grant tentative approval to Ordinance #627, amending parking regulations, with the addition of the discussed change to days/hours of operation, and advertise for public inspection. (Houser) Motion passed unanimously.

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

2. IT Service

Mr. Penatzer gave an overview of the current IT related expenses incurred annually by the borough. He noted that services are currently divided among multiple service providers. Precision

Business Solutions (PBS) has made a proposal to the borough which would make them the sole provider of all IT services and would decrease the borough's annual IT costs. The plan would be a fixed fee, month-to-month arrangement not previously offered by PBS.

Ms. Houser made a motion to approve an agreement with Precision Business Solutions to provide IT services to the borough. (Miller) Motion passed unanimously.

3. New Truck

The 2016 budget includes the purchase of a new pickup truck, plow and spreader. Staff wishes to purchase at least the plow and spreader now to help with the winter maintenance.

Ms. Barber made a motion to approve the purchase of a new spreader and plow from Walsh Equipment, under State contract, for \$14,100.00. (Houser) Motion passed unanimously.

4. Energy Rates

The Borough's contract for energy rates with Champion Energy Services expires at the end of 2016. The Borough's energy broker, Smith Energy Group, has recommended selecting a supplier now for a two-year period following 2016. The lowest quoted rate is Constellation NewEnergy at 6.022 cents/kWh. Our current rate is 7.29 cents/kWh.

Ms. Barber made a motion to approve a contract with Constellation NewEnergy as energy supplier for 2017 and 2018 at the rate of 6.022 cents/kWh. (Kuhar) Motion passed unanimously.

5. Christmas

Mr. Penatzer informed the board that Christmas lighting will likely not be on full display this year as the lights for the street trees are still sitting in Customs. Most of the new decorations have arrived, but without the tree lights, the new bows and pole wraps may look a little sparse.

6. Knopp Drive

The owners of 99 Grandview Drive wish to acquire a portion of Knopp Drive, an unopened street in front of their property. While it would be to the Borough's advantage in neighboring property owners wanted to have Knopp Drive improved and ordained, it is not to the Borough's advantage to permit any portion of Knopp Drive to be claimed. The consensus of Council is to deny the request.

Mr. Miller made a motion to deny the request to acquire any portion of the Grandview Drive extension or Knopp Drive. (Barber) Motion passed unanimously.

L. Department Reports

- 1. Police Department** – Chief Wyland reported that all went well with the County Fair and PotatoFest this year. He reminded residents to rake leaves to the curb and not onto the street. He added that motorists should be sure to watch for kids, especially in the early morning as it's getting darker earlier.
- 2. Public Works Department** – Mr. Evans reported on last month's activities including updates at the water treatment plant, hydrant flushing and the sewer collection system.
- 3. Community Development** – Ms. Koss reported on the fall foliage ride, Dickens of a Christmas, and the Small Business Saturday neighborhood champion campaign.

4. **Recreation Department** – Mr. Pfeil reported on last month’s activities including updates on basketball leagues, the indoor soccer program and the YPCC Silver & Fit Program. Mr. Pfeil added that since installation of the new gym equipment, there have been 46 new memberships.
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**

a. **NAPA**

The planning commission reviewed preliminary plans for the new NAPA store on Rowena Drive. Design is not far enough along to render any opinion.

b. **Fairgrounds Stormwater**

Mr. Penatzer explained that there was a stormwater problem at the fairgrounds which required installation of downspouts and underground piping. This type of work is a regulated activity under the stormwater ordinance. The fairgrounds only had 4 days to get the work completed before the annual fair and didn’t realize that a permit was required.

Staff reviewed the matter with the borough engineer. The matter was then presented to the planning commission, the agency to whom a stormwater application would have been submitted to. The planning commission approved an exemption from the planning requirements and has referred the matter to Council for action.

Ms. Barber made a motion to approve an exemption from the stormwater planning requirements for work completed at the Cambria County Fairgrounds. (Lutz) Motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Tusing made note that he was disappointed that any entity would undertake a project like this without contacting the borough to see if a permit was needed.

8. **Ebensburg Zoning Board** – No activity.

M. **Media Comments/Questions** – Mr. Brian Fronk, Mainline News, asked Council to confirm that there would be not be an increase in taxes.

N. **Public Comments** – None.

O. **Adjournment**

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

Meeting Adjourned: 7:48 p.m.

Minutes Recorded by: Danae Koss, Community Development Director