

The regular monthly meeting of the Ebensburg Borough Council was called to order on Monday, May 20, 2019 at 6:01 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
Cecilia Houser
Scot May
John Cobaugh
Dave Kuhar

Absent: Theresa Jacoby

Others: Daniel Penatzer, Borough Manager
Randy Datsko, Mayor
Blair Pawlowski, Solicitor
Terry Wyland, Chief of Police
Jeff Evans, Public Works Director
Danea Koss, Community Development Director
Dirk Johnson, Recreation Director
Kristin Baudoux, The Mountaineer Herald
Jocelyn Brumbaugh, The Tribune Democrat

Audience: 5

A. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

B. **Public Comments** – None.

C. **Consent Agenda**

Ms. Houser made a motion to approve the consent agenda containing the following items.
(Cobaugh) Motion passed unanimously.

1. Make it a matter of record that the 4/18/19 Sippel traffic accident report was forwarded to the municipal authority.
2. Approve the minutes from the March 25, 2019 and April 22, 2019 monthly meetings of Borough Council.
3. Approve the Financial Statement.
4. Approve payment of bills with an abstention by Councilor Barber on amount owed Barber Oil Company.

D. **Appointment to Address Council**

Mr. Pat Tsikalas expressed his displeasure with Pro Disposal's trash collection, asked why an apron was not replaced as part of the sidewalk project in front of his property on the 300 block of West High Street and reported that one of the borough plow trucks had destroyed a cement structure at his home that was used to cover his garbage cans.

E. **Mayor's Report** – Mayor Datsko reported that the Memorial Day Parade & Ceremony would be held Monday, May 27th starting at 10 am. He added that any living World War II veterans are going to be recognized at the ceremony and the families should contact the borough with the names of veterans.

F. **Council President** – Mr. Tusing encouraged everyone to exercise their right to vote on Tuesday, May 21st during the primary election.

G. **Water/Wastewater Committee**

1. **Report from Inframark on Wastewater Plant Operations**

Mr. Mark Wirfel, plant supervisor, provided a written report that there were no problems at the plant. He added that the plant returned 29 million gallons of clean water to Howells Run and 19.8 tons of sludge was sent to landfill. There were no excursions for the month.

2. **Wastewater Project**

Mr. Kuhar reported that the project is progressing and is 66% complete; however, 81% of the contact time as elapsed. He added that restoration of streets, sidewalks and driveways is progressing well. He also noted that Council referred a vehicle accident involving one of Sippel's loaders to the Municipal Authority.

3. **Inframark Contract**

Mr. Kuhar reported that the contract with Inframark for operation of the wastewater plant is currently on a year-to-year basis. During this time, the contract fee has been increasing 2% annually. Inframark has again proposed a 2% increase for the upcoming contract year that begins June 1st. The monthly fee will increase from \$46,866 to \$47,803. That is in line with the amount budgeted for contracted operations.

4. **Filter Plant Performance Evaluation**

Mr. Kuhar reported that the Department of Environmental Protection completed a formal and very extensive evaluation of the optimization level of the water treatment plant on March 26-27. Optimization is the process of continually improving the effectiveness of each treatment process to provide the highest level of public health protection to customers. The Ebensburg treatment plant received an overall "Commendable" performance rating, the highest possible rating.

The staff involved in the operation of the water treatment plant, under the direction of Luke Byrne, are to be commended for their dedication and professionalism in assuring that water is being delivered to the community in a safe manner.

H. **Recreation Committee**

1. **Assistant Tennis Professional**

Mr. Scot May reported that our assistant tennis pro, Brandon Statler, has taken a position with another facility. He added that staff is currently searching for a candidate to fill the part-time position. Kourtney Cavalier is assisting with duties, in the meantime.

I. **Street Committee**

1. **Sidewalk & Curb Project**

Ms. Houser reported that Kishmo has completed installation of curbs and sidewalks on South Caroline Street. Work on West Triumph Street has been interrupted by ongoing gas line construction. In the interim, good progress is being made on South Marian Street.

J. **Administration Committee**

1. **Full-time Police Position**

Ms. Barber reported that a five applications were received for the full-time police position, and one applicant later withdrew. The written test was administered on May 8th, and all four candidates advanced to the next stage of testing; the oral exam. That exam is scheduled for May 23rd before a panel of three evaluators. The combined scores of the written and oral exams will be used to compile the list of three finalists.

The Civil Service Board will meet on May 28th to certify the list of the top three candidates. The Chief, Mayor and Manager will interview the highest ranked candidate, along with any Council members that wish to attend. Once a final recommendation is formed, Council will be asked to approve the hiring at a special meeting on Monday, June 10th, subject to pre-employment medical and psychological exams and background check.

Ms. Barber made a motion to schedule a special meeting of Borough Council for Monday, June 10th at 6:30 pm. (Houser) Motion passed unanimously.

K. General Business – None.

L. Department Reports

1. **Police Department** – Chief Wyland reported provided a written report to Council and gave his monthly report. He noted that it was a busy month and have made some inroads on drug activity.
2. **Public Works Department** – Mr. Evans reported on public works activities and noted that the water leaks have slowed substantially and the street sweeper parts have been ordered. He also commended Luke Byrne for the work he’s doing at the water plant.
3. **Community Development Department** – Ms. Koss gave an update on Art in Bloom, Wheels & Wings and the schedule of summer events. She added that the Main Street Partnership has once again received accreditation through the National Main Street Center for 2019 and added that High Street Body Shop held their grand opening on Saturday, May 18th
4. **Recreation Department** – Mr. Johnson reported on activities at the Tennis Center, the success of the Pooch Pool Party and a reminder for the YPCC golf outing on June 7th.

M. Media Comments/Questions

Ms. Jocelyn Brumbaugh, The Tribune Democrat, asked what the timeline is for the sewer/gas and when they will finish up.

Ms. Kristin Baudoux, The Mountaineer Herald, asked how the timeline extension for the sewer project was determined.

N. Public Comments – None.

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

Meeting Adjourned: 7:10 PM

Minutes Recorded by: Danae Koss, Community Development Director