

The regular monthly meeting of the Ebensburg Borough Council was called to order on Monday, September 23, 2019 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
Cecilia Houser
Scot May
John Cobaugh
Theresa Jacoby
Dave Kuhar

Others: Dan Penatzer, Borough Manager
Randy Datsko, Mayor
Blair Pawlowski, Solicitor
Terry Wyland, Chief of Police
Jeff Evans, Public Works Director
Danea Koss, Community Development Director
Mike Montgomery, Wastewater Plant Supervisor
Gina Bianuci, The Mountaineer Herald
Jocelyn Brumbaugh, The Tribune Democrat
Matt Churella, The Altoona Mirror

Audience: 8

A. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

B. **Public Comments** – None.

C. **Consent Agenda**

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

1. It is a matter of record that Samantha Fulcherio was hired as the tennis assistant effective 8/26/20219.
2. Approve the minutes from the August 26, 219 monthly meeting of Borough Council.
3. Approve the Financial Statement.
4. Approve payment of bills.

D. **Appointment to Address Council** - None

E. **Mayor's Report** – None

F. **Council President** – None

G. **Water/Wastewater Committee**

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

Mr. Mike Montgomery, plant supervisor, reported on activities at the water treatment plant.

2. **Wastewater Project**

Mr. Kuhar reported that all work on sewer mains and laterals is complete and testing has been completed on all but one manhole. A walk-through inspection began on September 18th and a punch list of remaining items is being prepared.

He added that work continues on street and yard restoration and Sippel has elected to perform on their own work on all remaining base work on streets. Confusion existed on whether Quaker Sales would continue to perform top coat paving. While Quaker Sales has been ready to complete the work over the past few weeks, Sippel has delayed that work.

On September 19th at a joint meeting with Sippel and Quaker Sales, it was agreed that Quaker Sales would begin all top coating September 25th and would continue until finished. Sewer-related street repairs are expected to take 7-10 days to complete.

3. Delinquencies

Mr. Kuhar reported that between water, sewer, garbage and stormwater fees, the borough bills customers a total of \$3,960,000 annually. The total amount delinquent beyond 120 days is only \$6,564. That's a remarkable collection rate speaks well of our customers, and also Rose Myers and her diligence in strictly applying the rules and regulations established by the Municipal Authority. Mr. Kuhar thanked Ms. Rose Myers for her efforts.

H. Recreation Committee – None.

I. Street Committee

1. Street Resurfacing

Mr. Cobaugh reported that street milling and resurfacing in areas south of High Street has been delayed by utility projects. First, Sippel still has some small sections that still require a base repair. Second, gas-related work along West Lloyd Street is not yet completed. Peoples Gas has added crews to that project and will be completed this week.

He added that a second crew from Quaker Sales is scheduled to begin street milling south of High Street on October 2nd. Quaker Sales remains confident in their ability to complete all milling and paving prior to October 31st.

2. Triumph Street Sidewalk

Ms. Houser reported that PennDOT has approved updated plans for the two handicap ramps on Triumph Street at South Center Street. A site meeting was held with Kishmo, the contractor, and excavation of those ramps occurred on September 19th. The new ramps have been formed in accordance with the approved design, however, we remain concerned that the grades are so pronounced at that intersection that compliance is impossible, and that the resulting ramp would prove dangerous. We have asked PennDOT to inspect the area as formed prior to pouring concrete.

J. Administration Committee

1. Employee Pension Plans

Ms. Barber reported that there are several routine actions required every year relative to the employee pension plans. The Minimum Municipal Obligation (MMO) is the amount calculated each year that is required to be deposited into each pension plan. Regulations require Council to

formally approve that number by September 30th. The state aid unit value for 2020 has not yet been announced, but is not necessary in order to adopt the actuarially determined MMO. The state aid listed below is approximated. Council must also establish the contribution rate, if any, for

Non-Uniformed Plan

	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Financial Requirement	\$87,574	\$86,392	\$140,562	\$149,648	\$155,989
Employee Contributions	-\$16,816	-\$10,999	-\$17,057	-\$19,140	-\$20,593
MMO	\$70,758	\$75,393	\$123,505	\$130,508	\$135,396
State Aid	-\$50,348	-\$56,870	-\$59,647	-\$65,581	-\$68,000
Borough Share	\$20,410	\$18,523	\$63,858	\$64,927	\$67,396

Uniformed Plan

	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Financial Requirement	\$35,575	\$39,902	\$46,831	\$54,656	\$48,826
Employee Contributions	-\$10,453	-\$7,035	-\$6,992	-\$8,160	-\$7,290
Funding Adjustment	-\$11,555	-\$11,555	-\$4,140	-\$4,140	-\$4,140
MMO	\$13,567	\$21,312	\$35,699	\$42,356	\$37,396
State Aid	-\$9,386	-\$16,622	-\$35,699	-\$42,356	-\$37,396
Borough Share	\$4,181	\$4,690	\$0	\$0	\$0

NET COST FOR BOTH PLANS \$24,591 \$23,213 \$63,858 \$64,927 \$67,396
employees and determine how the State pension aid is to be distributed to the two pension plans.

Ms. Barber made the following motions:

Adopt the minimum municipal obligation (MMO) calculation for the non-uniformed pension plan in the amount of \$135,396. (Jacoby) Motion passed unanimously.

Adopt the minimum municipal obligation (MMO) calculation for the uniformed pension plan in the amount of \$37,396. (Jacoby) Motion passed unanimously.

Adopt Resolution #2019-04 establishing an employee contribution rate of 3% (unchanged) for the non-uniformed pension plan for 2020. (Jacoby) Motion passed unanimously.

Adopt Resolution #2019-05 establishing an employee contribution rate of 3% (unchanged) for the uniformed pension plan for 2020. (Jacoby) Motion passed unanimously.

Adopt Resolution #2019-06 authorizing distribution of the State aid check to the respective employee pension plans. (Jacoby) Motion passed unanimously.

2. Review of 2020 Annual Budget Preparation

Ms. Barber reported that the Manager is preparing preliminary budget numbers. The

administrative committee will meet on Monday, October 7th to compile a tentative budget for Council's review at the October meeting. Final adoption is expected at the November Council meeting.

K. General Business

1. 2019 Audit

Ms. Jacoby reported that regulations require that the auditor be designated prior to the end of each year. Ms. Jacoby made a motion to adopt Resolution #2019-07 appointing Wessel & Company as auditor for 2019. (Houser) Motion passed unanimously.

2. Pension Audit

Mr. Kuhar reported that the Auditor General routinely performs audits of all municipal pension plans every three to four years. A copy of the audits for the two pension plans (January 2016 – December 2018) was recently provided to Council. There are no findings in the police pension plan, however, there are two findings in the non-uniformed plan that require adjustment.

The AG 385 payroll certification form submitted in 2017 omitted a new employee. That resulted in an underpayment of state aid to the borough in the amount of \$3,059. That has been corrected, and the state will forward that amount to the borough.

That omission contributed to an understated payroll, and that resulted in an underpayment on the 2018 MMO. The borough is required to pay to the pension plan the balance of what should have been due under the 2018 MMO, plus interest.

Mr. Kuhar made a motion to approve a transfer to the non-uniformed pension plan in the amount of \$7,046 plus interest to correct the 2018 underpayment detailed in the Auditor General's September 2019 Audit Report. (Jacoby) Motion passed unanimously.

3. Main Street Partnership

Ms. Houser reported that Mr. Scott Cunningham has resigned from the Main Street Partnership. Ms. Houser made a motion to appoint Justin Yahner to complete an unexpired term of the Main Street Partnership; term expires 12/2020. (Jacoby) Motion passed unanimously.

L. Department Reports

- 1. Police Department** – Chief Wyland reported on last month's activities including getting all the parking meters recertified, an update on the American Legion County Fair and he reminded residents not to run red lights
- 2. Public Works Department** – Mr. Evans reported on public works activities including no issues at the water plant and scheduled updates required by DEP, lead and copper sampling, leak repairs and placement of the sewer lateral at the rental house.
- 3. Community Development Department** – Ms. Koss reported that Ebensburg's Historic District nomination had been approved and the district has been added to the National Register of Historic Places on September 10, 2019. She thanked all the volunteers and main street members who came

out for Volunteer Appreciation Night and Main Street Happy Hour and also reminded residents that PotatoFest would be taking place the following Saturday, September 28th. Lastly, she announced the Halloween Parade and Trick-or-Treat would be Sunday, October 27th at 1 pm.

4. **Recreation Department** – Mr. Johnson reported that Saint Francis University and Mount Aloysius College will be using the Tennis Center for their men’s and women’s programs. He added that Basketball league will start on October 5th and 25 teams are signed up to play. Mr. Johnson also shared that the Ebensburg Rotary Club is interested in having a Dog Park constructed on a parcel of land along the Ghost Town Trail, across from the YPCC.
5. **Ebensburg Planning Commission** – The commission reviewed the initial subdivision and land development application for the proposed Dollar General store. Many issues remain unresolved and a revised plan will be submitted for the Commission’s consideration.
6. **Ebensburg Zoning Board**
 - a. Murin, 418 South Cherry Street
The Board approved a setback variance for a proposed garage.
 - b. Myers, 724 North Spruce Street
The Board approved a special exception for a daycare to be operated at a residence.

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

N. **Public Comments**

Mr. Mike Illig, asked if the handicap ramps have to be to code.

Mr. Ed Cernic, Cambria County Controller, presented the County’s 11th Annual Edition of the Citizen’s Financial Report.

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

Meeting Adjourned: 7:06 PM

Minutes Recorded by: Danae Koss, Community Development Director