



Ebensburg Borough Council Meeting
Monday, November 25, 2019
6:30 p.m.

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Borough Council
Doug Tusing, President
Susan Barber, Vice-President
John Cobaugh
Cecilia Houser
Theresa Jacoby
Dave Kuhar
Scot May
Mayor
Randy Datsko

AGENDA

CALL TO ORDER & PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Members of the public are invited to comment at this time on any item appearing on the agenda.

1. CONSENT AGENDA

All items listed on the Consent Agenda are considered to be routine and will be acted upon by a single motion. There will be no separate discussion of these items unless members of the Council request specific items to be removed for separate action.

- Item 8D: Make it a matter of record that \$559,000 was transferred from the FNB Liquid Fuels checking account to a 9-month CD at FNB.
- Item 9A: Approve the minutes of the October 28, 2019 regular monthly meeting of Borough Council.
- Item 9B: Approve the financial statement.
- Item 9C: Approve payment of bills.

Recommended Action – Approve the consent agenda.

2. APPOINTMENTS TO ADDRESS COUNCIL

3. MAYOR'S REPORT

- Item 3A: Report on Police Department

4. COUNCIL PRESIDENT COMMENTS

5. WATER, WASTEWATER & STORMWATER COMMITTEE

Houser, Kuhar & May

Item 5A: Report from Inframark on Wastewater Plant Operations

Plant Supervisor Mike Montgomery will provide a verbal report on projects and activities at the wastewater plant during the month.

Recommended Action – No action required.

Item 5B: Wastewater Project

All work on this project is completed for the year. Responses to minor complaint issues and some landscaping will be addressed in the spring.

Recommended Action – No action required.

Item 5C: Water Plant Operations

Last month Council considered and tentatively approved a 3-year contract with Inframark for operation of the water and wastewater treatment plants. The terms of the contract have been negotiated and have been reviewed by the Solicitor. Contracted operations are to begin on February 1st.

Luke Byrne, the current water plant operator, will leave borough employment and be hired by Inframark. A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) is proposed with AFSCME that assures his ability to return to borough employment in the event the Inframark contract is cancelled during the term of the current collective bargaining agreement.

Recommended Action #1 – Grant approval to a MOU with AFSCME regarding future re-employment of Luke Byrne.

Recommended Action #2 – Grant final approval to a 3-year contract with Inframark effective February 1, 2020, in the amount of \$895,255 for the first year, for operation of the water and wastewater treatment plants.

6. RECREATION COMMITTEE

Barber, Jacoby & May

7. STREET COMMITTEE

Cobaugh & Houser

Item 7A: Street Resurfacing Project

The milling and resurfacing of streets south of High Street has been completed by Quaker Sales. The awarded bid was \$522,870 based upon estimated tons. The actual cost was \$525,940. That was paid with \$175,000 from the Sewer Project Reserve, \$125,000 from Liquid Fuels, and the balance of \$225,940 from the General Fund.

The \$225,940 expended from the General Fund will nearly all be reimbursed by \$114,683 from Peoples Gas and \$106,700 in County Aid. The net cost to the General Fund for the entire street resurfacing project is only \$4,557.

The Liquid Fuels account balance, after the 2019 project, is \$559,000. Annual revenue in 2020 will be \$7,500 in County Aid and approximately \$115,000 in State Aid. So, in 2020, there will be approximately \$681,500 available in Liquid Fuels funds, more than enough to cover the cost of street resurfacing in the northeast quadrant of town following the gas and sidewalk projects.

Recommended Action – No action required.

| | |
|------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 8. ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE | Barber, Jacoby & Kuhar |
|------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|

- * Item 8A: FOP Labor Agreement
The administrative committee had a final meeting with the police officers to negotiate a renewal of the FOP labor agreement, which expires at the end of 2019. Parties are very close to an agreement, and it should be presented to Council in December.

Recommended Action – No action required.

Item 8B: 2020 Annual Budget

The administrative committee has compiled a tentative 2020 budget for Council’s review. The 2020 Operating Budget calls for revenues of \$6,053,740 and expenditures of \$5,892,610. The general fund budget is balanced with no increase in real estate taxes. This is the 10th consecutive year without a tax increase for general purposes, and the 9th consecutive year without a tax increase for any purpose; the last being in 2010 for the swimming pool debt.

| | Revenues | Expenditures | Surplus |
|------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------|
| General Fund Budget | \$2,149,240 | \$2,072,400 | \$76,840 |
| Water Fund Budget | \$1,745,500 | \$1,726,250 | \$19,250 |
| Wastewater Fund Budget | \$1,933,000 | \$1,867,960 | \$65,040 |
| Stormwater Fund Budget | <u>\$ 226,000</u> | <u>\$ 226,000</u> | <u>\$ 0</u> |
| Total Operating Fund | \$6,053,740 | \$5,892,610 | \$161,130 |

The General Fund Budget is decreased by 3.5%. The decrease is due to an inordinate amount of County Aid Liquid Fuels having been budgeted in the prior year for street resurfacing.

The Water Fund Budget is increased by 4.5% due to contracting water plant operations in 2020. The Wastewater Fund Budget is 1.7% below 2019.

Overall, the 2020 Operating Budget represents a decrease of 0.59% from 2019.

With the exception of a County Aid anomaly in the General Fund, and adjustments reflecting the cost of contracting operations at the water plant, expenditures in all funds remain fairly consistent, reflecting our commitment to control expenses while ensuring the continued delivery of services in the most cost-effective manner.

| | 2019 | 2020 | Change |
|------------------------|-------------|-------------|--------|
| General Fund Budget | \$2,149,200 | \$2,072,400 | -3.57% |
| Water Fund Budget | \$1,651,970 | \$1,726,250 | 4.50% |
| Wastewater Fund Budget | \$1,900,310 | \$1,867,960 | -1.70% |
| Stormwater Fund Budget | \$ 226,000 | \$ 226,000 | 0% |
| Total Operating Fund | \$5,927,480 | \$5,892,610 | -0.59% |

The Manager will review the major points of the proposed budget. A synopsis of the budget is included in Council’s packet.

The 2020 annual budget is granted tentative approval at this meeting, advertised for public inspection, and then adopted at the December meeting.

Recommended Action – Grant tentative approval to the 2020 annual budget and advertise for public inspection.

Item 8C: Tax Ordinance

An Ordinance was historically required each year to establish the real estate tax for the coming year. Act 51 of 2019 changes that. An Ordinance is now only required when the tax rate increases. When staying the same, it can be adopted by resolution, saving the cost of advertising. The annual resolution will be presented next month along with the budget’s final adoption.

Recommended Action – No action required.

* Item 8D: Investment

After payment for the 2019 resurfacing project, \$559,338 remains in the Liquid Fuels money market account. Our intention had been to wait until all 2019 project costs were paid and invest any remaining funds in a CD. \$559,000 of that has been transferred to a 9-month CD at FNB. Those funds will be needed in early fall 2020 for next year’s paving project.

Recommended Action – Make it a matter of record that \$559,000 was transferred from the FNB Liquid Fuels checking account to a 9-month CD at FNB.

9. GENERAL BUSINESS

- * Item 9A: Minutes of Previous Meeting(s)
The minutes of the October regular meeting are presented for Council review and approval.

Recommended Action – Approve the minutes of the previous meeting(s).

- * Item 9B: Financial Statement
The financial statement for October 2019 is presented for approval.

Recommended Action – Approve the October 2019 financial statement.

- * Item 9C: Bills
A list of bills totaling \$854,006.97 is submitted for approval.

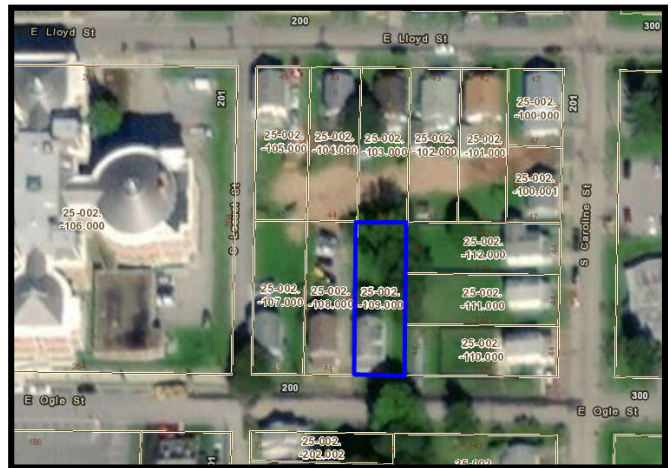
Recommended Action – Approve payment of the bills as submitted.

Item 9D: Ogle Street House

The house recently acquired by the borough through judicial sale has been razed by the Cambria County Redevelopment Authority with Act 152 grant funds. Council's intention was to dispose of the land once the house was razed.

The property was advertised for sale with bids due on November 15th. No bids were received. Staff seeks direction on Council's preference for disposing of the property.

Action – Dependent on discussion.



- * Item 9E: Meeting Dates
The December Council meeting will be held on Monday, December 16th at 6:30 p.m.
Council's reorganization meeting will be held on Monday, January 6th at 6:30 p.m.

Recommended Action – No action required.

10. DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Item 10A: Police Department

Chief Wyland will provide a verbal report on the police department's activities during the month.

Item 10B: Public Works Department

Public Works Director Jeff Evans will provide a verbal report on the public works department’s activities during the month.

Item 10C: Community Development

Community Development Director Dana Koss will provide a verbal report on the community development department’s activities during the month.

Item 10D: Recreation Department

Recreation Director Dirk Johnson will provide a verbal report on the recreation department’s activities during the month.

* Item 10E: Codes Enforcement

A monthly codes enforcement report was forwarded to Council.

* Item 10F: Ebensburg Municipal Authority

A copy of the minutes of the last municipal authority meeting is included in Council’s packet.

Item 10G: Ebensburg Planning Commission

1) Dollar General

The Planning Commission reviewed and approved the revised subdivision and land development application for the proposed Dollar General store. A Developer’s Agreement is submitted for Council approval stipulating responsibility for design review fees and stormwater facilities.

Recommended Action #1 – Grant final approval to the Dollar General subdivision and land development plans.

Recommended Action #2 – Grant approval to a Developer’s Agreement for the Dollar General store.

* Item 10H: Ebensburg Zoning Board – No activity

11. MEDIA COMMENTS/QUESTIONS

Representatives of the media are invited to comment and ask questions at this time on any issues, whether or not on the agenda.

12. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Members of the public are invited to comment at this time on any issues, whether or not on the agenda.

13. ADJOURNMENT

Copies of all staff reports and documents subject to disclosure that relate to any item of business referred to on the agenda are available for public inspection the Thursday before each regularly scheduled meeting at the Borough office, located at 300 West High Street, Ebensburg, Pa. Any documents subject to disclosure that are provided to members of the Borough Council regarding any item on this agenda are available for public inspection at the Borough office or at www.ebensburgpa.com.

In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, if you need special assistance to participate in this meeting, please contact the Borough office (814) 472-8780 or eburg@ebensburgpa.com. Notification 48-hours before the meeting will enable the Borough to make reasonable arrangements to ensure accessibility to this meeting.