

The regular monthly meeting of the Ebensburg Borough Council was called to order on Monday, November 25, 2019 at 6:30 p.m. at the Ebensburg Municipal Building, 300 W. High Street, Ebensburg, by President Doug Tusing.

Present: Doug Tusing, President  
Susan Barber, Vice President  
Theresa Jacoby  
Scot May  
Dave Kuhar  
Cecilia Houser  
John Cobaugh

Others: Daniel Penatzer, Borough Manager  
Blair Pawlowski, Solicitor  
Terry Wyland, Chief of Police  
Jeff Evans, Public Works Director  
Mike Montgomery, Inframark  
Danea Koss, Community Development Director  
Dirk Johnson, Recreation Director  
Mark Pesto, The Tribune Democrat  
Gina Bianucci, The Mountaineer Herald

Audience: 7

A. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

B. **Public Comments** – None.

C. **Consent Agenda**

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

1. It is a matter of record that \$559,000 was transferred from the FNB Liquid Fuels checking account to a 9-month CD at FNB.
2. Approve the minutes of the October 28, 2019 regular 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** – Mr. Tusing congratulated Mr. Mike Owatt, Mr. Jeff Ball, Ms. Cecilia Houser and Mr. Dave Kuhar on their elections and reelections to Council. He thanked Councilors Barber and Cobaugh for their time on Council. Mr. Tusing also shared that the

December Council meeting would be held Monday, December 16<sup>th</sup> due to the Christmas holiday, and the reorganization meeting would be held on Monday, January 6<sup>th</sup>.

#### **G. Water/Wastewater Committee**

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

Mr. Mike Montgomery submitted his report on projects and activities at the wastewater plant during the month. He shared that there no excursions and that 18.912 million gallons of water were treated in October.

##### **2. Wastewater Project**

Ms. Houser reported that all work on this project has been completed and that responses to minor complaint issues and landscaping will be addressed in the spring.

##### **3. Water Plant Operations**

Mr. May reported that last month Council considered and tentatively approved a 3-year contact 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 1<sup>st</sup>.

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 that the Inframark contract is cancelled during the term of the current collective bargaining agreement.

Mr. May made a motion to grant approval to a MOU with AFSCME regarding future employment of Luke Byrne. (Houser) Motion passed unanimously.

Mr. May made a motion to grant 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. (Houser) Motion passed unanimously.

#### **H. Recreation Committee - None**

#### **I. Street Committee**

##### **1. Street Resurfacing**

Mr. Cobaugh reported that 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 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.

**J. Administration Committee**

**1. 2020 Annual Budget**

Mr. Penatzer reported 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	<u>\$ 226,000</u>	<u>\$ 226,000</u>	<u>0%</u>
Total Operating Fund	\$5,927,480	\$5,892,610	-0.59%

The Manager reviewed the major points of the proposed budget. A synopsis of the budget was included in Council’s packet.

Ms. Jacoby made a motion to grant tentative approval to the 2020 annual budget and advertise for public inspection. (Barber) Motion passed unanimously.

**2. Tax Ordinance**

Ms. Barber reported that 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.

**K. General Business**

**1. Ogle Street House**

Mr. Penatzer reported 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 15<sup>th</sup>. No bids were received. Council discussed and the consensus is to talk with the neighbors to see if there is any interest.

**L. Department Reports**

**1. Police Department** – Chief Wyland reported on last month’s activities and reminded residents that winter parking will begin on December 1<sup>st</sup>.

**2. Public Works Department** – Mr. Evans reported on public works activities including minor issues at the water plant, homeowner lateral replacements continuing, cap and

marks are down to 32. He added that the leaf pick up will continue through November and crews are decorating for Dickens weekend.

3. **Community Development Department** –Ms. Koss reported on activities during the month including Small Business Saturday, the Turkey Trot, and Dickens of a Christmas upcoming schedule of events.
4. **Recreation Department** – Mr. Johnson reported on the activities during the month including the Pre-Black Friday Bingo event, Winter Basketball League, swim lessons, the Breakfast with Santa and the Craft Fair.
5. **Ebensburg Planning Commission**
  - a. Dollar General – Ms. Barber reported that 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.

Ms. Barber made a motion to grant final approval to the Dollar General subdivision and land development plans. (Houser) Roll call was taken.

Tusing	Yes	May	No	
Barber	Yes	Cobaugh	Yes	
Houser	Yes	Jacoby	Yes	Motion passed.

Ms. Barber made a motion to grant approval to a Developer’s Agreement for the Dollar General store. (Houser) Motion passed unanimously.

**M. Media Comments/Questions**

Mr. Mark Pesto from The Tribune Democrat asked how the revised Dollar General plans differ from the original plans.

**N. Public Comments**

Mr. Ben Illig of W. Lloyd Street thanked Mr. Jeff Evans for notifying him of a leak at one of his properties. He also asked if the borough’s leak detection software could find leaks more quickly or more often.

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

Meeting Adjourned: 7:35 PM

Minutes Recorded by: Danae Koss, Community Development Director