



Ebensburg Borough Council Meeting
Monday, January 27, 2020
6:30 p.m.

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Borough Council
Doug Tusing, President
Dave Kuhar, Vice-President
Jeffrey Ball
Cecilia Houser
Theresa Jacoby
Scot May
Michael Owatt
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 9A: Approve the minutes of the December 16, 2019 regular monthly meeting and the January 6, 2020 reorganization meeting of Borough Council.
- Item 9B: Approve the financial statement and quarterly transfers.
- Item 9C: Approve payment of bills.
- Item 9G: Appoint Jessica Murphy to complete an unexpired term on the Main Street Partnership, term expires 2021.

Recommended Action – Approve the consent agenda.

2. APPOINTMENTS TO ADDRESS COUNCIL

- Item 2A: Proposed Dog Park**
Jim White and Phil Sutton, representing the Ebensburg Rotary Club, will discuss plans for a dog park on borough-owned property next to the east end playground.

3. MAYOR'S REPORT

- Item 3A: Report on Police Department**

4. COUNCIL PRESIDENT COMMENTS

Item 4A: Committee Appointments

The President has made the following committee assignments.

Water/Wastewater/Stormwater: Councilors Ball & Kuhar
Recreation: Councilors Jacoby, May & Owatt
Streets: Councilors Ball, Houser & Owatt
Administration: Councilors Houser, Jacoby & Kuhar

The President also appointed a new ad-hoc committee to deal with the topic of Sustainability. That committee will include Councilor May, Mayor Datsko and Community Development Director Danae Koss, and will report to Council on an as needed basis.

5. WATER, WASTEWATER & STORMWATER COMMITTEE

Ball & Kuhar

Item 5A: Report from Inframark on Treatment Plant Operations

Plant Supervisor Mike Montgomery will provide a verbal report on projects and activities at the wastewater plant during the month, and an update on the transition to operating the water plant effective February 1st.

Recommended Action – No action required.

Item 5B: Sewer Lateral Progress Report

Council has been provided with a report on progress made by customers complying with sewage regulations and sewer lateral replacement. Staff will review with Council.

Recommended Action – No action required.

6. RECREATION COMMITTEE

Jacoby, May & Owatt

7. STREET COMMITTEE

Ball, Houser & Owatt

Item 7A: 2020 Sidewalk Project

Peoples Gas has decided to cancel a project to replace gas lines in the northern section of town. They have advised us that any eventual project to replace gas lines will be delayed eight or more years.

Plans have been developed for the installation of curb and sidewalk on those streets in two phases. Phase 1 is the northeast quadrant, and Phase 2 is the northwest quadrant. We had intended to undertake Phase 1 in 2020 following gas line work, and delay Phase 2 until 2021 following additional gas line work.

Staff will review with Council the current sidewalk plans and is suggesting that any desired revisions be made now. Once a final project scope is determined, bids will be advertised in early March.

Since the gas project is abandoned, it would be possible to complete both phases of the sidewalk project at the same time. Phase 1 is about three times the size of the 2019 project. Phase 2 is the same as the 2019 project. That said, staff's preference is to do the work in two separate phases over two years as planned. That will minimize inconvenience on the north side of town, negate the need for an interim wearing course of blacktop in the northwest quadrant, and keep the project manageable for smaller contractors.

	<u>Phase 1 (NE)</u>	<u>Phase 2 (NW)</u>
Estimated Cost	\$1,375,000	\$490,300
Assessments	<u>-\$ 542,800</u>	<u>-\$293,400</u>
Net Cost	\$ 832,700	\$196,900

Construction would be scheduled to begin June 1st. During April and May borough crews would complete stormwater improvements along West Sample Street and East Sample Street.

A 2-year bridge loan of \$1 million would be obtained for both phases of the project. Interest-only payments would be made from the \$160,000 currently being reserved annually, with the balance continuing to be reserved for sidewalks. Near the end of 2021, after the completion of both phases, the balance owed (approximately \$800,000) would be converted to a 10-year loan. The \$160,000 currently being reserved annually for sidewalks would be directed toward that debt, retiring the loan in six to seven years.

Recommended Action – Dependent on discussion.

Item 7B: 2020 Street Resurfacing

Bids will be sought for the resurfacing of streets in the northeast quadrant in August. Bids would be awarded in September with work occurring in October. The estimated cost of street resurfacing (\$465,000) is addressed in a separate report.

Regardless of when sidewalks are completed in the northwest quadrant, the resurfacing of streets in that quadrant should wait until 2021, as originally planned, in order to maximize use of liquid fuels funds.

Recommended Action – No action required.

8. ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE **Houser, Jacoby & Kuhar**

Item 8A: Public Works Wage Adjustment

Council's administrative committee met to discuss a wage concern bearing on employee recruitment and retention. Since any action on this matter will affect the current AFSCME labor agreement, an executive session will be conducted at the end of this meeting to discuss with the full Council.

Recommended Action – To be determined in executive session.

Item 8B: Public Works Hires

Eight applications were received for two vacancies within public works. Six of the applicants were interviewed.

Recommended Action – Make it a matter of record that ***** and ***** were hired as Public Works Laborer I at the rate of \$16.66 effective 2/10/2020.

Item 8C: Public Works Hire

A vacant part-time position in public works has been advertised. In the interim, Tim Myers was hired to fill that position.

Recommended Action – Make it a matter of record that Tim Myers was hired as temporary part-time public works at the rate of \$13.00 effective 1/27/2020.

9. GENERAL BUSINESS

* Item 9A: Minutes of Previous Meeting(s)

The minutes of the December 16, 2019 regular meeting and the January 6, 2020 reorganization 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 December 2019 is presented for approval.

Recommended Action – Approve the December 2019 financial statement and quarterly transfers.

* Item 9C: Bills

A list of bills totaling \$463,923.59 is submitted for approval.

Recommended Action – Approve payment of the bills as submitted.

Item 9D: Airport Runway Rehabilitation Project

The engineering agreement for this project has been approved by the Bureau of Aviation and is ready for Council approval. This project has a total cost of \$450,000. The Bureau is funding \$440,000 of that cost. The proposed engineering fees are \$58,261. All local costs are funded by RACRA. The project is scheduled for bidding this spring, with construction in late summer.

Action – Approve an engineering agreement with L. R. Kimball for design of the runway rehabilitation project in the amount of \$58,261.

Item 9E: Dump Truck

It is necessary to replace a 2008 Ford dump truck. The purchase is included in the 2020 capital budget. The 2008 truck will be advertised for sale.

Action – Approve the purchase of a 2020 Ford dump truck from Walsh Equipment of Ebensburg from the State bid list in the amount of \$89,054.

- * Item 9F: Main Street Partnership
A vacancy exists on the Main Street Partnership. The Board recommends that Jessica Murphy be appointed to fill the unexpired term.

Recommended Action – Appoint Jessica Murphy to complete an unexpired term on the Main Street Partnership, term expires 2021.

Item 9G: Property Appraisal

The appraisal of all borough buildings and equipment by Industrial Appraisal is the basis for determining insured values. Values are updated with inflation every year, but a reappraisal is supposed to be completed every six years. Ebensburg’s last full appraisal was ten years ago. The cost of the reappraisal is \$9,950. The project was included in the 2020 capital budget, but for \$7,500.

Action – Approve a contract with Industrial Appraisal in the amount of \$9,950 for updating of the property inventory and report of insurable values.

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 Danae 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 – No activity

- * 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. EXECUTIVE SESSION

Council will conduct an executive session to discuss a payroll issue. A decision is likely when the meeting reconvenes, but would not likely be considered a matter of public importance.

14. 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.