

The regular monthly meeting of the Ebensburg Borough Council was called to order on Monday, February 24, 2020 at 6:30 p.m. at the Ebensburg Municipal Building, 300 W. High Street, Ebensburg, by President Doug Tusing.

Present: Doug Tusing, President
Dave Kuhar, Vice President
Theresa Jacoby
Scot May
Cecilia Houser
Mike Owatt
Jeff Ball

Others: Daniel Penatzer, Borough Manager
Heath Long, Solicitor
Terry Wyland, Chief of Police
Jeff Evans, Public Works Director
Mike Montgomery, Inframark
Danea Koss, Community Development Director
Dirk Johnson, Recreation Director
Randy Griffith, The Tribune Democrat
Gina Biannuci, The Mountaineer Herald
Megan Friedhof, Wessel & Company
Stephanie Stohon, Wessel & Company

Absent: Randy Datsko, Mayor

Audience: 4

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.
(Houser) Motion passed unanimously.

1. It is a matter of record that Tim Myers was hired as part-time public works at the rate of \$13.00 effective 2/10/2020.
2. It is a matter of record that Corrine Markovich and Erin Talko have been hired to fill part-time positions at the tennis center.
2. Approve the minutes of the January 27, 2019 regular monthly meeting of Borough Council.
2. Approve the Financial Statement.
3. Approve payment of bills.

D. **Appointment to Address Council**

Ms. Stephanie Stohon and Ms. Megan Friedhof from Wessel & Company gave an overview of the borough's 2019 audit review. They distributed and reviewed a copy of financial statements and an executive summary report.

E. Mayor's Report – None.

F. Council President – Mr. Tusing reported that three years ago the borough obtained a “Retire Your Flag” box that is located in the front of the Borough building. To date, there have been 1,597 flags collected. The Boy Scouts are planning a retirement ceremony for the flags.

G. Water/Wastewater Committee

1. Report from Inframark on Wastewater Plant Operations

Mr. Mike Montgomery reported that Inframark treated 38.378 million gallons of water last month and there were no excursions. He added that Inframark also took over operations at the water plant as of February 1st. He shared that Luke Byrne is working diligently and a part-time person has been hired at each site.

2. Municipal Authority Projects

Mr. Kuhar reported on several projects that the Municipal Authority is undertaking including some relatively small stormwater and wastewater projects related to the overall CSO elimination project. Three very small projects will be completed in-house, while bids will soon be advertised for five others.

3. Reservoir Drain Valve

Mr. Kuhar reported that it is necessary to replace an inoperative drain valve at the small reservoir. The new valve was purchased two years ago, with the intention of borough crews installing it. We have not been able to schedule that work and recommended that the Municipal Authority seek bids for the project. The reservoir has been drained several times already for this project. The required permit for the project is active until September. The Engineer is finalizing plans for this project.

H. Recreation Committee

1. Lake Rowena Concession Building

Ms. Jacoby reported that the condition of the concession building at Lake Rowena is poor and staff has shared a preliminary design for a new combined concession/restroom/storage building. Mr. Penatzer explained that the plan included in Council's packet is a similar design to what is at the Memorial Field Complex, but smaller in size. Mr. Penatzer explained that there could be DCNR grant funds available to apply for, for this type of project. The consensus of Council was to refer the matter to the Recreation Board for further information on use of the facility and a recommendation.

2. Lake Rowena Pier Repair

Mr. Penatzer reported that the fishing pier at Lake Rowena is nearly off its support pilings. The pilings have shifted out of position and it they need to be replaced. The consensus of Council was to refer the matter to the recreation board for investigation and a recommendation to Council.

I. Street Committee

1. 2020 Sidewalk Project

Mr. Owatt reported that the 2020 sidewalk project in the northeast quadrant is scheduled for bidding in March. The street committee reviewed the project and has come up with some recommendations. The recommendations were shared with Council and reviewed and discussed during the meeting.

Mr. Kuhar made a motion that, provided the previously submitted design measurements are correct, the sidewalk project should proceed as it was originally intended in the northeast quadrant. (May)

Roll call was taken:	Owatt	No	Ball	No
	Jacoby	No	Kuhar	Yes
	May	Yes	Houser	Yes
	Tusing	Yes		

Motion carries 4 to 3.

Ms. Houser made a motion to eliminate sidewalks on the south side of West Sample Street between West and Marion Streets from next year's project. (Jacoby)

Roll call was taken:	May	No	Kuhar	No
	Houser	Yes	Jacoby	Yes
	Tusing	Yes	Owatt	Yes
	Ball	Yes		

Motion carries 5 to 2.

2. Downtown Sidewalk Repairs

Ms. Houser reported that the downtown streetscape project was completed in 2005. The red brick patterned walks are cracked and raised and in poor condition. Many have faded or have been cut and patched for gas line repairs.

Staff is recommending that a replacement project be undertaken to replace the decorative walks over a two-year period. The cost estimate would be \$50,000 for phase 1, which would include West High Street between Beech & Center Streets. The cost estimate for Phase 2 would be \$60,000 and would include East High, North Center and South Center Streets.

The replacement would renew the aesthetic appeal of the streetscape project and will require a Highway Occupancy Permit from PennDOT.

The consensus of Council is to proceed with the project and apply for the Highway Occupancy Permit.

J. Administration Committee

1. Public Works Wages

Ms. Houser reported that last month Council approved wage adjustments within public works, subject to the approval of AFSCME. Those adjustments included eliminating graded pay for new hires in public works and introducing a new wage tier. AFSCME has since agreed to the former action but denied the latter.

Ms. Houser made a motion to rescind Resolution 2020-01 adopted January 27, 2020. (Jacoby) Motion passed unanimously.

Ms. Houser made a motion to rescind the Memorandum of Understanding with AFSCME dated January 27, 2020 eliminating graded pay and adding a wage tier. (Jacoby) Motion passed unanimously.

Ms. Houser made a motion to adopt Resolution 2020-02 establishing the wage for summer crew leaders (had been included in Resolution 2020-01). (Kuhar) Motion passed unanimously.

Ms. Houser made a motion to approve a Memorandum of Understanding with AFSCME to delete Article XII, Section 3 of the collective bargaining agreement eliminating graded pay. (Jacoby)

K. General Business

1. Sustainability

Mr. May reported that the sustainability committee has met twice and has made some progress in determining the areas in which the borough is already complying. The assessment should be completed within the next few weeks.

Mr. May also shared that as part of the process, the Borough will need to adopt a Resolution affirming participation in the program.

Mr. May made a motion to adopt Resolution 2020-03 affirming participation in the Sustainable Pennsylvania Community Certification program. (Houser) Motion passed unanimously.

L. Department Reports

1. **Police Department** – Chief Wyland reported on activities during the month including making a correction to say that Officer Dave Roberts would be retiring, not resigning effective Friday, February 21st.
2. **Public Works Department** – Mr. Evans reported on public works activities including updates at the water plant, water loss and the continued search for leaks and a variety of outside projects.
3. **Community Development Department** –Ms. Koss reported on activities during the month including a new date for the Main Street Member Happy Hour on March 18th to be held at Coal Country Brewing, the Cultural Affairs Award honoree designation from the Cambria Regional Chamber to the Partnership, Ebensburg Community Night at the Altoona Curve on June 12th and updates on Art in Bloom.
4. **Recreation Department** – Mr. Johnson reported on the activities during the month including another upcoming Bingo night on February 28th, the opening of the Tennis Center’s outside court, a new TAI CHI class at the YPCC and 53 sign ups for swimming lessons.

M. **Media Comments/Questions** –

Mr. Randy Griffith from The Tribune Democrat asked if the Northeast section of the borough was considered to be north of High and East of Center Streets.

Ms. Gina Biannuci from The Mountaineer Herald asked for clarification on the motions related to the sidewalk projects.

N. **Public Comments**

Ms. June Fether, 122 E. Alton Street, asked Council to consider adding a gazebo to the fishing pier dock at Lake Rowena.

Mr. Fritz Weber, 605 N. West Street, suggested a contest to determine the design of gazebo, if that were to be considered.

- O. Adjournment – There being no further business, Ms. Jacoby made a motion to adjourn. (Houser) Motion passed unanimously.

Meeting Adjourned: 8:28 PM

Minutes Recorded by: Danae Koss, Community Development Director