

The regular monthly meeting of the Ebensburg Borough Council was called to order via video meeting on Monday, May 18, 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
Randy Datsko, Mayor
Danea Koss, Community Development Director
Jeff Evans, Public Works Director
Dirk Johnson, Recreation Director
Mark Pesto, The Tribune Democrat
Kristin Baudoux, The Mountaineer Herald

Audience: 5

A. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

B. **Public Comments** – None.

C. **Consent Agenda**

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

1. Approve the minutes of the April 27, 2020 regular monthly meeting of Borough Council.
2. Approve the Financial Statement.
3. Approve payment of bills.

D. **Appointment to Address Council** – Mr. Dick Davis and Ms. Debbie Grazier voiced their displeasure with the sidewalk project on the Sample Street side of their property at 415 East High Street. They cited several issues including not receiving proper notification from the borough, lack of rationale and data for the project and punitive costs for borough residents.

E. **Mayor's Report** – Mayor Datsko shared that the Rotary Club of Ebensburg has made masks available at their Little Lending Libraries and businesses through town. He reminded everyone to complete the 2020 census and reported that Ebensburg is at 71%. He also let everyone know that the Chief was not available for tonight's meeting and he had to be in Pittsburgh.

F. **Council President** – Mr. Tusing reported that the Cambria County District Attorney will be following the orders put in place by Governor Wolf with regard to the shutdown.

G. Water/Wastewater Committee

1. Report from Inframark on Wastewater Plant Operations

Mr. Kuhar reported that Inframark provided written reports for wastewater plant and they were provided in Council's packets.

2. Report from Inframark on Water Treatment Plant Operations

Mr. Kuhar reported that Inframark provided written reports for the water plant and they were provided in Council's packet.

3. Reservoir Drain Valve Replacement

Mr. Kuhar reported that the project to replace the drain valve on the small reservoir has been advertised for bids. The valve and associated parts are already on hand. A project to install that valve primarily involves draining the reservoir again, redirecting or pumping the channel flow away from the intake tower, and pouring concrete for the tower base. The cost estimate for this portion of the project was \$50-100,000. Bids for the project were opened on May 11th.

Laurel Management, Johnstown, PA	\$41,470.00
Kev's Excavating, Ebensburg, PA	\$49,800.00
Guyer Brothers, New Enterprise, PA	\$56,200.00
Concrete Services, Dover, PA	\$67,950.00

Mr. Kuhar made a motion to award a contract in the amount of \$41,470.00 to Laurel Management for replacement of the sluice gate at the small reservoir. (Jacoby) Motion passed unanimously.

4. West Horner Street Sewer Projects

Mr. Kuhar reported that this project extends a new sewer main at the rear of several residences in the 200 block of West Horner Street. The cost estimate for this project was \$12,000. Bids for the project were opened on May 11th and are as follows:

Snyder Excavating, Johnstown, PA	\$ 9,900.00
Kev's Excavating, Ebensburg, PA	\$12,600.00
Whitehorse Excavating, Berlin, PA	\$18,780.00
Ray Winters & Sons, Inc., Indiana, PA	\$19,844.00
Laurel Management, Johnstown, PA	\$31,206.00
Guyer Brothers, New Enterprise, PA	\$43,910.00
Ligonier Construction, Laughlintown, PA	\$57,000.00

Mr. Kuhar made a motion to award a contract in the amount of \$9,900.00 to Snyder Excavating for extension of a sewer main on West Horner Street. (May) Motion passed unanimously.

5. North Cherry Street Sewer Project

Mr. Kuhar reported that this project extends a new sewer main along North Cherry Street between Horner Street and Alton Street. The cost estimate for this project was \$20,000. Bids for the project were opened on May 11th.

Snyder Excavating, Johnstown, PA	\$18,900.00
Ray Winters & Sons, Inc., Indiana, PA	\$20,181.00
Kev's Excavating, Ebensburg, PA	\$23,600.00
Whitehorse Excavating, Berlin, PA	\$31,750.00
Guyer Brothers, New Enterprise, PA	\$44,790.00
Laurel Management, Johnstown, PA	\$50,735.00
Ligonier Construction, Laughlintown, PA	\$53,000.00

Mr. Kuhar made a motion to award a contract in the amount of \$18,900.00 to Snyder Excavating for extension of a sewer main on North Cherry Street. (Jacoby) Motion passed unanimously.

H. Recreation Committee – None.

I. Street Committee

1. 2020 Sidewalk Project

Mr. Owatt reported that work on the sidewalk project began on May 11th on East Crawford Street. The removal of trees is nearly completed. The installation of the stormwater line in the 300 block of East Sample Street is completed. Borough crews have already completed the replacement of the catch basins on East Sample Street.

2. First United Church of Christ Stormwater/Sidewalk Requests

Mr. Penatzer shared an issue that has come up with the First United Church of Christ's stormwater and sidewalk project. The church has three downspouts that discharge onto Caroline Street. We don't normally allow direct discharges into the street, but exceptions are made on properties where there is no grass and the only alternative would be for stormwater to flow and freeze across driveways or downspouts. Staff has approved this request.

The church's adjacent education building's downspouts also drain through two pipes on to Sample Street. That building, and the upper side of the church, can be drained to the front yard of the property along High Street where there is sufficient grass area. There is even adequate area for a dry well to be dug to handle the water.

It is the consensus of Council that they should not be permitted to continue to discharge directly to Sample when an alternative is available. It was noted that stormwater is already a significant problem on Sample Street and there are many other properties currently discharging to the street that will be eliminated as the new curb is installed.

3. Unit Debt Act Compliance

Mr. Owatt reported that all new debt, regardless of duration, requires Unit Debt Act compliance involving calculation of an updated debt statement and borrowing base certificate and adoption of an Ordinance. Ordinance #652 was granted tentative approval last month, has been advertised and is ready for final adoption.

Mr. Owatt made a motion to grant final approval to Ordinance #652 seeking DCED approval to incur line of credit of \$1 million for the 2020 and 2021 sidewalk projects. (Houser) Motion passed unanimously.

J. Administration Committee – None.

K. General Business

1. Office Access

Mr. Kuhar reported that staff is requesting an interior wall be constructed in the foyer of the municipal building, closing off the hallway before the Mayor’s office. A security window would be installed into the front office for the public to interact with front office staff. Access through the door would be limited. That would provide for employee safety and customer convenience during and after Covid-19 and would improve security in the long term for those working in the offices. The cost for the project would be minimal as it only involves eight feet of wall, a door and a window. Staff also suggests that rental of the community room cease for private parties. The room would still be available for public functions and training.

Mr. Kuhar made a motion to approve construction of an interior wall at the municipal office entrance to control access. (May) Roll call was taken.

Tusing	Yes	Houser	Yes	Owatt	Yes
Kuhar	Yes	Jacoby	No	May	Yes
Ball	Yes				

Motion passed.

2. Airport Runway Rehabilitation Bids

Ms. Jacoby reported that the cost estimate for this project was \$403,000. Bids for the project were opened on May 18th and are as follows:

Grannas Brothers, Johnstown, PA	\$278,100.00
HRI Inc., State College, PA	\$349,500.00
Quaker Sales, Johnstown, PA	\$357,491.25
A Follino Construction, Oakmont, PA	\$373,871.41

Ms. Jacoby made a motion to award a contract in the amount of \$278,100.00 to Grannas Brothers contingent on the Bureau of Aviation's approval. (Owatt) Motion passed unanimously.

- L. **Department Report** – Reports were included in Council's packets.
1. **Police Department** – None.
 2. **Public Works Department** – Mr. Evans gave a verbal report regarding water and sewer repairs on West Milton. He noted that the sewer connections were repaired and 1.5" pipe was installed to serve three new houses.
 3. **Community Development Department** – Ms. Koss shared that the Memorial Day Roving Parade would take place on Monday, May 25th and that two new businesses had opened; Bettie's Closet at 1153 W. High Street and Follow Your Art at 226 W. High Street.
 4. **Recreation Department** – Mr. Johnson reported that the fields and outdoor courts have opened back up for families to use. Little league and softball had asked to if they could start practicing, but under the Governor's orders, organized sports are not yet permitted.
- M. **Media Comments/Questions** – Ms. Baudoux from the Mainline News asked if the reservoir gate and the sluice gate were the same thing.
- N. **Public Comments** – Mr. Bill Link of North Spruce Street thanked Councilor Jacoby for her vote on item 9D against changes to office access.
- Mr. Richard Davis of 415 E. High Street asked if he would get a written response to the issues that he addressed regarding the sidewalk project.
- O. **Adjournment** – There being no further business, Ms. Jacoby made a motion to adjourn. (May) Motion passed unanimously.

Meeting Adjourned: 7:42 PM

Minutes Recorded by: Danae Koss, Community Development Director