

The regular monthly meeting of the Ebensburg Borough Council was called to order on Monday, January 25, 2020 at 6:32 p.m. via Zoom, by President, Doug Tusing.

Present: Doug Tusing, President  
Dave Kuhar, Vice President  
Theresa Jacoby  
Scot May  
Mike Owatt  
Cecilia Houser  
Jeff Ball  
Will Westrick, Jr. Councilor

Others: Randy Datsko, Mayor  
Daniel Penatzer, Borough Manager  
Blair Pawlowski, Solicitor  
Danea Koss, Community Development Director  
Dirk Johnson, Recreation Director  
Kelly Cook, Incoming Borough Manager  
Kristen Baudoux, The Mountaineer Herald  
Mark Pesto, The Tribune Democrat  
Derek Kaufman  
Julie Horvath

Audience: 3

A. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

B. **Public Comments** – Mr. Kauffman mentioned that he would be requesting a refund of \$275 in fees paid relative to a Zoning Hearing that was held with regard to his fence request.

C. **Consent Agenda**

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

1. Approve the minutes of the December 21, 2020 regular monthly meeting of Borough Council and the January 18, 2021 public hearing.
2. Approve the financial statement.
3. Approve payment of bills.

D. **Appointment to Address Council** – Ms. Julie Horvath updated Council on the proposed skatepark project. She stated that their estimated cost for the project is around \$225k and they are ready to start fundraising for the project. Mr. Penatzer recommended finalizing the location before fundraising begins.

E. **Mayor's Report** – Mayor Datsko reported that Chief Wyland stated that the warning phase has passed with regard to snow shoveling violations and fines will now be assessed for any offenders.

F. **Council President** – None.

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.

H. **Recreation Committee** – Ms. Jacoby reported that there were some heating issues at the Tennis Center that have since been resolved.

I. **Street Committee**

1. **2021 Sidewalk Project**

Ms. Houser reported that the 2021 sidewalk and curb project involves West Sample Street, West Crawford Street and West Horner Street. Bids have been advertised for construction and tree cutting and are due on February 15<sup>th</sup>. A pre-bid meeting is scheduled for February 5<sup>th</sup>.

Ms. Houser made a motion to authorize the seeking of bids for the 2021 sidewalk project. (Owatt) Motion passed unanimously.

2. **2021 Sidewalk Project**

Ms. Houser reported that there are twenty-nine trees to be removed along the 2021 sidewalk project. Ms. Houser made a motion to authorize the seeking of bids for tree removal for the 2021 sidewalk project. (Kuhar) Motion passed unanimously.

J. **Administration Committee**

1. **Borough Manager Vacancy**

Mr. Kuhar reported that Council's administrative committee has completed its review of the applications received for the position and would like to propose that Kelly Cook be selected as the Borough's new manager.

Mr. Kuhar made a motion to approve the employment contract with Kelly Cook for the position of Borough Manager. (Houser) Motion passed unanimously.

K. **Diversity Committee** – Mr. May reported that the Diversity Committee members are still in talks with the local universities to explore the idea of hosting diversity "TED Talks" in Ebensburg.

**L. General Business**

**1. Zoning Amendment, Fences**

Mr. Penatzer reported that, with regard to Ordinance #659 amending the Zoning Ordinance relative to front yard fences, there was a misinterpretation of the term “building line.” It is staff’s recommendation not to take action and to refer the issue of front yard fences for consideration by the planning commission in conjunction with the full review of Zoning Ordinances.

**M. Department Report**

**1. Police Department** – None.

**2. Public Works Department** – None.

**3. Community Development Department** – Ms. Koss reported the Main Street Partnership has set dates for this year’s annual schedule of events and added that Art in Bloom will be virtual this year. She added that committees are beginning to meet to start planning for each event. Ms. Koss shared that Impulse Dance Studio recently opened beside the Borough Office and they held a ribbon-cutting on Saturday, January 16<sup>th</sup>. She included an updated on the Sustainability project stating that a preliminary application had been submitted and the committee has received some requests for additional feedback. She’s confident that “Silver” status will be met, with the potential to move to “Gold” status.

**4. Recreation Department** – Mr. Johnson reported that the winter basketball league is in progress.

**N. Media Comments/Questions** – Mr. Mark Pesto, The Tribune Democrat, has what municipal experience Ms. Cook has.

**O. Public Comments** – None.

**P. Adjournment** – There being no further business, Mr. Jacoby made a motion to adjourn. (Houser) Motion passed unanimously.

Meeting Adjourned 7:08 PM

Minutes Recorded by: Danae Koss, Community Development Director