

The regular monthly meeting of the Ebensburg Borough Council was called to order on Monday, February 22, 2021 at 6:30 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
Matt Gribler, Solicitor
Danea Koss, Community Development Director
Dirk Johnson, Recreation Director
Jeff Evans, Public Works Director
Kelly Cook, Incoming Borough Manager
Stephanie Stohon, Wessel & Company
Megan Friedhof, Wessel & Company
Kristen Baudoux, The Mountaineer Herald
Shawn Curtis, The Tribune Democrat

Audience: 1

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. Approve the minutes of the January 25, 2021 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 presented an overview of the 2020 Borough audit review. They showed visual copies of financial statements and an executive summary report. Ms. Friedhof noted that there was one adjustment to the executive summary sheet.

E. **Mayor's Report** – Mayor Datsko reported that Chief Wyland apologized for not having his report out to Council prior to the meeting. He's been out sick and plans to return by the end of the week.

F. **Council President** – Mr. Tusing shared that municipal elections will take place later this year. Three seats on Council will be opening up, as well as the Mayor’s seat and the tax collector seat. He encouraged anyone interested to stop by the Elections Office at the Courthouse to inquire on how to get started.

G. **Water/Wastewater Committee**

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

Mr. Kuhar reported that Inframark provided written reports for the 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** – None.

I. **Street Committee**

1. **2021 Sidewalk Project**

Ms. Houser reported that the 2021 sidewalk project in the northwest quadrant has been advertised for bids. The due date for bids was February 15th. A bid tabulation is as follows:

	<u>Curb/LF</u>	<u>Sidewalk/SY</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>	
Ameron Construction	\$49.00	\$154.00	\$ 768,467.00	Altoona, Pa
Mid-State Construction	\$58.00	\$133.00	\$ 772,304.00	Altoona, Pa
M&B Services	\$64.11	\$121.39	\$ 782,282.51	Clarion, Pa
Kishmo, Inc.	\$63.00	\$127.50	\$ 791,616.00	Apollo, Pa
Liberoni Inc.	\$57.57	\$148.83	\$ 813,427.77	Plum, Pa
Glenn Hawbaker Inc.	\$57.00	\$152.50	\$ 819,704.00	State College, Pa
Curry & Kepple	\$67.80	\$132.40	\$ 838,517.00	New Alexandria, Pa
Gulisek Construction	\$64.75	\$160.00	\$ 894,283.25	Mt. Pleasant, Pa
Swank Construction	\$98.00	\$91.00	\$ 932,372.00	New Kensington, Pa
CH&D Enterprises	\$80.00	\$148.00	\$ 966,488.00	New Stanton, Pa
Gordon DeLozier Inc.	\$87.00	\$140.00	\$ 992,689.00	Hollidaysburg, Pa
Antares Site Work	\$86.50	\$164.25	\$1,056,786.00	Alexandria, Pa
*CNC Construction	\$81.42	\$178.25	\$1,060,600.84	Penn Run, Pa
Murin & Murn	\$110.00	\$180.00	\$1,263,450.00	Glassport, Pa

*Bid contained inconsequential math error.

This year’s unit cost for the sidewalk is 23% higher than last year, but the unit cost for curb is 22% lower. The overall unit cost of the bid is comparable to prior year projects. Construction is expected to begin March-April and conclude by July 31st.

The property assessment this year for curbing is \$24.50/LF. Council has in the past capped the property assessment for sidewalks at \$100.00/SY, and staff recommends that Council do the same in 2021.

Ms. Houser made a motion to award a contract in the amount of \$768,467.00 to Ameron Construction for the 2021 sidewalk project on West Horner Street, West Crawford Street, and West Sample Street. (Owatt) Motion passed unanimously.

Ms. Houser made a motion to set sidewalk assessment rates at \$24.50/LF for curbing and \$100.00/SY for sidewalk. (Kuhar) Motion passed unanimously.

2. 2021 Tree Cutting Project

Ms. Houser reported that the 2021 sidewalk project involves the cutting of twenty-nine trees. The due date for bids was February 15th. The bid tabulation is as follows:

Tree Expert Tree Service	Johnstown, PA	\$12,200.00
Great Lakes Tree Services	Sinclairville, NY	\$23,777.00
Top Notch Logging	Ebensburg, PA	\$32,000.00
Cutting Edge Tree	Boalsburg, PA	\$34,359.00

Ms. Houser made a motion to award a contract in the amount of \$12,200.00 to Tree Expert Tree Service for the cutting of trees on West Horner Street, West Crawford Street and West Sample Street. (Jacoby) Roll call was taken.

Tusing	Yes	May	No	Jacoby	Yes
Houser	Yes	Kuhar	Yes		
Owatt	Yes	Ball	Yes		Motion passed.

J. Administration Committee – None.

K. Diversity Committee – None.

L. General Business

1. Covid Impact

Mr. Penatzer reported that staff conducted a brief assessment of the impact of Covid on the borough's finances during all of 2020 and reported the findings outlined in the agenda.

2. Borough Manager Retirement

Mr. Tusing acknowledged Mr. Penatzer's retirement and took some time to thank him and highlight many of the transformational projects that were completed under his leadership.

M. Department Report

1. **Police Department** – None.
2. **Public Works Department** – Mr. Evans reported that the public works department has been working full time on plowing and clearing snow.
3. **Community Development Department** – Ms. Koss reported the Main Street Partnership's membership renewals and community event planning. She added that the Partnership is taking advantage of applying for local and state grants to help offset the loss of revenue from last year's event cancellations. Lastly, she reported the Borough's application for Sustainability Certification had been approved at the Gold Level. She added that this achievement is a testament to the policies and practices that Council has implemented to maintain a prosperous and sustainable community.
4. **Recreation Department** – Mr. Johnson thanked public works for their help with keeping all of the recreation facilities clear of snow.

N. Media Comments/Questions – Ms. Baudoux and Mr. Curtis asked for a copy of the borough audit.

O. Public Comments – None.

P. Adjournment – There being no further business, Ms. Jacoby made a motion to adjourn. Motion passed unanimously.

Meeting Adjourned 7:20 PM

Minutes Recorded by: Danae Koss, Community Development Director