

The regular monthly meeting of the Ebensburg Borough Council was called to order on Monday, April 26, 2021 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

Absent: Will Westrick, Junior Councilor

Others: Randy Datsko, Mayor  
Kelly Cook, Borough Manager  
Blair Pawlowski, Solicitor  
Danea Koss, Community Development Director  
Dirk Johnson, Recreation Director  
Jeff Evans, Public Works Director  
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 March 22, 2021 regular monthly meeting of Borough Council.
2. Approve the financial statement.
3. Approve payment of bills.

D. **Appointment to Address Council** – None.

E. **Mayor's Report** – Mayor Datsko reported that he and Chief Wyland would be reviewing the winter parking ordinance. He also shared a reminder that with nicer weather there will be more children on bikes and asked that motorists are careful to watch out for them. He added that bikes fall under the vehicle code and must abide by the same rules.

F. **Council President** – Mr. Tusing shared that the May meeting sometimes needs to be adjusted due to Memorial Day holiday, however, that is not the case this year as the May meeting will fall on the fourth Monday of the month; Monday, May 24<sup>th</sup>.

**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**

Mr. Owatt reported that Ameron Construction began the sidewalk project on March 5, 2021 and that curbing on the north side of West Horner Street should be completed this week. The project is on schedule for completion by July 31, 2021. Additionally, he noted that coordination of our construction with the gas company project continues.

**2. 2021 Tree Removal Project**

Mr. Owatt reported that Tree Expert Tree Service was issued a notice to proceed on February 23, 2021 and the work was completed at the end of March.

**3. Handicap Parking-621 West Crawford Street**

Mr. Owatt shared that Ms. Patricia Mulvehill requested that a handicap parking spot be reestablished on West Street near her house. Chief Wyland and Jeff Evans concurred the previous spot was acceptable under the applicable ordinance.

Mr. Owatt made a motion to approve the designation of a handicap parking spot on the NE corner of North West Street. (Houser) Motion passed unanimously.

**J. Administration Committee**

**1. Error in the 2020 MMO Payment to Non-Uniformed Pension Plan**

Mr. Kuhar reported that the Minimum Municipal Obligation (MMO) must be paid in full by the end of the fiscal year. Due to a clerical error, the MMO due to the Non-Uniformed plan was not paid in full. The state portion of the plan was paid, but the remaining balance, due from the Borough, was not. According to the provision of Act 205 of 1984, the balance of the MMO that remains unpaid beyond the end of the plan year must be deposited into the plan with interest compounded at a rate equal to the interest rate assumption from the actual valuation report upon which the MMO calculation was based. The interest must be calculated from the beginning of the plan year in which the MMO was to be paid, through the date of the payment. Of the full MMO (\$135,396) due for 2020, only \$80,775.99 was paid by 12/21/2020. Therefore, a funding deficiency of

\$54,620.01 resulted. The calculation of the funding deficiency with interest is \$59,599.43, due by April 30, 2021.

Mr. Kuhar made a motion to approve payment of \$59,599.43 into the plan to resolve the 2020 funding deficiency with interest. (Jacoby) Motion passed unanimously.

## 2. Summer Hires

Applications for summer positions were due on March 2<sup>nd</sup> and staff has reviewed those. The following were hired for summer employment:

### Office Assistant

Tori Brodish Skyline Drive 1<sup>st</sup> yr.

### Summer Maintenance

Dontae O'Neal Manor Drive 5<sup>th</sup> yr.

Evan Becquet New Germany Road 4<sup>th</sup> yr.

Joshua Jacoby Candlelight Drive 1<sup>st</sup> yr.

### Landscaping Assistant

Elisabeth Keim Colver Road 3<sup>rd</sup> yr.

### Summer Public Works

Gavin Knopp East High Street 1<sup>st</sup> yr.

Jason Bacho 14<sup>th</sup> Street 1<sup>st</sup> yr.

Ryan Meckley Sylvan Glen Drive 1<sup>st</sup> yr.

Corbin Vrabel Dinwood Road 1<sup>st</sup> yr.

### Memorial Field/YPCC

Brandon Frank Nanty Glo 3<sup>rd</sup> yr.

Devin Renzi Vinco 2<sup>nd</sup> yr.

### Swimming Pool Manager

Nolan Johnson East Highland Avenue 6<sup>th</sup> yr.

### Head Lifeguard

Serena Koss Truman Street 4<sup>th</sup> yr.

### Lifeguards

Zander Johnson East Highland Avenue 7<sup>th</sup> yr.

Ian Swope Portage 4<sup>th</sup> yr.

Jaylee Sikora Lou's Road 4<sup>th</sup> yr.

Zachary Malay North West Street 3<sup>rd</sup> yr.

Darron Koss Tanner Street 3<sup>rd</sup> yr.

Karson Johnson East Highland Avenue 3<sup>rd</sup> yr.

Seth Farabaugh Adams Avenue 3<sup>rd</sup> yr.

Elizabeth Bopp Winterset Road 4<sup>th</sup> yr.

Tina Hildebrand BelAir Road 4<sup>th</sup> yr.

Abby O'Brien North Spruce Street 3<sup>rd</sup> yr.

Braden Sweeney East Crawford Street 3<sup>rd</sup> yr.

Brandon Dick Ogden Road 3<sup>rd</sup> yr.

Tessa Novotny	Sylvan Glen Road	3 <sup>rd</sup> yr.
Anna Dill	West Crawford Street	2 <sup>nd</sup> yr.
Loralyn Simmers	Vetera Road	2 <sup>nd</sup> yr.

It is a matter of record that the persons listed above have been hired to the respective positions in public works, summer maintenance, Memorial Field, lifeguards, landscaping and office assistant at the rate of \$8.50/hr.

It is a matter of record that Serena Koss has been hired as head lifeguard at the rate of \$9.50/hr.

It is a matter of record that Nolan Johnson has been hired as Pool Manager at the rate of \$12.50/hr.

K. **Diversity Committee** – Mr. May reported that he has been speaking with a consultant on diversity ideas to bring to the Borough. Once they have those ideas solidified, he will bring them to the full committee for discussion.

L. **General Business**

1. **Explore Grant Funding for Dredging Lake Rowena**

Mr. Kuhar reported that Lake Rowena needs to be dredged, meaning to remove sediment from the bottom of the lake. After removal, it dried and disposed of. The borough's engineer, CDI/Kimball asked if the borough would be interested in pursuing a joint venture with Robindale Energy. Robindale has the equipment to haul the material, the land to dry the sediment and a need for the material once dried to be used for cover. Their close proximity would substantially reduce the cost of the project as well.

Mr. Kuhar made a motion to approve moving ahead with exploring options to dredge Lake Rowena. (Houser) Motion passed unanimously.

Ms. Cook clarified that the project would be bid out.

M. **Department Report**

1. **Police Department** – Written report only.

2. **Public Works Department** – Mr. Evans reported that the public works department has fixed a leak at the pool and is working on repairs, including replacement of the ceramic tile.

3. **Community Development Department** – Ms. Koss reported that a new business, Halos, Wings & Things, has opened at the Ebensburg Mini Mall, and they will be hosting a grand opening on Friday, April 30<sup>th</sup>. She also gave updates on the winners of the Virtual

Art in Bloom show as well as other show details. She added that plans are underway for this year's Memorial Day events sponsored by the Ebensburg Main Street Partnership, and also that the Main Street Partnership had been approved for a COVID relief grant through the DCED.

4. **Recreation Department** – Mr. Johnson thanked the Public Works crew for finding the leak at the pool. He added that Saturday, May 29<sup>th</sup> is the scheduled opening day for the Borough Pool.

N. **Media Comments/Questions** – Mr. Shawn Curtis, The Tribune-Democrat, requested a copy of the meeting agenda.

O. **Public Comments** – None.

P. **Executive Session** – There was not an Executive Session.

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

Meeting Adjourned 7:07 PM

Minutes Recorded by: Danae Koss, Community Development Director