

The regular monthly meeting of the Ebensburg Borough Council was called to order on Monday, August 23, 2021 at 6:30 p.m. in the Community Room of the Ebensburg Municipal Building by President, Doug Tusing.

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

Absent: Will Westrick, Junior Councilor

Others: Kelly Cook, Borough Manager
Randy Datsko, Mayor
Blair Pawlowski, Solicitor
Danea Koss, Community Development Director
Dirk Johnson, Recreation Director
Jeff Evans, Public Works Director
Kristin Baudoux, The Mountaineer Herald

Audience: 3

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.
(May) Motion passed unanimously.

1. Approve the minutes of the July 26, 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 would like to schedule a meeting with the street committee to review and discuss winter parking.

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 the wastewater plant which were provided in Council's packet.

2. Report from Inframark on Water Treatment Plant Operations

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

H. Recreation Committee– None.

I. Street Committee

1. 2021 Paving Project

Ms. Houser reported that New Enterprise was awarded the 2021 paving project and received a notice to proceed commencing on July 19, 2021. The deadline for completion is September 28, 2021. New Enterprise is expected to begin milling the streets the week of September 13th. The Borough was contacted last week by People's Gas and they are now requesting that we delay paving because they have decided to move forward with a project of their own that is within our planned paving area. The Borough can delete 25% of the awarded paving project without penalty, and the area that the gas company will be replacing is less than 15% of the entire project. This area will be withdrawn from this project and placed in the 2022 paving project. The gas company has committed that they will be done with this project by June 2022, which allows the borough to include it in the scope of paving next fall. The area being deleted from this year's project is the 500-600 blocks of N. Spruce, 500-600 blocks of W. Horner, 500-600 blocks N. West and the 700 block of Belmont.

2. Center and High Street Signal

Ms. Houser reported that the audible alert for the walk/don't walk signal was installed on July 28, 2021.

3. Stormwater

Ms. Houser reported that the borough recently experienced several large rain events that have caused damage to property. The most immediate concern involved the 100 block of S. Caroline Street, where the stormwater undermined the road, washing out the sub-base. The borough will excavate up the street in that area to repair broken stormwater lines, replace the sub-base, and repave the area.

J. Administration Committee

- 1. Public Works Hire** – Ms. Jacoby reported that a vacant full-time position in public works was advertised. Applications were reviewed and interviews conducted.

It is a matter of record that Mr. Gerald Poruban was hired as a full-time public works employee at the rate of \$17.08 per hour.

K. Diversity Committee – None.

L. General Business

1. PLCB Noise Enforcement Ordinance

Ms. Cook reported that since 2008, Ebensburg Borough has opted to enforce noise regulations at local licensed liquor establishments, exempting those establishments from PLCB's enforcement

of noise violations. The exemption was last approved in 2016 and is due for renewal. Ms. Cook shared that a hearing was held that afternoon with PLCB as well as staff. Chief Wyland testified in favor of renewing the Borough's noise enforcement ordinance. Staff will be notified once the results of the hearing have been decided.

2. Lease Agreement with Goodwill of the Southern Alleghenies

Ms. Cook reported that Ebensburg Borough and Goodwill of the Southern Alleghenies entered into a lease agreement October 18, 2018 for three years, terminating on September 30, 2021. The tenant has requested to move into a month-to-month option with the Borough. Negotiations are continuing and a final recommendation will be forthcoming at next month's meeting.

3. Planning Commission Vacancy

Ms. Cook shared that a vacancy has existed on the Planning Commission for several months and the Borough has requested letters of interest. The Borough received an application from resident Thomas Williams. Staff has interviewed Mr. Williams and feels that he would be an excellent candidate for the position.

Mr. Kuhar made a motion to approve the appointment to Thomas Williams to the Planning Commission to fulfill the unexpired term of the previous incumbent until December 2023. (Houser) Motion passed unanimously.

M. Department Report

1. Police Department

Chief Wyland reported on the police department's activities during the month which included last month's well attended Homecoming events and a recent increase in unemployment fraud cases.

2. Public Works Department

Public Works Director Jeff Evans reported on the public works department's activities during the month which included center ward playground updates and discussion on water main replacement project and grant application status.

3. Community Development

Community Development Director Danae Koss reported on the community development department's activities during the month which included the success of the Downtown Shutdown and Homecoming events, closing out the Concerts in the Park and Volunteer Appreciation Night scheduled for Thursday, September 30th. She reminded everyone that the conclusion of the Dog Park Grant contest would be next Tuesday and that the upcoming Festival of Books would be taking place in Ebensburg on Saturday, September 18th.

4. Recreation Department

Recreation Director Dirk Johnson reported on the recreation department's activities during the month as well as upcoming events like the Pooch Pool Party. He added that he and CCCRA staff are exploring a grant opportunity to make cross-country skis available to rent from the YPCC during the winter months.

N. **Media Comments/Questions** – None.

O. **Public Comments** – None.

P. **Executive Session** – Council entered into Executive Session to discuss a lease renewal with Goodwill of the Southern Alleghenies.

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

Meeting Adjourned 7:00 PM

Minutes Recorded by: Danae Koss, Community Development Director