

The regular monthly meeting of the Ebensburg Borough Council was called to order on Monday, January 23, 2017 at 6:30 p.m. at the Ebensburg Municipal Building, 300 W. High Street, Ebensburg, by Council President Doug Tusing.

Present: Doug Tusing, President
Susan Barber, Vice-President
Joe Miller
Cecilia Houser
Dave Kuhar
Theresa Jacoby
John Cobaugh

Others: Daniel Penatzer, Borough Manager
Randy Datsko, Mayor
Jeff Evans, Public Works Director
Terry Wyland, Chief of Police
Danea Koss, Community Development Director
Mark Wirfel, Plant Supervisor
Blair Pawlowski, Solicitor
Sam Kemock, Recreation Director
Josh Byers, The Mountaineer-Herald
Jocelyn Brumbaugh, The Tribune Democrat

Audience: 2

A. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

B. **Public Comments** – None.

C. **Consent Agenda**

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

1. Approve the minutes of the December 19, 2016 regular monthly meeting of Borough Council.
2. Approve the Financial Statement.
3. Approve payment of the bills.

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

E. **Mayor's Report** – Mayor Datsko commended Chief Wyland and Sargent Stoltz for their help with getting two individuals into a shelter.

F. **Council President** – Mr. Tusing noted that he received more compliments this year, more than any other that he can remember, on the Christmas lights and nicely decorated the downtown looked through the Christmas holiday. He thanked everyone involved in making that happen.

G. Water/Wastewater Committee

1. Mr. Wirfel reported that there were two excursions for the month of December 2016 at the wastewater plant. The excursions were due to the lab tests being lost by UPS. Plant flows averaged 0.9171 mgd.

2. **Beech Street Stormwater Project**

Mr. Kuhar reported that Snyder Excavating has begun work on this project, however, wet weather and extreme cold have slowed the project. Staff is hopeful that the project will be completed through the winter months. The concrete head wall in the channel below Julian Street is completed, and the first sections of large pipe to Julian Street are installed.

3. **Wastewater Project Update**

Stiffler-McGraw has completed preliminary alignments for the wastewater project. They are now generating profile views in order to determine where conflicts with other utilities might exist. Staff will view the preliminary alignments so that Council is aware of which sections of the service area will be affected.

4. **Pre-Sale Testing**

Mr. Penatzer shared that since the first of the year, customers selling properties are required to pass a pressure test of their sewer lateral. Staff thinks that in nearly all cases replacement of the sewer lateral and installation of a cleanout and viewport will be required.

If a property is included in the project area, and we are not certain of the location or depth of the new main, those sellers are permitted to escrow funds (\$2,000) assuring that the required work will be completed later. The buyer will also be required to sign acknowledging that the buyer will be responsible for any amount exceeding the escrow.

Escrows will also be permitted in cases which conditions such as weather, snow pack, etc. make it impractical to perform the work prior to closing. Escrows will not be permitted because of ignorance of the regulations or premature closing schedules. All property owners, realtors, and attorneys have been supplied with adequate public information concerning the requirements for sewer testing in Ebensburg and throughout the county.

5. **Schedule of Pressure Testing**

Mr. Penatzer shared that the original intent was to complete the wastewater project throughout the borough, enforce compliance with laterals within the project area, and then follow up each subsequent year with enforcement to other parts of the service area. However, staff suggests beginning enforcement in one of the non-project areas during 2017, prior to the project.

Staff has identified Crestwood as an area to begin the project as it is known to contribute significant amounts of I&I to the system.

Enforcement notices would be prepared and mailed at the end of February, and customers will have through August 31st (6 months) to bring their sewer lateral into compliance.

The borough will video the pipe under the street and the connection point to determine its condition. If it requires replacement, the borough will perform a trenchless repair of the pipe, and/or install a new connection saddle at the main.

Staff will look into acquiring a pipe bursting machine that will likely cost in excess of \$22,000. The machine will greatly minimize the amount of excavation necessary during this project, and will be beneficial in the long term when it is necessary to replace sewage lines from time to time. Due to the volume of customers, the borough will not be able to provide trenchless repair on their behalf. Contractors will possess the necessary equipment and can be hired by customers to repair laterals if so desired.

Council discussed the best way to proceed and the consensus was to begin in Elderwood and the Industrial Park rather than Crestwood.

Mr. Cobaugh made a motion to approve pressure testing of lines by the end of March in Elderwood and the Industrial Park. (Miller) Motion passed unanimously.

6. Reservoir Drainage Structure

Mr. Kuhar reported that the construction permit for the replacement of the sluice gate valve was received in December. Staff believes this project can be done in house. Work will not be able to begin until the bottom of the drained reservoir is dry and free of mud. All materials have been ordered. The drawdown permit expires at the end of April and will be extended.

H. Recreation Committee

1. Agreements for Use of Memorial Field

Ms. Jacoby shared that in 2008 Council entered into an agreement with the Ebensburg Youth League, who oversaw little league baseball and girls softball, for the use of the baseball fields at Memorial Field. The league paid \$2,000 annually, and the borough provided maintenance for the fields.

Since then, the girls softball has split from the youth league and is now an independent operation that wishes to use First Energy Field. Shared use of the facilities has been negotiated, and is reflected in two new agreements proposed to Council.

The youth league will continue to have first priority on McDonald's and Kimball fields. Softball will have first priority on First Energy Field. Both will share the storage building, and only the youth league will use the concession stand. The youth league will pay \$1,300 annually, while the softball association will begin paying \$700 annually. Neither agreement grants exclusive use to either group.

Ms. Jacoby made a motion to approve agreements with Ebensburg Youth League and Ebensburg Softball Association for use of Memorial Field. (Barber) Motion passed unanimously.

2. Playground Fencing

Ms. Jacoby reported that replacement of the perimeter fences at the east and center ward playgrounds is planned for this spring. Quotes were obtained earlier for black aluminum fence and gates. Staff suggests that Council approve the purchase of the materials now, so that the project can be completed as weather permits. The cost of materials for the east ward playground is \$3,700 and \$15,100 for the center ward playground. The supplier is Summit Fence of Akron, OH. Installation will be performed by borough staff.

Ms. Jacoby made a motion to approve the purchase of fence for the east ward and center ward playgrounds in the amount of \$18,800 from Summit Fence.

I. Street Committee

- 1. Ghost Town Trail Crossings** – A grant was not approved for grant funding for marking trail crossings. The Borough has enough materials on-hand from last year's PennDOT paving project to install new crosswalks at the trail crossings on Locust Street, Center Street, and West Street. The project will be completed in warmer weather.

J. Administration Committee – None.

K. General Business

Sheetz Liquor License Transfer

Ms. Houser reported that Sheetz desires to transfer a liquor license from Conemaugh Borough to the West High Street store for the purpose of selling beer for on-site consumption, and for beer and wine sales to go. The Liquor Code requires Council to conduct a public hearing concerning the request.

Ms. Houser made a motion to schedule a public hearing relative to the proposed liquor license transfer of Sheetz for Monday, February 20, 2017 at 6:30 p.m. (Miller) Motion passed unanimously.

L. Department Reports

1. **Police Department** – Chief Wyland reported on last month’s activities including all officers qualified for weapons training, CPR, First Aid and AED training was completed last month and Narcan training will be completed in February. Winter parking seems to be working well have had no additional problems after the first week.
2. **Public Works Department**
Mr. Evans reported that the water treatment plant is working well, a meeting was held with Severn Trent to discuss the SCADA project, the reservoir is down 3 ft. and there is a gas line project on Hillcrest Drive.
3. **Community Development Department**
Ms. Koss reported on last month’s activities including membership renewals, the addition of a large Adirondack chair at Lake Rowena, and an upcoming visit from a group of 60 people from Wyoming on April 28th. The group will be attending the National Main Street Center conference in Pittsburgh and are coming in early to visit Ebensburg.
4. **Recreation Department** – Ms. Kemock gave an update on activities happening over the last month including an open cleaning position at the YPCC, an update on membership, the addition of “Piyo” as a fitness class offering, a donation from Holy Name of basketball backboards and Tennis Center updates.

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

N. **Public Comments** – Mr. Bill Link of N. Spruce Street asked if he could have access to maps related to the pressure testing discussion.

O. **Executive Session** – Council entered into an executive session at 7:47 PM.

There being no further business Mr. Miller made a motion to adjourn. (Barber) Motion passed unanimously.

Meeting Adjourned: 7:54 PM

Minutes Recorded by: Danae Koss, Community Development Director