

The regular monthly meeting of the Ebensburg Borough Council was called to order on Monday, October 22, 2018 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
Theresa Jacoby
Scot May
Dave Kuhar
Cecilia Houser
John Cobaugh

Others: Daniel Penatzer, Borough Manager
Blair Pawlowski, Solicitor
Randy Datsko, Mayor
Terry Wyland, Chief of Police
Mark Wirfel, Severn Trent, Plant Supervisor
Danea Koss, Community Development Director
Dirk Johnson, Recreation Director
Jocelyn Brumbaugh, The Tribune Democrat
Andrew Smithmyer, The Mountaineer Herald
Sean Sauro, The Altoona Mirror

Absent: Theresa Jacoby
Jeff Evans, Public Works Director

Audience: 11

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.
(Kuhar) Motion passed unanimously.

1. Approve the minutes of the September 24, 2018 regular monthly meeting of Borough Council.
2. Approve the Financial Statement.
3. Approve payment of bills.

D. **Appointment to Address Council** – Mr. Sinclair provided a site design of the proposed middle school field development to Council showing the placement of the proposed Dollar General Store on the parcel. He explained that in order to take into account the concerns of the community, the plan to build at gym has been removed and the developers are now only looking to rezone the portion of the parcel where Dollar General will be located.

Mr. Tusing clarified that Council is not considering rezoning tonight; they are considering opening the discussion up to a public zoning hearing.

Ms. Houser made a motion to move the matter to a public hearing. (Kuhar) Motion passed unanimously.

- E. **Mayor's Report** – Mr. Datsko reminded residents to lock their vehicles and take keys out at all times.
- F. **Council President** – Mr. Tusing recognized and congratulated Dauntless Fire Company for their efforts toward getting a grant for the replacement of a rescue engine.

G. **Water/Wastewater Committee**

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

Mr. Mark Wirfel, plant supervisor, provided a written report of plant activities which included 46 million gallons of clean water returned to Howells Run, 10.3 tons of sludge was sent to landfill, and there were no excursions for the month of September.

2. **Wastewater Project**

Mr. Kuhar reported that the wastewater project is proceeding in the southern sections of the borough and is 18% complete, however, 33% of the contract time has elapsed. Restoration of the streets and yards has begun.

H. **Recreation Committee** – None.

I. **Street Committee** – None.

J. **Administration Committee**

1. **2019 Annual Budget**

Mr. Penatzer reported the administrative committee has compiled a tentative 2019 budget for Council's review. The 2019 Operating Budget calls for revenues of \$6,036,770 and expenditures of \$5,927,480. The general fund budget is balanced with no increase in real estate taxes.

Ms. Barber made a motion to grant tentative approval to the 2019 budget and advertise for public inspection. (Kuhar) Motion passed unanimously.

2. **Tax Ordinance**

Ms. Barber reported that an Ordinance is required each year to establish the real estate tax for the coming year.

Ms. Barber made a motion to grant tentative approval to Ordinance #645, establishing the

2019 real estate tax, and advertise for public inspection. (Houser) Motion passed unanimously.

K. General Business

1. Municipal Authority Appointment

Ms. Barber reported that two applications were received to fill a vacancy that exists on the Ebensburg Municipal Authority.

Ms. Barber made a motion to appoint Renee Martin-Nagle to a vacant seat on the Ebensburg Municipal Authority, term expiring 12/2018. (Kuhar) Motion passed unanimously.

2. Street Trees

Ms. Barber shared that there are several street trees every year that need replaced because of being hit by cars, damaged in some way or simply die. This year there are eleven to be replaced, in addition to five in front of the Courthouse that need to be replaced.

Ms. Barber made a motion to approve the purchase of sixteen trees from Eisler Nursery in Butler at a cost of \$3,493.00. (Kuhar) Motion passed unanimously.

3. Airport Inspection

Mr. Penatzer reported that on August 29th the Bureau of Aviation conducted the annual inspection of the Ebensburg Airport. There are ten off-airport tree obstructions, some missing runway markings, and several regulatory issues to update. Kimball has submitted responses to the Bureau on each matter, and is waiting determinations on each.

L. Department Reports

- 1. Police Department** – Chief Wyland reported on last month’s activities including PotatoFest, three stolen vehicles and recovery of those vehicles. He reminded residents to lock up their cars.
- 2. Public Works Department** – None.
- 3. Community Development Department**
Ms. Koss reported on wrapping up this year’s PotatoFest and Fall Foliage ride, and also gave an update on upcoming events including the Halloween Parade and Trick-or-Treat, Turkey Trot and Dickens of a Christmas. She added that three new businesses had recently opened; Taco Bell, Lemme Audiology and Heritage Hospice.
- 4. Recreation Department** – Mr. Johnson reported on last month’s activities including updates from the Tennis Center and the launch of their new commercial. He added that swimming lessons started at the CCHS pool on October 20th.

5. **Ebensburg Zoning Board** – None.

M. **Media Comments/Questions**

Mr. Sean Sauro from The Altoona Mirror asked how big the former football field parcel is and he also asked what the millage rate is.

Mr. Brumbaugh from The Tribune Democrat asked if the budget would be adopted at the November meeting.

N. **Public Comments**

Mr. Barry Templeton, 317 Tibbott Street, expressed concerns with Mr. Sinclair's plans and the recurring changes for the plans for the former middle school football field parcel. He asked Council if it was proper to take the plot and split it.

Mr. Alfred Bozella, 715 N. Caroline Street, asked if anything has ever been rezoned from residential to commercial.

Mr. Barry Templeton, 317 Tibbott Street, asked if there was a water rate increase.

Mr. Wayne Templeton, 902 N. Caroline Street, asked if the municipal authority has any idea how much water they are losing that residents are paying for.

Mr. Pat Watt, 801 N. Caroline Street, asked if the borough crews were picking up trees for people that were cut down by Penelec.

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

Meeting Adjourned: 7:43 PM

Minutes Recorded by: Danae Koss, Community Development Director