

The regular monthly meeting of the Ebensburg Borough Council was called to order on Monday, November 26, 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
Cecilia Houser
John Cobaugh

Absent: Dave Kuhar

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

Audience: 7

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.
(Cobaugh) Motion passed unanimously.

1. Approve the minutes of the October 22, 2018 regular monthly meeting of Borough Council.
2. Approve the Financial Statement.
3. Approve payment of bills.

D. **Appointment to Address Council** – Mr. Sheldon Piepenberg gave a status update and presentation on his plans for the former Cambria County Jail.

E. **Mayor's Report** – None.

F. **Council President** – Mr. Tusing noted that there would be a public hearing on Monday, December 3rd at 6:30 pm to regarding a request to rezone the former Central Cambria Middle School Football field. He added that leaf pick-up would continue as needed, weather

permitting, and that the yard waste disposal site would be closing after Friday, November 30th.

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 42 million gallons of clean water returned to Howells Run, 13.6 tons of sludge was sent to landfill, and there were no excursions for the month of October.

2. Wastewater Project

Ms. Houser reported that the wastewater project is proceeding in the southern sections of the borough and is 23% complete, however, 40% of the contract time has elapsed. The contractor has completed restoration of private property and streets to the extent possible. While the project will continue during winter, further restoration must now be delayed until spring.

Ms. Houser added that People Gas expects to begin replacement of gas mains and private laterals in February. They will work on W. Triumph Street, South Marian Street and South Caroline Street first, assuring completion time for the sidewalk and curb project along those streets in the spring. Gas line work will continue in areas south of High Street throughout the summer. Gas related work on those streets will be completed in time for street resurfacing in the fall.

H. Recreation Committee – None.

I. Street Committee – None.

J. Administration Committee

1. AFSCME Labor Agreement

Ms. Barber stated that the administrative committee, after five negotiating sessions, reached a tentative agreement with AFSCME. On November 13th, employees rejected the Borough's last best offer. The current Collective Bargaining Agreement expires at the end of 2018. The mediator has been informed of the impasse. There will be a follow-up meeting on December 11th.

2. FOP Supplemental Agreement

Ms. Barber reported that the FOP Bargaining Agreement stipulates graded pay for new police officers of 75%/85%/95% over the first three years of employment. Due to Huber's experience, an adjustment to 90% for the second year is recommended, and then 100% in the third year. The supplemental agreement does not create a precedent for future hires. The proposal is included in the draft budget.

Ms. Barber reported that they are awaiting confirmation of the adjustment and no action is to be taken at this time.

3. Dependent Healthcare

Ms. Barber reported that Ebensburg Borough does not provide dependent healthcare to employees hired after August 2014. The public works director worked for the Borough for 35 years, left for other employment and returned in 2015. Staff recommends that he be afforded dependent care, in light of his combined 38 years of full-time service to the borough.

Ms. Barber made a motion to approve providing dependent healthcare to the public works director, effective 12/1/2018. (Jacoby) Motion passed unanimously.

4. 2019 Annual Budget

Ms. Barber reported that Council granted tentative approval to the 2019 budget at last month's meeting. 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. The budget has been advertised for public inspection, and is ready for final adoption.

Ms. Barber made a motion to grant final approval to the 2019 budget. (Cobaugh) Motion passed unanimously.

5. Tax Ordinance

Ms. Barber reported that an Ordinance is required each year to establish the real estate tax for the coming year. Ordinance #645 was granted tentative approval last month, was advertised for public inspection and is ready for final adoption.

Ms. Barber made a motion to grant final approval to Ordinance #645, establishing the 2019 real estate tax, and advertise for public inspection. (Houser) Motion passed unanimously.

K. General Business

1. Sidewalk Ordinance

Mr. Penatzer reported that in May 2018 Council adopted Ordinance #643 amending where sidewalks are required within the Borough. Since then, Council has approved changes along East Sample Street, specifically between Sugar Street and Roberts Street. Ordinance #646 is proposed to reflect those changes.

Ms. Barber made a motion to grant tentative approval to Ordinance #646 amending where sidewalks are required, and advertise for public inspection. (Cobaugh) Roll call was taken:

Jacoby – No	Tusing – Yes	
Houser – Yes	Barber – Yes	
May – No	Cobaugh – Yes	Motion passed.

L. Department Reports

1. **Police Department** – Chief Wyland reported that winter parking would be going into effect on December 1st and he asked that residents voluntarily follow winter parking prior to that to make plowing easier. He added that there has been some difficulty with scheduling as we have an officer off sick right now.
2. **Public Works Department** – Mr. Evans reported that Sippel is moving slowly and that two more mainline crews have been added and an updated schedule has been posted to the web. He added that homeowners outside the project area are continuing to get their lines replaced or tested and our crew has been busy marking water lines to avoid damage.
3. **Community Development Department**
Ms. Koss reported on the upcoming Dickens of a Christmas weekend events, the 2019 membership renewal mailing and wrap-up from Small Business Saturday.
4. **Recreation Department** – Mr. Johnson reported on last month's activities including wrapping up basketball and starting up the winter league. He added that he capped the league at 50 teams this year. He also reported that the Woman's Club would once again be hosting the Breakfast with Santa during Dickens weekend, and that the new flooring had been installed at the YPCC.

M. Media Comments/Questions

Ms. Brumbaugh from The Tribune Democrat asked how many employees the AFSCME contract effects.

N. Public Comments – None.

O. Executive Session – Council entered into executive session sat 7:15 pm to discuss a personnel matter.

Ms. Jacoby made a motion to approve special project pay for Tracey Strom and for Rose Myers in the amount of \$1,500 each for 2018 and for 2019. Roll call was taken:

Jacoby – Yes

May – No

Barber – Yes

Houser – Yes

Tusing – No

Cobaugh – Yes

Motion was approved.

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

Meeting Adjourned: 8:03 PM

Minutes Recorded by: Danae Koss, Community Development Director