

The regular monthly meeting of the Ebensburg Borough Council was called to order on Monday, February 25, 2019 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
Cecilia Houser
Scot May

Absent: John Cobaugh
Dave Kuhar
Blair Pawlowski, Solicitor

Others: Daniel Penatzer, Borough Manager
Randy Datsko, Mayor
Terry Wyland, Chief of Police
Jeff Evans, Public Works Director
Danea Koss, Community Development Director
Dirk Johnson, Recreation Director
Mark Wirfel, Plant Supervisor
Andrew Smithmyer, The Mountaineer Herald
Jocelyn Brumbaugh, The Tribune Democrat

Audience: 11

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.
(Barber) Motion passed unanimously.

1. Approve signature authorizations for the President and Secretary/Treasurer with AmeriServ for the Act 457 Plan.
2. Make it a matter of record that 1) \$1,500,000 in Operating Fund reserves were reinvested on 2/7/2019 with AmeriServ at the rate of 2.81% for a term of 180 days, and 2) \$525,000 in Liquid Fuels Fund reserves were invested at the same rate and term.
3. Approve the minutes of the January 28, 2019 regular monthly meeting of Borough Council.
4. Approve the Financial Statement.
5. Approve payment of bills with one abstention from Councilor Tusing on amount owed him.

D. **Appointment to Address Council**

1. Mr. Roy Johnston, representing Ms. Datsko at 320 South Marian Street, requested that Council reconsider putting in a curb depression where a curb currently exists. He expressed concerns that his yard will become a swamp, as water will have nowhere to drain if a curb is installed. Mr. Penatzer explained that the borough does not want water on the street and that the thing to do would be to install a perforated pipe behind the curb that will run into the storm basin. The borough will provide the pipe at the time the project is underway.

2. **2018 Audit**

Megan Freidhof and Stephanie Stohon of Wessel & Company gave an overview of the borough's 2018 audit review. They distributed and reviewed a copy of financial statements and an executive summary report.

- E. **Mayor's Report** – Mayor Datsko mentioned that February 18th is Leo Stanek's birthday. Mr. Stanek had a radio show in Ebensburg at one time called the "Sunday Sounds of Polka." Mr. Datsko was asked if perhaps next year we could do a proclamation announcing February 18th as Leo Stanek Day.

- F. **Council President** – None.

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 36 million gallons of clean water returned to Howells Run, 16 tons of sludge sent to landfill, and there were no excursions for the month of January.

2. **Stormwater Project**

Mr. May reported that the project is progressing and is 40% complete, however, 60% of the contact time as elapsed.

Mr. May asked if public works had located a leak and if the borough is still buying water.

- H. **Recreation Committee** – None.

I. **Street Committee**

1. **Prave Street/Cherry Street**

Ms. Houser reported that Ordinances #647 and #648 were presented last month, correcting errors in the descriptions of Prave Street and South Cherry Street, respectively. Both Ordinances received tentative approval, have been advertised for public inspection, and are ready for final adoption.

Ms. Houser made a motion to grant final approval to Ordinance #647 correcting the legal description of Prave Street. (May) Motion passed unanimously.

Ms. Houser made a motion to grant final approval to Ordinance #648 correcting the legal description of South Cherry Street. (May) Motion passed unanimously.

J. **Administration Committee**

1. **Public Works Position**

The new Laborer II position has been advertised. Fifteen applications were received. Interviews begin on February 26th.

K. **General Business**

1. **Mower**

Mr. Penatzer reported that it is necessary to replace the 2007 model zero-turn mower. Staff recommends the purchase of an Exmark commercial-duty mower. The purchase is scheduled in the 2019 capital budget.

Ms. Barber made a motion to approve the purchase of an Exmark Lazer S zero-turn mower from Ray's Lawnmower in the amount of \$9,634.10 off the state bid list. (Houser) Motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Penatzer disclosed that Ray's Lawnmower is owned by a Penatzer, and Mr. Tusing stated that the purchase price is off of the state bid list.

L. **Department Reports**

1. **Police Department** – Chief Wyland reminded residents to clean off their sidewalks and not to forget the corners. He added that there have been some instances of people running red lights and passing school buses. He added that they are still short staffed while they have an officer out on medical leave but they are making do.

Mr. Tusing added that he knows there have been complaints about shoveling and snow removal and asked for patience from residents as the sewer project is consuming manpower and public works can't get to everything as quickly as they would like.

2. **Public Works Department** – Mr. Evans reported on the workload of the public works department and how they are overwhelmed right now with all of the projects that are happening simultaneously as well as the snow and ice maintenance. He added that they are also continuing to use the leak detection software to locate and fix leaks in the water system.
3. **Community Development Department**
Ms. Koss reported that Main Street Partnership will be host a happy hour for its members on March 7th at Gold Rush/Shear Perfection. She added that Congressman "GT" Thompson opened a district office in Ebsenburg on February 19th. Lastly, Ms. Koss reported that Ebsenburg's Historic District nomination was approved by the PA State Historic Preservation Board on February 5th. The nomination will now move forward to the National Park Service for approval.
4. **Recreation Department** – Mr. Johnson reported that the swimming lessons would start up again on Saturday, March 9th with session #3. He added that a youth aquatics program is in the works and would be a continuation after kids graduate from swim lessons. Lastly, he added the lifeguard classes will be offered in April, May and into June for recertification and certification for new lifeguards.

M. **Media Comments/Questions**

Ms. Brumbaugh of The Tribune Democrat asked if the wastewater project delays are weather related.

N. **Public Comments**

Ms. Barber asked, with all the press on the salt levels, does that affect us?

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

Meeting Adjourned: 7:25 PM

Minutes Recorded by: Danae Koss, Community Development Director