

The regular monthly meeting of the Ebensburg Borough Council was called to order on Monday, June 10 at 6:00 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  
Cecilia Houser  
Scot May  
John Cobaugh  
Theresa Jacoby

Absent: Dave Kuhar

Others: Daniel Penatzer, Borough Manager  
Randy Datsko, Mayor  
Blair Pawlowski, Solicitor  
Terry Wyland, Chief of Police  
Jeff Evans, Public Works Director  
Danea Koss, Community Development Director  
Dirk Johnson, Recreation Director  
Kristin Baudoux, The Mountaineer Herald  
Randy Griffith, The Tribune Democrat  
Matt Churella, The Altoona Mirror

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.  
(Houser) Motion passed unanimously.

1. Approve the minutes from the May 2019, 2019 monthly meeting of Borough Council.
3. Approve the Financial Statement.
4. Approve payment of bills with an abstention by Councilor May on amount owed to him.

D. **Appointment to Address Council**

Mr. Terry Powers of 408 W. Horner Street extended thanks and appreciation to the borough staff for hosting the Pooch Party at the Borough Pool. He also expressed an interest in exploring the possibility of setting up a dog park in Ebensburg.

E. **Mayor's Report** – None.

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 to Council.

**2. Wastewater Project**

Mr. Penatzer reported that work continues on the North side of the borough and to expect installations of all mains to be completed in June with increased emphasis on restoration to follow. He added that there are three issues that are currently being dealt with: on E. Ogle Street a diesel smell has been discovered; there is a spring on Poplar that needed to be addressed and there is a constriction on Rowena Drive.

**3. Laurelbrook Road Water**

Mr. May reported that there is a long standing issue with dirty water along Laurelbrook Road east of Crestwood Drive. There is 400 feet of existing 4" main there that is old. The main on Crestwood, and the main further east on Laurelbrook Road are new. The 400 feet of 4" main needs to be replaced to correct the problem. This affects three customers. The project will also include installation of a new fire hydrant at that intersection to replace one removed earlier. Sufficient money is available in the water reserve fund to accomplish this project.

Mr. May made a motion to advertise for bids for replacement of 400' of water main on Laurelbrook Road. (Houser) Motion passed unanimously.

**H. Recreation Committee**

**1. Swim Club**

Ms. Jacoby and Mr. Johnson reported that a new YPCC swim team was created as there is no program that currently exists for swimmers until 9<sup>th</sup> grade, and a program is desired to assist with early development of swimming skills.

Mr. Johnson shared that Mr. Rory Coleman, a local resident, has created an LLC, Kickboard Consulting, that will run the program. A contract will be prepared wherein Kickboard will set fees and assure that fees cover all program costs. All revenue and expenses will be processed through the borough as a YPCC program, and any excess proceeds will be paid to Kickboard. Practices and meets will be held at the school pool, and some evenings at the borough pool.

Ms. Jacoby asked if the Borough would consider putting in speed bumps along the road at Lake Rowena.

**I. Street Committee**

**1. Sidewalk & Curb Project**

Ms. Houser reported that this project is complete pending final inspection. Notices have been mailed to the property owners who are performing their own work to begin their work. Property owners have six months to complete repairs.

**2. Street Resurfacing**

Ms. Houser reported that bids received thus far in 2019 for paving in other municipalities are 20% higher than last year. We estimated a price of \$75/ton, and it is more likely to be \$90/ton. In addition, three of our streets (Marian, Julian & Caroline) have been so extensively excavated that they will require 2" of milling and a leveling course prior to the 1½" top coat. That increases the cost for those streets by another 33%.

In January, Council was told that the project estimate of \$490,000 could be higher depending on future blacktop costs, and if additional leveling is required. Both of those conditions have occurred.

Staff is considering modifications to the project in an effort to contain costs. For example, all base repair required on Chris Street, East Ogle Street and East Triumph Street will be completed in-house.

The updated cost estimate is \$652,000. The project will be paid for with \$106,700 in County Aid, \$25,000 from Peoples Gas, \$175,000 from the wastewater project reserve, and \$345,300 from Liquid Fuels.

We had expected to advertise for bids in June. There is still quite a bit of street repair to be completed by the gas company. Peoples Gas still believes they will be done with their work south of High Street by the end of August. Staff suggests that we postpone bidding the resurfacing project until mid to late July.

Ms. Houser made a motion to authorize bids for street resurfacing in July. (Barber) Motion passed unanimously.

### **3. Gas Project**

Mr. Penatzer reported that Peoples Gas is still committing to be completed with all required work south of High Street by the end of August. Paving is scheduled in September. If they have not yet replaced gas lines on South West Street and points west of there by that time, that area will be eliminated from the gas project. Those lines are not causing problems, and are not considered a priority.

After August, the gas project will move to the northeast corner of town. There are only two work areas in that corner, and both should be completed before winter. Work will continue through winter in the northwest corner of town.

The 2020 sidewalk project is split into two contracts; east and west. Assuming the northeast corner is completed over the winter, the sidewalk contract for the east side can be advertised early in 2020. The sidewalk project on the west side cannot begin until the gas project is completed on that side of town. If the west side is not completed, the sidewalk project on that side of town will likely be delayed, and the subsequent paving.

## **J. Administration Committee**

### **1. Full-time Police Position**

Ms. Barber reported that five applications were received for the full-time police position, and two applicants later withdrew. All applicant testing is completed and the Civil Service Board certified the final list of three. These three finalists were interviewed by the Chief, Mayor, Manager and two Council members.

Ms. Barber made a motion to approve the hiring of Aaron Leyo, a full-time police officer, effective June 24<sup>th</sup>, subject to pre-employment medical and psychological exams. (Houser) Motion passed unanimously.

**K. General Business**

**1. 2020 Census**

Mr. Penatzer reported that the Federal government is making preparations for the 2020 Census. Borough staff has submitted certification for boundary lines and street names. Participation in the census is very important to the community. First, the census is the basis for equal political representation under the Constitution. Second, State and Federal dollars are allotted based on the number of people counted in the census.

We will be encouraging participation in the Census online, in our mailings, and in our newsletter. It's easy, safe and important. For the first time ever, the Census Bureau will accept responses online, but residents can still respond by phone or mail.

The Census Bureau will be hiring thousands of workers to complete the 2020 census. Job seekers can apply now.

**2. Local Use of Radar**

Mr. Penatzer reported that the Pennsylvania General Assembly has considered year after year allowing local municipalities to use radar for speed detection. Last year a bill finally cleared the Senate, but died in the House. This year, SB607 is introduced again, nearly identical to last year's bill.

Resolution #2019-03 is proposed to Council in support of adoption of a law allowing municipal police to utilize radar.

Ms. Jacoby made a motion to adopt Resolution #2019-03 in support of allowing municipal police to utilize radar. (Houser) Motion passed unanimously.

**L. Department Reports**

**1. Police Department** – None.

**2. Public Works Department** – Mr. Evans reported on public works activities including that there are three sections of mainline left to do and that new traffic lights have been installed.

**3. Community Development Department** – Ms. Koss gave an update on Wheels & Wings. She added that the Main Street Partnership has once again received accreditation through the National Main Street Center for 2019 and was ranked as the 5<sup>th</sup> highest performing programs in the state.

**4. Recreation Department** – Mr. Johnson reported on activities at the Tennis Center including new summer clinics and camps.

**M. Media Comments/Questions**

Ms. Jocelyn Brumbaugh, The Tribune Democrat, asked if the borough does street resurfacing every year, how many streets are involved and how long does it take.

**N. Public Comments**

Mr. Joe Inzana, E. Highland Avenue asked if some streets could take priority over others when the crews are patching the holes. He added that Ebensburg is losing its beautiful trees by Holy Name.

Mr. Pat Lauer, E. Horner Street, expressed his concern that there is no consistency on where the crews are putting in new ports. He also asked why they are cementing now when the project isn't complete.

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

Meeting Adjourned: 7:55 PM

Minutes Recorded by: Danae Koss, Community Development Director