

The regular monthly meeting of the Ebensburg Borough Council was called to order on Monday, August 26, 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
Cecilia Houser
Scot May
John Cobaugh
Theresa Jacoby
Dave Kuhar

Absent: Daniel Penatzer, Borough Manager

Others: Randy Datsko, Mayor
Blair Pawlowski, Solicitor
Terry Wyland, Chief of Police
Jeff Evans, Public Works Director
Danea Koss, Community Development Director
Mark Wirfel, Retiring Wastewater Plant Supervisor
Mike Montgomery, Incoming Wastewater Plant Supervisor
John Glass, RACRA President
Gina Bianuci, The Mountaineer Herald
Jocelyn Brumbaugh, The Tribune Democrat
Matt Churella, The Altoona Mirror

Audience: 10

A. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

B. **Public Comments** – None.

C. **Consent Agenda**

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

1. It is a matter of record that the fund transfers described herein occurred.
2. Approve the minutes from the July 22, 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**

RACRA – Mr. John Glass, President of RACRA requested Council's permission to have the Borough serve as the applicant for a grant to cover the milling and paving at the airport runway. It was noted that it will be a \$500,000.00 project with a 5% local match and will not cost the Borough anything.

E. **Mayor's Report** – None

F. **Council President** – Mr. Tusing, Council President, reminded everyone that school has begun and to please be careful and vigilant when the school buses are letting out.

G. Water/Wastewater Committee

1. Report from Inframark on Wastewater Plant Operations

Mr. Mark Wirfel, plant supervisor, reported on activities at the water treatment plant. He thanked Council and Authority again for their support during his time at the plant. He also introduced Mike Montgomery who will be his successor.

2. Water Plant Upgrades

Mr. Kuhar reported that DEP has instituted new regulations regarding the monitoring of alarms and shutdown capabilities for water treatment facilities. Guidance was issued late prior to the August 19th deadline for compliance. Staff is working with Custom Controls to upgrade the SCADA system in order to achieve compliance. A request for a 60-day extension has been submitted and is expected to be approved. The cost of the upgrades will be \$30,000 to \$50,000.

H. Recreation Committee – None.

I. Street Committee

1. Street Resurfacing

Mr. Cobaugh reported that bids for the street resurfacing south of High Street were opened on July 31st and were as follows:

Quaker Sales	\$522,870.67
Grannas Brothers	\$522,938.00
New Enterprise	\$582,470.00

He added that it had been feared that unit prices could be as high as \$90/ton, resulting in a project estimate of \$652,000. The actual price is \$84/ton with a total contract cost of \$522,870.67.

It remains possible that we could exceed the estimated quantities. That cannot be known for sure until a particular street is milled. If the milling results in a sufficiently smooth surface, the 1½” asphalt topcoat is all that will be necessary. If the milling on a particular street or street segment is not smooth enough, a scratch coat may be necessary prior to the topcoat, resulting in higher quantities.

The sewer, gas and stormwater contractors have all been reminded that the street milling and resurfacing project is scheduled to begin in early September. All street repairs from the various projects south of High Street must be completed prior to then.

Mr. Cobaugh made a motion to award a contract to Quaker Sales in the amount of \$522,870.67 for street resurfacing. (Barber) Roll call was taken.

Barber	Yes	May	No	Kuhar	Yes	Cobaugh	Yes
Houser	Yes	Tusing	Yes	Jacoby	Yes		

Motion passed.

2. Triumph Street Sidewalk

Ms. Houser reported that Kishmo had completed all work associated with this project. PennDOT has inspected the two new handicap ramps on Triumph Street at South Center Street, and rejected modifications that were made in the field during construction.

The design of the two handicap ramps was completed by Kimball and approved by PennDOT. However, Kimball had relied upon data contained in the as-built drawings that PennDOT provided from the earlier Center Street project. Those were the incorrect drawings, and therefore the new design was flawed. Kimball, the borough and the contractor all agreed on a new design during construction, that we all thought PennDOT would approve. Again, we were still attempting to comply as closely as possible to the approved drawings. It was still not realized that they were based upon faulty data. The contractor could not make those modifications work, and made further changes during final construction.

At a field meeting with PennDOT, the faulty data, the root of the problem, was finally realized. Kimball has completed a new design of both ramps. Kishmo has agreed to return, remove the handicap ramps, and install new ramps and curb in those areas. Kishmo has been paid for the contract, less \$15,000 held until this work is completed. The additional curb work needs to be completed before Triumph Street is paved.

J. **Administration Committee** – None.

K. **General Business** – None.

L. **Department Reports**

1. **Police Department** – Chief Wyland reported on last month’s activities including crowd estimates of 750 and 3000 at the Downtown Shutdown and Homecoming, respectively. He reminded everyone that stop for the school buses and added that they will be patrolling in the school zones and crosswalk detail.
2. **Public Works Department** – Mr. Evans reported on public works activities including updates to the SCADA system, a high manganese level in the intake water which will result in a notice going out to customers and a new stormwater drain completion on S. Julian Street.
3. **Community Development Department** – Ms. Koss reported that we were notified by the PHMC that our Historic Designation review should be completed in early September. She thanked everyone who came out for Homecoming weekend and reported that we’ve had a good response to the Concerts in the Park. She gave an update on PotatoFest and announced that the Fall Foliage Ride would be October 6th. Lastly, she reported that Trout Unlimited had completed their streambank and fish habitat restoration project August 23-24.
4. **Recreation Department** – None.
5. **Ebensburg Planning Commission** – The commission did not achieve a quorum in order to conduct preliminary review of plans for a Dollar General proposed along North Center Street at the site of the former middle school. The meeting is scheduled for September 5th.
6. **Ebensburg Zoning Board**
 - a. Rizzo, 400 North Center Street
The Board upheld the ruling of the zoning officer that store, a non-permitted use, was being operated at the address.

b. Reese, 801 West Sample Street

The Board approved a front setback variance for a proposed addition to the resident.

c. Manno, 123 Lovell Ave.

The Board approved two variances related to parking, but denied a variance that would have allowed the parking aisle to be 14 feet wide rather than the required 20 feet wide.

M. Media Comments/Questions

Ms. Jocelyn Brumbaugh, The Tribune Democrat, asked which streets would be paved under the contract that was just approved by Council.

N. Public Comments – None.

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

Meeting Adjourned: 7:20 PM

Minutes Recorded by: Danae Koss, Community Development Director