

The regular monthly meeting of the Ebensburg Borough Council was called to order on Monday, December 16, 2019 at 6:30 p.m. at the Ebensburg Municipal Building, 300 W. High Street, Ebensburg, by President Doug Tusing.

Present: Doug Tusing, President
Susan Barber, Vice President
Theresa Jacoby
Scot May
Dave Kuhar
Cecilia Houser
John Cobaugh

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

Audience: 3

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 November 25, 2019 regular monthly meeting of Borough Council.
2. Approve the Financial Statement.
3. Approve payment of bills.

D. **Appointment to Address Council** – None.

E. **Mayor's Report** – Mayor Datsko wished everyone a Merry Christmas and reminded everyone not to drink and drive.

F. **Council President** – Mr. Tusing shared that this year's Dickens of a Christmas was one of the best. He thanked Ms. Jacoby for her efforts in recruiting event attendees to dress in Victorian era clothing. He also thanked Councilors Barber and Cobaugh for their service and presented each with a parting gift.

G. Water/Wastewater Committee

1. Report from Inframark on Wastewater Plant Operations

Mr. Kuhar stated that Mr. Mike Montgomery wasn't able to attend but his report was included in Council's packet.

H. Recreation Committee - None

I. Street Committee - None

J. Administration Committee

1. FOP Negotiations

Ms. Jacoby reported that the administration committee has reached a tentative agreement with the full-time police officers relative to renewal of the collective bargaining agreement that expires at the end of 2019. The proposed agreement includes the following subjects:

1. The officers' schedule now includes shifts of varying length. Language has been amended throughout the agreement that refers to time off in terms of hours rather than days.
2. Wages shall increase 3% in the first year and 2½% in years 2-4.
3. Minimum call-out pay is increased from two hours to three hours.
4. Employee healthcare contributions will increase from 8% to 10% during the contract period.
5. The eye/dental benefit increases from \$350/year to \$400/year.
6. The residency requirement is increased from ten to fifteen air miles.

Ms. Jacoby made a motion to approve a new 4-year collective bargaining agreement with uniformed employees. (Kuhar) Motion passed unanimously.

2. 2020 Annual Budget

Ms. Jacoby reported that last month Council granted tentative approval to the 2020 budget. The 2020 Operating Budget calls for revenues of \$6,053,740 and expenditures of \$5,892,610. The general fund budget is balanced with no increase in real estate taxes.

	Revenues	Expenditures	Surplus
General Fund Budget	\$2,149,240	\$2,072,400	\$76,840
Water Fund Budget	\$1,745,500	\$1,726,250	\$19,250
Wastewater Fund Budget	\$1,933,000	\$1,867,960	\$65,040
Stormwater Fund Budget	\$ 226,000	\$ 226,000	\$ 0
Total Operating Fund	\$6,053,740	\$5,892,610	\$161,130

The budget has been advertised for public inspection and is ready for final adoption.

Ms. Jacoby made a motion to grant final approval to the 2020 annual budget (Houser) Motion passed unanimously.

3. Tax Resolution

Ms. Barber made a motion to adopt Resolution 2019-09 maintaining a real estate tax rate in 2020 of 30.75 mills on land and 8.5 mills on buildings for general purposes, and 2.5 mills on land for stormwater. (Houser) Motion passed unanimously.

4. 2020 Salary Resolution

Ms. Barber shared that a Resolution is adopted each year to establish the wages to be paid to borough employees, as recommended by the administrative committee, reviewed last month with Council, and included in the 2020 budget. AFSCME wages increase 2½%. FT police wages increase 3%. All non-union staff have a 2½% increase. Part-time police wage is increased \$1/hour.

Ms. Barber made a motion to adopt Resolution #2019-10 establishing wages for 2020. (Kuhar) Motion passed unanimously.

K. General Business

1. Ogle Street House

Mr. Penatzer reported the house recently acquired by the borough through judicial sale has been razed by the Cambria County Redevelopment Authority with Act 152 grant funds. Council’s intention was to dispose of the land once the house was razed.

The property was advertised for sale with bids due on November 15th. No bids were received. Council discussed and the consensus is to talk with the neighbors after the holidays to see if there is any interest.

L. Department Reports

1. **Police Department** – Chief Wyland reported on activities during the month including a great crowd for the Christmas parade with no issues, a reminder about winter parking and handing out candy canes instead of parking tickets through Christmas.
2. **Public Works Department** – Mr. Evans reported on public works activities including water leaks, high levels at the airport and the home owner lateral testings are moving along.
3. **Community Development Department** –Ms. Koss reported on activities during the month including thanking everyone who shopped in Ebensburg on Small Business Saturday and those that entered our contest and thanking everyone who came out for Dickens of a Christmas. She added that the Main Street Partnership had a new Ebensburg map designed and that Bud’s Auto Sales would be opening in Ebensburg soon.
4. **Recreation Department** – Mr. Johnson reported on the activities during the month including the craft fair and start of the winter basketball leagues.

M. **Media Comments/Questions** – None.

N. **Public Comments** – None.

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

Meeting Adjourned: 6:53 PM

Minutes Recorded by: Danae Koss, Community Development Director