

The regular monthly meeting of the Ebensburg Borough Council was called to order via teleconference on Monday, March 30, 2020 at 6:34 p.m. at the Ebensburg Municipal Building, 300 W. High Street, Ebensburg, by President Doug Tusing.

Present: Doug Tusing, President
Dave Kuhar, Vice President
Theresa Jacoby
Scot May
Cecilia Houser
Mike Owatt
Jeff Ball

Others: Daniel Penatzer, Borough Manager
Randy Datsko, Mayor
Blair Pawlowski, Solicitor
Danea Koss, Community Development Director
Mark Pesto, The Tribune Democrat
Kristin Baudoux, The Mountaineer Herald

Audience: 2

A. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

B. **Public Comments** – Mr. & Mrs. Derek & Chrissy Kaufman, 609 East Crawford Street, addressed their wishes to keep three 112-year old trees in front of their property that are slated for removal as part of the 2020-21 sidewalk and curb project. Mr. Kaufman shared that they hired O’Brien Landscaping to look over the trees. Mr. O’Brien’s opinion was that the trees appear healthy and in good condition. Mr. Kaufman also suggested that a bituminous wedge might be considered as an alternative to the new curb.

C. **Consent Agenda**

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

1. Approve the minutes of the February 24, 2020 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 shared that he and Chief Wyland are proud of the residents for adhering to the social distancing directives and stopping non-essential services.

F. **Council President** – Mr. Tusing reported that everyone should continue to follow recommendations made by the government and CDC. Our parks and playgrounds will remain open for now since people are adhering to social distancing.

G. **Water/Wastewater Committee**

1. **Report from Inframark on Wastewater Plant Operations**

Mr. Kuhar reported that Inframark provided written reports for the water and wastewater plants and they were provided in Council's packets.

H. **Recreation Committee**

1. **Lake Rowena Concession Building**

Ms. Jacoby reported that a new concession building at Lake Rowena was discussed at the Recreation Board meeting. The board lacked a quorum but did hear comments from the Little League. A smaller scale project will likely be developed.

I. **Street Committee**

1. **2020 Sidewalk Project**

Ms. Houser reported that the 2020 sidewalk project in the northeast quadrant has been advertised for bids. The consensus of the board is to table awarding a bid for the 2020 sidewalk project as well as setting the sidewalk assessment rates on the curbing and sidewalks.

Ms. Jacoby made a motion to table action on the 2020 sidewalk project. (Kuhar) Motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Tusing asked whether or not Council would once again cap the amount to be paid by the property owners at \$100.00 per SY of sidewalk since that is what has been done in the past and because all bids came in over the \$100 mark.

Mr. Kuhar made a motion to cap the property owner cost at \$100.00 per SY of sidewalk. (Houser). Motion carried unanimously with one abstention from Mr. Owatt.

2. **2020-21 Sidewalk Project Line of Credit**

Ms. Houser reported that proposals were received on March 16th for the line of credit necessary for the 2020 and 2021 sidewalk projects.

Ms. Houser made a motion to table accepting a proposal for the sidewalk project. (Jacoby) Motion pass unanimously.

3. **Unit Debt Act Compliance**

Ms. Houser reported that all new debt, regardless of duration, requires Unit Debt Act

compliance involving calculation of an updated debt statement and borrowing base certificate and adoption of an Ordinance.

Ms. Houser made a motion to table establishing an Ordinance until this project is undertaken. (Jacoby) Motion passed unanimously.

4. 609 East Crawford Street

After hearing from the Kauffman's, several questions were raised by Council regarding safety, the state of the current trees, any alternative measures, etc. The consensus of Council is to table any action on this until the next meeting. Ms. Jacoby made a motion to table the 609 Crawford Street tree matter until the next meeting. (Kuhar) Motion passed unanimously.

5. Tree Cutting

Ms. Houser reported that two bids were received for the cutting of 35 large trees along the sidewalk and curb project. Since the Crawford Street matter has been tabled, Ms. Houser made a motion to table awarding a contract for the tree cutting project. (Owatt) Motion passed unanimously.

J. Administration Committee

1. Summer Hires

Ms. Jacoby reported that applications for summer positions were due on March 2nd and staff has reviewed them. The following were hired for summer employment:

Office Assistant

Jocelyn Rainey Tanner Street 2nd yr.

Summer Maintenance

Dontae O'Neal Manor Drive 4th yr.

Evan Becquet New Germany Road 3rd yr.

Brendan Johnson Tanner Street 1st yr.

Landscaping Assistant

Elisabeth Keim Colver Road 2nd yr.

Summer Public Works

Jude Gdula Ben Franklin Hwy 1st yr.

Aaron Caplea West Crawford Street 1st yr.

Memorial Field/YPCC

Brandon Frank Nanty Glo 2nd yr.

Devin Renzi Vinco 1st yr.

Swimming Pool Manager

Nolan Johnson East Highland Avenue 5th yr.

Head Lifeguard

Serena Koss Truman Street 3rd yr.

Lifeguards

Zander Johnson East Highland Avenue 6th yr.

Ian Swope Portage 3rd yr.

Jaylee Sikora Lou's Road 3rd yr.

Zachary Malay North West Street 2nd yr.

Matthew Gauden Myers Street 2nd yr.

Darron Koss Tanner Street 2nd yr.

Karson Johnson East Highland Avenue 2nd yr.

Caitlin Cochran 1st Street, Colver 2nd yr.

Seth Farabaugh Adams Avenue 2nd yr.

Elizabeth Bopp Winterset Road 3rd yr.

Tina Hildebrand BelAir Road 3rd yr.

Kendra Fox Wilmore Road 3rd yr.

Abby O'Brien North Spruce Street 2nd yr.

Braden Sweeney East Crawford Street 2nd yr.

Ben Young Crestwood Drive 2nd yr.

Brandon Dick Ogden Road 2nd yr.

Tessa Novotny Sylvan Glen Road 2nd yr.

Anna Dill West Crawford Street 1st yr.

Loralyn Simmers Vetera Road 1st yr.

It is a matter of record that the persons listed above have been hired to the respective positions in public works, summer maintenance, Memorial Field, lifeguards, landscaping and office assistant at the rate of \$8.50/hr.

It is a matter of record that Serena Koss has been hired as head lifeguard at the rate of \$9.50/hr.

It is a matter of record that Nolan Johnson has been hired as Pool Manager at the rate of \$12.50/hr.

K. General Business

1. Sewage Enforcement

Mr. Penatzer reported that Act 537 addresses on-lot sewage enforcement and requires every municipality to appoint a sewage enforcement officer. Cambria County Sewage Enforcement has provided that service to the Borough since 2001. This agency closed in March when all state aid was cut for local sewage enforcement.

There are fewer than a dozen on-lot systems within the borough where customers are not able to connect to the public sewer system due to grade or distance. The borough rarely requires the services of a sewage enforcement officer but is nonetheless required to have

one. Laurel Municipal Inspection Agency, who now provides joint building code enforcement, is adding sewage enforcement services to fill this void.

Mr. Kuhar made a motion to grant tentative approval to Ordinance #651 adopting an intergovernmental agreement to share sewage enforcement services through LMIA. (Houser) Motion passed unanimously.

2. **Coronavirus**

Mr. Penatzer reported that extraordinary measures are being taken across the country in order to control the spread of the coronavirus. Staff is recommending that the following actions be taken:

Mr. Owatt made a motion to advance employees with Coronavirus symptoms up to ten days of sick leave. (Houser) Motion passed unanimously.

Ms. Houser made a motion to affirm and extend the state of emergency declared by the Mayor for the Borough, thereby authorizing special procedures for public meetings. (Kuhar) Motion passed unanimously.

3. **Airport Grant**

Mr. Penatzer shared that a Resolution authorizing signatures is necessary for the airport grant. Mr. Kuhar made a motion to adopt Resolution 2020-04 authorizing the Mayor to sign documents associated with the airport grant. (Jacoby) Motion passed unanimously.

L. **Department Report** – Reports were included in Council’s packets.

1. **Police Department** – None.
2. **Public Works Department** – None.
3. **Community Development Department** – None.
4. **Recreation Department** – None.

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

N. **Public Comments** – None.

O. **Adjournment** – There being no further business, Ms. Jacoby made a motion to adjourn. (Houser) Motion passed unanimously.

Meeting Adjourned: 7:20 PM

Minutes Recorded by: Danae Koss, Community Development Director