

The regular monthly meeting of the Ebensburg Borough Council was called to order on Monday, July 27, 2020 at 6:30 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
Terry Wyland, Police Chief
Dirk Johnson, Recreation Director
Mark Pesto, The Tribune Democrat
Kristen Baudoux, The Mountaineer Herald
Patt Keith, The Altoona Mirror

Audience:

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.
(Houser) Motion passed unanimously.

1. Approve the minutes of the June 17, 2020 town hall and the June 22, 2020 regular monthly meeting of Borough Council.
2. Approve the Financial Statement and quarterly transfers.
3. Approve payment of bills.
4. It is a matter of record that the natural gas contract with Dominion Energy has been extended through 1/2024 with a rate of 3.65/MCF.

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

E. **Mayor's Report** – None.

F. **Council President** – None.

G. **Water/Wastewater Committee**

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

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

2. Report from Inframark on Water Treatment Plant Operations

Mr. Kuhar reported that Inframark provided written reports for the water plant and they were provided in Council's packet.

H. Recreation Committee

1. Nathan's Divide

Ms. Jacoby reported that residents have already been using the reservoir for non-motorized boating and that staff has met with a Fish Commission enforcement officer regarding new signage and coordination of enforcement. New message boards displaying the rules for facilities will be installed at both reservoirs and Lake Rowena. Based on discussions at last Monday's Municipal Authority meeting, Nathan's Divide will be advised not to make further changes or improvements unless or until the Option to Lease between them and the Authority is fully executed.

2. Memorial Field Improvements

Mr. May reported the two grass infields have been skinned, leveled and new infield mix installed by borough crews. The softball field has also been completed. The baselines have been graded and reestablished. Stabilization pads were installed in all three fields under the pitcher mounds, batter's boxes and catcher areas. Mr. May added that better signage prohibiting dogs should be considered.

I. Street Committee

1. 2020 Sidewalk Project

Ms. Houser reported that East Crawford Street is completed, and work is continuing on East Horner Street and North Caroline Street. The project appears to be on schedule.

2. 2020 Street Resurfacing

Mr. Penatzer reported that, assuming the sidewalk project is completed on or before the September 15th deadline, we will be able to issue a Notice to Proceed with milling and resurfacing of streets in the northeast quadrant. Council has been provided with a list of streets to be resurfaced and a cost estimate (\$455,300). Staff is preparing the bid documents for that project and will be advertising for bids.

J. Administration Committee – None.

K. General Business

1. Diversity

Mr. Penatzer reported that the roles of the Borough and the Main Street Partnership have been discussed and the consensus of Council was to separate the Main Street Partnership

from the Borough. The Main Street Partnership is a corporate body independent of borough government, is capable of sponsoring and managing its own events, and is free to develop and enforce its own rules without government assistance or interference of any kind.

Since it was first formed in January 2013 under Resolution 2013-01, the Main Street Partnership Board members have been appointed by Council. Since acquiring its 501(c)3 status, members of the Partnership have continued to be appointed by Council. The proper method is for the Partnership to appoint members to its own Board since it is in fact a corporate body separate from borough government. The Partnership has amended its own by-laws implementing that change.

The Borough will continue to provide contracted services to the Partnership such as staff support and office space. The Borough will provide any services to the Partnership's events that we would provide to any event, regardless of the sponsor; i.e. street sweeping, increased police staffing, etc. This relationship is expressed in a proposed Operating Agreement similar to that which exists between the Borough and Ebensburg Municipal Authority.

In the future, the Borough will no longer sponsor any of the community events in town. Instead, events will be sponsored by the Partnership or other civic organization or group. Ordinance #653 is proposed to provide a process through which permits for special events and parades can be applied for.

Mr. May made a motion to adopt Resolution 2020-06 stating that Resolution 2013-01 which established the Main Street Partnership is no longer in effect. (Jacoby) Motion passed unanimously.

Mr. May made a motion to adopt Resolution 2020-07 signifying the Borough's desire to no longer provide oversight or control of future events. (Houser) Motion passed unanimously.

Ms. Jacoby made a motion to grant tentative approval to Ordinance #653 providing for the permitting of special events and parades and advertise for public inspection. (Owatt) Motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Owatt made a motion to grant approval to the Operating Agreement between the Main Street Partnership and the Borough of Ebensburg. (Houser) Motion passed unanimously.

2. **Inclusive Ebensburg**

Mr. Penatzer reported that Inclusive Ebensburg, a citizen group formed to promote diversity throughout the Central Cambia region, has met with staff, the Mayor and Council representatives. Based on those discussions, Inclusive Ebensburg concluded that it would be more effective if it continued to be an organization separate from borough government, thereby able to consult with and make recommendations to the Main Street Partnership and the Borough and conduct its own diversity programs. All agreed that Council could create a standing diversity committee to be included in Council's agenda to provide updates to Council on all diversity-related activities and to serve as the primary liaison between the Borough and groups such as Inclusive Ebensburg.

It was the consensus of Council to create a standing diversity committee with members to be appointed by the President. Mr. Tusing asked for volunteers to serve on the committee. Mr. May volunteered.

3. **Garbage/Recycling Bids**

The garbage and contract expires at the end of 2020. Bids will be advertised for Council's consideration next month. Mr. May expressed concerns about the recycling and garbage being mixed together.

L. **Department Report**

1. **Police Department** – Chief Wyland provided gave an update to Council on recent activities. He also provided a written report for Council's packets.

2. **Public Works Department** – Mr. Evans provided a written report for the packets and was not in attendance.

3. **Community Development Department** – Ms. Koss provided a written report for the packets and was not in attendance.

4. **Recreation Department** – Mr. Johnson gave a report on activities at the YPCC, pool and tennis center.

5. **Ebensburg Zoning Board**

The Zoning Board approved a variance for a fence setback at 616 Rowena Drive.

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

N. **Public Comments**

Mr. Pat Lauer, 313 E. Horner Street, asked who is allowed to do sidewalk work.

Ms. Raquel Lemelle, 217 E. Horner Street, reported that Inclusive Ebensburg has planned a kick-off event. They are hosting a Multicultural Book Drive to benefit our local libraries.

Mr. Shaun Boland, 403 E. Sample Street, expressed concerns over run-off water in streets after storms. He explained that he had eight inches of water in his garage after the last storm and that it has happened multiple times in the past two years.

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

Meeting Adjourned 7:16 PM

Minutes Recorded by: Danae Koss, Community Development Director