

The regular monthly meeting of the Ebensburg Borough Council was called to order on Monday, June 28, 2021 at 6:30 p.m. in the Community Room of the Ebensburg Municipal Building by President, Doug Tusing.

Present: Doug Tusing, President
Dave Kuhar, Vice President
Theresa Jacoby
Scot May
Cecilia Houser
Mike Owatt
Absent: Jeff Ball
Will Westrick, Junior Councilor
Others: Kelly Cook, Borough Manager
Randy Datsko, Mayor
Blair Pawlowski, Solicitor
Danea Koss, Community Development Director
Dirk Johnson, Recreation Director
Jeff Evans, Public Works Director
Kristen Baudoux, The Mountaineer Herald
Randy Griffith, The Tribune Democrat

Audience: 6

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.
(Jacoby) Motion passed unanimously.

1. Approve the minutes of the May 24, 2021 regular monthly meeting of Borough Council.
2. Approve the financial statement.
3. Approve payment of bills.

D. **Appointment to Address Council** – Mr. Phil Sutton from the Ebensburg Rotary Club gave an update on the Dog Park Project progress and fundraising efforts.

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 the 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 which were provided in Council’s packet.

H. Recreation Committee– None.

I. Street Committee

1. 2021 Sidewalk Project

Ms. Houser shared that Ameron Construction began the sidewalk project on March 5, 2021 and that curbing and sidewalk on West Horner Street are nearing completion. Additionally, excavation has begun on West Crawford and the overall project is on schedule for completion by July 31, 2021. Coordination with the gas company project continues.

2. 2021 Paving Project

Ms. Houser reported that bids were opened on June 22, 2021 at noon. The Borough received four bids, all accompanied with the required bid bond. The bids were as follows:

| | 60,749 SY Milling of Bituminous Pavement | 604 Ton Superpave Scratch and Leveling 9.5mm | 5,487 Ton Superpave Wearing 9.5mm | Grand Total |
|---------------------------------|---|---|--|--------------------|
| New Enterprise | 103,273.30 | 44,979.88 | 390,617.15 | \$538,870.33 |
| HRI, Inc. | 147,012.58 | 53,907.00 | 473,988.90 | 674,908.48 |
| Quaker Sales Corporation | 82,618.64 | 53,756.00 | 475,629.00 | 612,003.64 |
| Grannas Bros. | 133,647.80 | 42,853.80 | 387,883.65 | 564,385.25 |

Ms. Houser made a motion to award contract to the lowest bidder, New Enterprise, for the 2021 Paving Project for a total of \$538, 870.33. (Kuhar). Motion passed unanimously.

3. Center and High Street Signal

Ms. Houser reported that the parts for adding audio to the crosswalk signal have been ordered, but it will take nearly two months to receive them.

Mr. May asked for Council’s consideration in placing ‘No Parking’ signs at the 90 degree turn on Triumph Street near Memorial Fields because people are parking on both sides of the street causing traffic issues. Staff was asked to determine what needs to be done to rectify the issue.

J. Administration Committee

1. Josh Surkovich

Ms. Jacoby reported that Josh has been a full-time employee of the Borough since August of 2016 as a Laborer I. Laborer II has the same job description as Laborer I except Laborer II possesses certification as a licensed water treatment operator, with all state-required modules applicable to the employer's facilities. Employees employed as a Laborer I may voluntarily seek certification, but the employer is not required to advance to the Laborer II rate.

As the work force at the Borough progresses, attrition plans should be implemented to ensure the ongoing operations of the Borough. Given that operation of the Water Treatment Plant (WTP) has been outsourced to Inframark, it is not necessary to have an additional operator for the WTP. However, the certifications are needed to work independently on the distribution system, and it is important to allow an employee to work independently while still having other employees with the knowledge on-hand if required. In short, the Borough has an employee who took it upon himself to study and pass the certifications needed to be a job leader when in the field. The difference in hourly pay between Laborer I and Laborer II equates to \$11,793.60 per year.

Following a discussion of the issue held in Executive Session, Ms. Jacoby made a motion to promote Mr. Surkovich to Laborer II as of the next pay period. (Houser) Motion passed unanimously.

2. AFSCME Grievance Settlement and Memorandum of Understanding

Ms. Jacoby reported that a grievance was filed on the Borough for utilizing an outside contractor during snow events in the winter. An agreement between the Borough and the union represents the compromise reached which outlines the circumstances at which times a contractor can be utilized. It is also to pay the employees of the union \$100.00 each.

Following a discussion of the issue held in Executive Session, Ms. Jacoby made a motion to accept the proposed MOU and to pay employees of the union \$100.00 each. (Houser) Motion passed unanimously with one recusal from Mr. Scot May.

K. Diversity Committee – Mr. May reported that the committee had their first meeting last month and were invited to participate in a second meeting on Tuesday, June 29th with a group of private citizens in the Borough.

L. General Business

1. Lake Rowena

Ms. Jacoby reported that CDI-LR Kimball has submitted a proposal for exploring the options for the Lake Rowena Dredging Project. The initial fee for the investigation is \$2,250.

Ms. Jacoby made a motion to approve the proposal of CDI-LR Kimball for \$2,250.00.
(Owatt)

2. Energy Contract

Mr. Kuhar reported that the borough's current energy supplier is WGL Energy. The WGL Energy contract expires at the end of 2021. Competitive pricing was sought through APPI Energy, a joint municipal purchasing program available through the Pennsylvania Municipal League. Multiple suppliers were asked for quotes, and ten responded. APPI recommends a 48-month contract with Engie at a rate of \$0.05899/kWh.

Mr. Kuhar proposed to award a four-year contract to Engie at the rate of \$0.05899/kWh, expiring December 2025. (Jacoby)

3. High Street Waterline Replacement Project

Ms. Houser reported that the Ebensburg Municipal Authority is submitting an application to the Pennsylvania Infrastructure Investment Authority for funding to replace existing cast iron water distribution mains and remove leaded joint cast iron mains from service. The Municipal Authority will know in September if approved. PENNVEST is requesting a letter stating this project is consistent with Borough policies. The project would include replacing lines along the majority of High Street, from Ace Hardware to the split at Rowena Drive.

Ms. Houser motioned to approve the letter to PENVEST indication that this project is consistent with our land use and/or agricultural preservation polices and initiatives.
(Kuhar)

4. Ebensburg Airport

Ms. Jacoby reported that there were two items put out for bid, the base bid was for the rehabilitation of the taxiways and an additional rehabilitation of the apron. Bids from HRI and Quaker Sales were received, the lowest of which was with Quaker Sales for a total of \$504,044.95. There are no Borough funds utilized for these projects.

Ms. Jacoby made a motion to approve the bid from Quaker Sales for the taxiway bid at \$355,328.75 and the apron rehabilitation for \$148,716.20 with a grand total of \$504,044.95. (Owatt)

M. Department Report

1. Police Department

Chief Wyland submitted a written report on the police department's activities during the month.

2. Public Works Department

Public Works Director Jeff Evans submitted a written report on the public works department's activities during the month.

3. Community Development

Community Development Director Danae Koss submitted a written report on the community development department's activities during the month.

4. Recreation Department

Recreation Director Dirk Johnson submitted a written report on the recreation department's activities during the month.

N. Media Comments/Questions

Ms. Kristen Baudoux, Mainline Newspapers, asked for a drawing of the dog park.

Mr. Randy Griffith, Tribune Democrat, asked where the diversity committee was going to meet, where the Safe Zone will be located, where the airport project funds are coming from and when the dredging of Lake Rowena will happen and at what cost.

O. Public Comments – None.

P. Executive Session – Council entered into Executive Session at 7:22 PM to discuss proposed promotion of an employee and the MOU between the Borough and AFSME regarding use of outside contractors for snow removal. Council exited Executive Session at 7:50 PM. Several actions were taken after Council reopened the meeting to the public, which are included in the relevant agenda items above.

Q. Adjournment – There being no further business, Ms. Jacoby made a motion to adjourn. Motion passed unanimously.

Meeting Adjourned 7:54 PM

Minutes Taken by: Randy Datsko, Mayor

Minutes Recorded by: Danae Koss, Community Development Director