

The regular monthly meeting of the Ebensburg Borough Council was called to order on Monday, August 22, 2022 at 6:30 p.m. in the Council Room of the Ebensburg Municipal Building by Vice President, Cecilia Houser.

Present: Cecilia Houser, Vice President
Dave Kuhar
Robert Miller
Mike Owatt
Jeff Ball
Theresa Jacoby
Absent: Doug Tusing, President
Others: Kelly Cook, Borough Manager
Blair Pawlowski, Solicitor
Randy Datsko, Mayor
Danea Koss, Community Development Director
Josh Surkovich, Public Works Director
Luke Byrne, Inframark
Amanda Datsko, The Mountaineer Herald
Katie Smolen, The Tribune Democrat
Matt Koenigsberg, TransSystems
Mark Kozar, Flaherty & O'Hara, representing Sheetz

Audience: 2

A. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

B. **Public Comments** – None.

C. **Consent Agenda**

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

1. Approve report of Inframark for the Wastewater Treatment Plant Operations.
2. Approve report of the Inframark for the Water Treatment Plant Operations.
3. Approve the minutes of the July 25, 2022 regular monthly meetings of Borough Council.
4. Approve the financial statement for July and the quarterly statement.
5. Approve payment of bills for August.

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 Treatment Plant Operations**

Mr. Kuhar reported that Inframark's written report was submitted regarding operations, projects and activities at the wastewater plant for Council review.

2. Report from Inframark on Water Treatment Plant Operations

Mr. **Kuhar reported that** Inframark’s written report was submitted regarding operations, projects and activities at the water plant for Council review.

3. High Street Water Line Replacement Project

Mr. Kuhar reported that work began on Monday, June 20th and substantial completion is to be within 120 calendar days from the date of commencement, putting that date at September 29, 2022. Final completion is estimated by November 28, 2022. The installation of water mains is essentially complete. W.A. Petrakis Contracting is now completing the required testing and flushing of the installed main pipeline. Upon completion of testing activities, the contractor will begin the process of connecting water service lateral lines for each facility along the project corridor. Any lead service lines will be replaced in their entirety.

H. Recreation Committee

- 1. Rotary Dog Park Meeting** – Ms. Jacoby reported that the Borough applied for a \$30,000 Mini-Grant through the Southern Alleghenies Planning and Development Commission. Staff was notified that this project is being recommended for the grant. The final decision will be made, and awards should be finalized by the end of September.

Staff requested the Rotary to schedule a meeting between the Rotary and Recreation Committee as soon as possible to discuss the administration of the dog park construction and project administration.

I. Street Committee

1. 2022 Street Paving Project

Mr. Owatt reported that the paving project was awarded to Grannas Brothers in the amount of \$269,988.29. The contractor is expected to proceed with the project September after the County Fair.

2. Sidewalk and Curbing Project 2022

Mr. Kuhar reported bids were opened August 22, 2022 at noon. All qualified bids will be accompanied with the required bid bond. The estimated cost for the project was \$50,000, and sufficient funds are available in the 2022 budget to complete the work.

Mr. Kuhar made a motion to award the bid to the lowest bidder pending review by the borough manager and solicitor. (Ball) Motion passed unanimously.

J. Administration Committee

1. AFSCME Contract

Ms. Jacoby reported that negotiations with the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees have commenced for the current contract expiring on December 31, 2022. The committees have met four times and negotiations are proceeding along.

K. Diversity Committee – None.

L. General Business

1. Resolution #2022-20

Ms. Cook reported that Sheetz has applied for an inter-municipal transfer of a restaurant Liquor License. A public hearing was held prior to the Council meeting on Monday, August 22, 2022 at 5:00 pm.

Mr. Miller made a motion to approve Resolution #2022-20 regarding the inter-municipal transfer of a restaurant liquor license to the Sheetz store located at 818 West High Street. (Kuhar) Motion passed unanimously.

2. Lake Rowena Dredging

Ms. Cook reported that in April of 2021 Council approved work with TranSystems (formerly Kimball) to explore the possibilities of dredging Lake Rowena. Council originally thought an opportunity to work with Robindale Energy was present but after consideration it was determined not to be a viable option. Staff recently received news that PADEP is looking at a project located near Ebensburg in the next 2-5 years and they will be in need of material for cover. They may be able to help with grant matching depending on costs, amount of material, and quality of the material. There is likely enough area at the site that the wet material could be hauled there, stored, and allowed to dry. Since PADEP is a self-permitting agency, the disposal site could be permitted by them, which could save the borough money as well.

The next step would be to determine the amount of sediment that would need to be dredged and determine the quality of the material. Once the amount and quality of material is determined, we can develop costs for the project. Also, once we know the depths of the material/water, we will have a better idea on which dredging method would be best and if a water drawdown would be needed. TranSystems has the equipment to perform an underwater survey to determine the amount of material to be removed and could also sample the material and send it away for agricultural testing to determine the quality.

Mr. Kuhar made a motion to approve an agreement with TranSystems, Inc. to perform the underwater survey and soil testing, pending the manager and solicitor's review and approval, in an amount not to exceed \$10,000. (Jacoby) Motion passed unanimously.

M. Department Report

- 1. Police Department** - Chief Wyland submitted a written report to Council on last month's activities.
- 2. Public Works Department** – Mr. Surkovich reported on recent activities including the water line replacement project, identifying and locating water leaks, receiving bids back for N. Marion Street and shared that the backhoe is in.
- 3. Community Development** – Ms. Koss reported on recent activities, upcoming including the success of recent community events including Downtown Shutdown, Homecoming and Concerts in the Park. She gave an update on PotatoFest and Volunteer Night, and added information about the Turn the Town Teal campaign and upcoming Ebensburg Magazine.

4. Recreation Department – Mr. Johnson submitted a written report on last month’s recreation activities.

N. **Media Comments/Questions** - None.

O. **Public Comments** – Mr. Bill Link, N. Spruce Street, asked when the curbing and sidewalk project would be getting started.

P. **Executive Session** – Council entered into an Executive Session prior to the start of the meeting, at 6:09 pm to discuss a personnel matter. They exited at 6:28 pm.

Q. **Adjournment** – There being no further business, Ms. Kuhar made a motion to adjourn. (Miller)
Motion passed unanimously.

Meeting Adjourned 6:52 PM

Minutes Recorded by: Danae Koss, Community Development Director