

The regular monthly meeting of the Ebensburg Borough Council was called to order on Monday, February 27, 2023 at 6:30 p.m. in the Council Room of the Ebensburg Municipal Building by President, Doug Tusing.

Present: Doug Tusing, President  
Cecilia Houser, Vice President, via telephone  
Robert Miller  
Mike Owatt  
Jeff Ball  
Dave Kuhar  
Theresa Jacoby

Others: Kelly Cook, Borough Manager  
Terry Wyland, Chief of Police  
Randy Datsko, Mayor  
Blair Pawlowksi, Solicitor  
Danea Koss, Community Development Director  
Dirk Johnson, Recreation Director  
Josh Surkovich, Public Works Director  
Phil Sutton, Ebensburg Rotary Club  
Luke Byrne, Inframark  
Breanne Berkebile, The Mountaineer Journal  
Boy Scout Troop 98  
Luke Paronish, 814 Clean-Up Crew

Audience: 9

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. (Kuhar)  
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 January 23, 2023 regular monthly meeting of Borough Council.
4. Approve the financial statement for January.
5. Approve payment of bills for February.

D. **Appointments to Address Council**

1. Ms. Megan Freidhof, of Wessel & Company, presented an overview of the 2022 Borough audit, which yielded a favorable opinion. She provided copies of financial statements and an executive summary report.
2. Mr. Luke Paronish, 116 Park Street, voiced concerns over the amount of litter that is blowing out of the recycling bins throughout town. He discussed a possible solution and brought samples of

netting that could be placed over the can to hold down the recyclable items. He also informed Council that he has started an 814 Clean-Up Crew Facebook group and YouTube channel. He would also like to try and organize an Earth Day clean-up event.

- E. **Mayor's Report** – Mayor Datsko reported that new signage will be placed in the Borough's rear parking lot to inform drivers that the lot is only to be used by borough employees and for borough activities and groups using the community room. With the new signage, parking violations will now be enforceable by law.
- F. **Council President** – Mr. Tusing shared that he has been appointed by the Pennsylvania Municipal League to serve as its Republican Legislative Committee Co-Chair. This position also places him on the Board of Directors and the Executive Committee for the League.

G. **Water/Wastewater Committee**

1. **Municipal Authority Loan**

Mr. Kuhar reported that the Municipal Authority procured loan rates from various banks and accepted a loan for \$622,000.00 from Ameriserv at 4.25% interest in order to finance engineering costs for Phase 1 of a waterline replacement project and upgrades to the Ogden tank and the Water Treatment Plant. The Borough has been requested to act as a guarantor of the loan.

Mr. Kuhar made a motion to approve the LGUDA proceedings related to the Borough acting as guarantor of EMA bank loan in the amount of \$622,000.00. (Owatt) Motion passed unanimously.

2. **Report from Inframark on Wastewater Treatment Plant Operations**

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

3. **Report from Inframark on Water Treatment Plant Operations**

Inframark's written report was submitted regarding operations, projects and activities at the water plant for Council review.

H. **Recreation Committee**

1. Ms. Houser reported that the Recreation Committee is recommending that annual rates for pool passes increase by \$5, pavilion rentals increase from \$50 to \$75, and hourly rental of gym time at the YPCC increases from \$10 to \$15 for half court and \$20 to \$30 for the full court. Party rentals were also recommended to increase for two hours at the gym from \$125 to \$150 and two hours at the pool from \$150 to \$200.

Ms. Houser made a motion to accept the proposed price increases as outlined. (Jacoby) Motion passed unanimously.

**I. Street Committee**

**1. Sidewalk and Curbing Project 2023**

Mr. Owatt reported that this project was previously bid in 2022, but since all the bids came in well above the original cost estimate, the project was put on hold until this spring. New bids for the project were opened at noon on February 23<sup>rd</sup>. All qualified bids were accompanied with the required bid bond. The total cost of the project is \$136,827.88 with approximately \$4,500.00 coming from sidewalk funds with the remainder from the water or stormwater funds. The Municipal Authority approved this at their meeting prior to Council's.

Bids received: Hawbaker Construction	\$342,821.00
CH&D Enterprises	\$136,827.88

Mr. Owatt made a motion to award the 2023 Curb and Sidewalk Project to the lowest responsible bidder, CH&D Enterprises for \$136,827.88. (Houser) Motion passed unanimously.

**J. Administration Committee – None.**

**K. Diversity Committee – None.**

**L. General Business**

**1. Dog Park**

Ms. Jacoby reported that the Rotary had secured the necessary funding for a total estimated project cost of \$245,000.00 for the construction of the dog park at 962 Rowena Drive. Bids were opened on February 23<sup>rd</sup> at noon.

Kev's (Lute) Excavating	\$201,801.00 – withdrawn by bidder due to an error
CH&D Enterprise	\$312,820.00
Straw Construction	\$264,039.00

The Rotary had previously informed the Borough that if actual bid costs exceeded the \$245,000 estimate, an anonymous donor had agreed to make up the difference.

Ms. Jacoby made a motion to award the Dog Park Project to the lowest responsible bidder, Straw Construction for \$264,039.00, contingent upon confirmation of receipt of the necessary funds from the Rotary. (Houser) Motion passed unanimously.

**2. Planning Commission Vacancy**

Ms. Cook reported that Mr. Tom Williams has had to step down from serving on the Planning Commission Board, due to a potential conflict of interest with his recent promotion to permits manager at PennDOT. She added that anyone interested in serving on the Planning Commission should submit a letter of interest to the Borough.

**3. Resolution #2023-01**

Ms. Cook reported that it was determined that the value of various equipment previously used by Public Works was in excess of \$1,000.00 and requested authorization for the advertisement and/or sale of the property.

Mr. Kuhar made a motion to approve Resolution #2023-01 determining the value of a North Star Bed sprayer, a 54-inch tow behind mower deck, a 2012 Dodge Ram 2500 Hemi and a Leeboy asphalt roller to be in excess of \$1000.00 and authorizing for advertisement and/or sale.

**M. Department Report**

- 1. Police Department** - Chief Wyland reported that he and Mayor Datsko recently had a productive and positive meeting with Congressman John Joyce who visited the Police Department. He also added that a recent stabbing that took place in the parking lot of Cambridge Ebensburg was an isolated incident.
- 2. Public Works Department** – Mr. Surkovich reported that the high tank is back in service and that a leak in Crestwood has been identified. He added that public works employee Jerry Poruban recently completed and passed testing for his CDL. Dodson Electric will continue to work on light pole repairs.
- 3. Community Development** – Ms. Koss reported on the upcoming Art in Bloom and Wheels & Wings. Event logistics are being worked out and promotions have begun for many of the summer events. She added that a Main Street Membership Networking Event will be held at Coal Country Brewing on March 16<sup>th</sup>.
- 4. Recreation Department** – Mr. Johnson reported that State Rep. Frank Burns will host a Kids' Fair with the Easter bunny at the YPCC on April 3<sup>rd</sup>. He added that the next Bingo night will be March 17<sup>th</sup>.
- 5. Planning Commission** – 1<sup>st</sup> Summit Bank applied for a land development project which involving the demolition of the existing structure at 516 W. High St. and construction of a new parking lot. Following review, the Planning Commission recommended Council's approval. Mr. Miller made a motion to approve the Land Development Plan of 1<sup>st</sup> Summit Bank. (Owatt) Motion passed unanimously.

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

**O. Public Comments**

1. Mr. Tom Bortel, E. Sample Street, asked whether there would be a fine imposed for a recent excursion at the Sewer Plant.
2. Mr. Luke Paronish, 116 Park Street, wanted to add to his previous comments that there is a Lens on Litter Photo Contest going on now through the Pennsylvania Resources Council.
3. Mr. Mike Murphy, N. Spruce Street, thanked Council for their help in getting an ongoing issue resolved.

4. Mr. Chris Corcoran, 728 N. Beech Street, asked how many bids were required for sealed competitive bids and expressed concern over the fact that there was a significant difference between the two bids received for the 2023 Sidewalk and Curbing project.

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

Meeting Adjourned 7:29 PM

Minutes Recorded by: Danae Koss, Community Development Director