



**Ebensburg Borough Council Meeting**  
**Monday, November 22, 2021**  
**6:30 p.m.**

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**Borough Council**  
Doug Tusing, President  
Dave Kuhar, Vice-President  
Jeffrey Ball  
Cecilia Houser  
Theresa Jacoby  
Scot May  
Michael Owatt  
William Westrick, Jr. Councilor  
**Mayor**  
Randy Datsko

**AGENDA**

**CALL TO ORDER & PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

*Members of the public are invited to comment at this time on any item appearing on the agenda.*

**1. CONSENT AGENDA**

*All items listed on the Consent Agenda are considered to be routine and will be acted upon by a single motion. There will be no separate discussion of these items unless members of the Council request specific items to be removed for separate action.*

Item 9C: Make it a matter of record that Marley Ratchford was hired part-time at the Tennis Center at the rate of \$8.50/hour.

Item 11A: Approve the minutes of the October 25, 2021 regular monthly meeting of Borough Council.

Item 11B: Approve the financial statement.

Item 11C: Approve payment of bills.

Recommended Action – Approve the consent agenda.

**2. APPOINTMENTS TO ADDRESS COUNCIL**

**3. CONSIDERATION OF ANY MOTION(S) TO AMEND AGENDA**

**4. MAYOR'S REPORT**

**Item 4A: Report on Police Department**

**5. COUNCIL PRESIDENT COMMENTS**

**6. WATER, WASTEWATER & STORMWATER COMMITTEE**

**Ball & Kuhar**

**Item 6A: Report from Inframark on Wastewater Treatment Plant Operations**

Q&A on the written report submitted and on projects and activities at the wastewater plant.

Recommended Action – No action required.

**Item 6B: Report from Inframark on Water Treatment Plant Operations**

Q&A on the written report submitted and on projects and activities at the water plant.

Recommended Action – No action required.

**7. RECREATION COMMITTEE**

**Jacoby, May & Owatt**

**Item 7A: Discuss Pool Fees for 2022..**

The Recreation Board proposed a revised fee schedule for FY 2022 and submitted them to Council for review.

**2021 Ebensburg Borough Pool Rates**

	<u>Adult (19 - 54 )</u>	<u>Seniors 55+</u>	<u>Children (4 - 18)</u>	<u>Children under 3</u>
Walk -In	\$6	\$4	\$4	Free
Multi - Visit Pass (must purchase a minimum of 5)	\$25	\$15	\$15	
Season Pass Resident/Non-Resident	\$120/\$150	\$100/\$130	\$100/\$130	
Add-on/person to a season pass	\$35/\$40			

**2022 Proposed Ebensburg Borough Pool Rates**

	<u>Adult (19 - 54 )</u>	<u>Seniors 55+</u>	<u>Children (4 - 18)</u>	<u>Children under 3</u>
Walk -In	\$7	\$5	\$5	Free
Multi - Visit Pass (must purchase a minimum of 5)	\$30	\$20	\$20	
Season Pass	\$135	\$110	\$110	
Add-on/person to a season pass	\$40			

\*\*\*Free Admission with military ID\*\*\*

Recommended Action – Approve the 2022 Pool Rates as Proposed.

**8. STREET COMMITTEE**

**Ball, Houser & Owatt**

**Item 8A: Discuss Julian Street as a one-way street.**

Last month there was a suggestion made to delete North Julian as a one-way street. A member of the public objected to it becoming one-way in the area of Holy Name church. Discussion pursued and there was general consensus on keeping N. Julian St. as one-way from Horner to Highland, but allowing two-way traffic from High Street to Horner (noting that High to Sample is already two-way). Before voting on the issue, Council tabled the matter in order to allow time for public input. Staff received three responses. One person said it did not matter and two others said they opposed any change. The change was proposed as a way to facilitate snow plowing so as to avoid narrowing of the cleared portion of the street over the course of the winter months.

Recommended Action – Dependent on discussion

**9. ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE**

**Houser, Jacoby & Kuhar**

**Item 9A: Employee Pension Plans**

There are several routine actions required every year relative to the employee pension plans. The Minimum Municipal Obligation (MMO) is the amount calculated each year

that is required to be deposited into each pension plan. Regulations require Council to formally approve that number by September 30<sup>th</sup>. On September 27<sup>th</sup>, 2021 Council adopted MMOS calculations for the non-uniformed and uniformed plans. On the afternoon of November 22, 2021 the Borough received revised MMOs. They are revised upon information received in the 2021 Actuarial Valuations. Council may approve the new MMOs prior to the final adoption of the budget.

- Action #1 - Adopt the revised minimum municipal obligation (MMO) calculation for the non-uniformed pension plan in the amount of \$99,638.
- Action #2 - Adopt the minimum municipal obligation (MMO) calculation for the uniformed pension plan in the amount of \$14,696.

**Item 9B: 2022 Annual Budget**

The 2022 Operating Budget calls for revenues of \$6,354,380 and expenditures of \$6,287,745. The general fund budget is balanced with no increase in real estate taxes. This is the 12<sup>th</sup> consecutive year without a tax increase for general purposes, and the 11<sup>th</sup> consecutive year without a tax increase for any purpose; the last being in 2010 for the swimming pool debt.

	Revenues	Expenditures	Surplus
General Fund Budget	\$2,186,580	\$2,186,580	\$0
Water Fund Budget	\$1,999,300	\$1,999,300	\$0
Wastewater Fund Budget	\$1,940,000	\$1,873,365	\$66,635
Stormwater Fund Budget	<u>\$ 228,500</u>	<u>\$ 228,500</u>	<u>\$ 0</u>
Total Operating Fund	\$6,354,380	\$6,287,745	\$ 66,635

The General Fund Budget is increased by 2.2% over last year. The increase is primarily due to higher costs budgeted for healthcare and pensions.

The Water Fund Budget is increased by 10.4% vs. 2021, primarily due to an increase in rates due to incurring debt for a short-term loan to perform system repairs. The Wastewater Fund Budget has experienced a minimal increase.

With the exception of the higher budgeted cost of employee benefits and the increased needs for utility system repairs, expenditures in all funds remain fairly consistent, reflecting our commitment to control expenses while ensuring the continued delivery of services in a cost-effective manner.

The 2022 budget is granted tentative approval at this meeting, advertised for public inspection for a period of no less than ten days, and adopted at the November meeting.

Recommended Action – Grant approval for the 2022 annual budget.

\* Item 9C: Part-time Employee

Marley Ratchford was hired for part-time work at the Tennis Center.

Recommended Action – Make it a matter of record that Marley Ratchford was hired as part-time help at the Tennis Center at the rate of \$8.50/hour.

**Item 9D: Salary Resolution**

A Resolution is adopted each year to establish the wages to be paid to borough employees. AFSCME and FOP wages increase by 2½% in accordance with labor contracts, and as is historically the case, non-union employees receive the same adjustment as negotiated with AFSME. Other wages are reviewed and recommended by the administrative committee as part of the budget development process. The 2021 budget reflects the wages as per the proposed Resolution.

Recommended Action – Adopt Resolution #2021-08 establishing wages for 2022.

**10. DIVERSITY COMMITTEE**

**May, Kuhar & Houser**

**11. GENERAL BUSINESS**

\* Item 11A: Minutes of Previous Meeting(s)

The minutes of the October 25, 2021, regular meeting are presented for Council review and approval.

Recommended Action – Approve the minutes of the previous meeting(s).

\* Item 11B: Financial Statement

The financial statement for October 2021 is presented for approval.

Recommended Action – Approve the October 2021 financial statement.

\* Item 11C: Bills

A list of bills totaling \$445,791.55 is submitted for approval.

Recommended Action – Approve payment of the bills as submitted.

**Item 11D: Ebensburg Swimming Pool Rehabilitation**

Staff sought advice from experts on repairs for the community pool. After contacting multiple companies, the borough's engineer secured an on-site visit and proposal from Aquatic Facility Design which includes comprehensive design services, plans, and specifications for

the needed rehabilitation of the Ebensburg Pool. Their proposed cost for these services is \$19,000.00.

Recommended Action – Approve the Proposal with Aquatic Facility Design for \$19,000.00.

**Item 11E: Modifications to Agreements with Ebensburg Municipal Authority**

As discussed at last month's meeting, the Municipal Authority received approval for a grant and a low-interest loan for the High Street Waterline Replacement Project. Closing on the loan has been scheduled for March, 2022. In preparation for that, certain documents relative to the Borough and the Authority need to be extended or otherwise modified.

**1. Resolution #2021-09**

A resolution proposing an Amendment of the Articles of Incorporation of the Ebensburg Municipal Authority increasing the Authority's term of existence to a date not exceeding 50 years from the date of approval of the Articles of Amendment.

Recommended Action- Approve Resolution #2021-09 which amends the Articles of Incorporation for the Ebensburg Municipal Authority by increasing its term of existence until November 15, 2071.

**2. Articles of Amendment**

Articles of Amendment increases the existence of the authority until November 15, 2071.

Recommended Action- Approve the Amendment to the Articles of Incorporation that extends the existence of the Ebensburg Municipal Authority to November 15, 2071.

**3. Resolution #2021-10**

A resolution proposing an amendment to extend the term on the lease between the Borough and the Municipal Authority to coincide with the term of existence of the Authority.

Recommended Action- Approve Resolution #2021-10 which amends the lease between the Borough and the Municipal Authority extending the term until November 15, 2071.

**4. Amendment to Agreement of Lease**

An amendment to the Agreement of Lease that extends the lease of the authority to coincide with the existence of the Authority, or until 11-15-2071.

Recommended Action- Approve the Amendment to the Agreement of Lease extending it until November 15, 2071.

**Item 11F: Borough Fees for Fiscal Year 2022**

Each year a Resolution is passed to establish fees for the following year. Staff recommends that fees be maintained at current levels, with the exception of several items listed below.

1. The Borough Tax Collector has suggested that the fee for providing duplication copies be increased from \$3 to \$5 to effectively cover costs and to be in line with other taxing bodies.

Recommended Action – Amend the fee for Tax Collection Duplication to \$5.00.

2. The Borough Tax Collector has suggested that the fee for providing Tax Collection Certification be increased from \$10 to \$15 to effectively cover costs and to be in line with other taxing bodies.

Recommended Action – Amend Tax Collection Certification fees to \$15.00.

3. Staff suggests that fees for Pavilion Rentals be amended to include a refundable deposit if basic rules are followed (mostly clean-up related). The current fee is \$50. On top of that, staff suggests a refundable deposit of \$25.00, for a total of \$75.00 due at the time of rental.

Recommended Action – Amend the fee for Pavilion rentals to \$55.00, with \$25.00 being refunded if rules are followed.

#### **Proposed Resolution for 2022 Fee Schedule**

Recommended Action – Approve Resolution #2021-11, including any changes to fees as per the above items.

#### **Item 11J: Grants:**

1. The Borough, on behalf of the Rotary Club, applied for a grant with DCED for a dog park in the amount of \$219,000. We have received word that a grant of \$112,000 has been awarded. The Rotary Club will meet to decide on a further course of action.
2. The YPCC received a \$5,500 grant from the Community Foundation for the Alleghenies for the purchase of cross-country skis for rental.

Recommended Action – No action at this time.

## **12. DEPARTMENT REPORTS**

#### **Item 12A: Police Department**

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

#### **Item 12B: Public Works Department**

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

**Item 12C: Community Development**

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

**Item 12D: Recreation Department**

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

\* Item 12E: Codes Enforcement

A monthly codes enforcement report was forwarded to Council.

\* Item 12F: Ebensburg Municipal Authority

A copy of the minutes of the last municipal authority meeting is included in Council’s packet.

\* Item 12G: Ebensburg Planning Commission – No activity

\* Item 12H: Ebensburg Zoning Board

**13. MEDIA COMMENTS/QUESTIONS**

*Representatives of the media are invited to comment and ask questions at this time on any issues, whether or not on the agenda.*

**14. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

*Members of the public are invited to comment at this time on any issues, whether or not on the agenda.*

**15. EXECUTIVE SESSION (if required – reason to be stated publicly)**

**16. ADJOURNMENT**

*Copies of all staff reports and documents subject to disclosure that relate to any item of business referred to on the agenda are available for public inspection the Thursday before each regularly scheduled meeting at the Borough office, located at 300 West High Street, Ebensburg, Pa. Any documents subject to disclosure that are provided to members of the Borough Council regarding any item on this agenda are available for public inspection at the Borough office or at [www.ebensburgpa.com](http://www.ebensburgpa.com).*

*In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, if you need special assistance to participate in this meeting, please contact the Borough office (814) 472-8780 or [eburg@ebensburgpa.com](mailto:eburg@ebensburgpa.com). Notification 48-hours before the meeting will enable the Borough to make reasonable arrangements to ensure accessibility to this meeting.*