



Ebensburg Borough Council Meeting
Monday, July 24, 2023
6:30 p.m.

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Borough Council
Doug Tusing, President
Cecilia Houser, Vice-President
Jeffrey Ball
Theresa Jacoby
Dave Kuhar
Robert Miller
Michael Owatt
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 6B: Approve report of Inframark for the Wastewater Treatment Plant Operations.

Item 6C: Approve report of Inframark for the Water Treatment Plant Operations.

Item 11C: Approve the minutes of the June 26, 2023 regular monthly meeting and July 10, 2023 Special Meeting of Borough Council.

Item 11D: Approve the financial statement for June and 2nd quarter transfers.

Item 11E: Approve payment of bills for June.

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 & Miller**

Item 6A: Agreement with Inframark

Borough Staff continues to negotiate a new contract with Inframark for the operation of the Borough's Water and Wastewater facilities.

Recommended Action – No action required.

* Item 6B: **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.

Recommended Action – Accept and approve report.

*Item 6C: **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.

Recommended Action – Accept and approve report.

7. RECREATION COMMITTEE **Jacoby, Miller & Owatt**

Item 7A: Dog Park Project

The dog park is nearing completion. Currently, there are only a few items on a punch list that need attention. The Rotary is planning a grand opening in the near future. The project was completed on budget, with the exception of an overage for unforeseen soil removal and replacement, which was covered by the Rotary.



Recommended Action: No action required.

8. STREET COMMITTEE **Ball, Houser & Owatt**

Item 8A: 2023 Street Paving Project

Bids were awarded to New Enterprise Corporation in the amount of \$175,572.30 on May 22, 2023. The tentative start date for the paving is August 28, 2023.

Recommended Action – No action is required.

Item 8B: Municipal Parking Lot

A letter was received requesting the monthly rent of the parking lot to increase from \$1,100 to \$2,000 a month. After negotiations, the owners have agreed to a rate of \$1,300 a month for one year. This would take the cost to \$15,600 a year, which exceeds the revenue taken in from this lot. Revenues received from this lot in the past three years are as follows:

2020 - \$8,553.59 (affected by Covid business shutdowns)
2021 - \$7,524.97 (partially affected by Covid)
2022 - \$8,023.77

As in the past, taxpayer money will be required to subsidize payment of the lease. However, Staff recommends that the Borough retain parking in support of local businesses for the time being. The current lease is due to expire on August 31, 2023.

Recommended Action – Approve a one-year extension of the lease for the Municipal Parking lot at a rate of \$1,300 per month.

9. ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE	Houser, Jacoby & Kuhar
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Item 9A: Police Chief

Following the vote at the July 10, 2023 Special Meeting of Council, the Borough has given a conditional offer of employment to Joseph Loughran with an initial annual salary of \$80,000. Background investigations are being performed. If all goes well, it is anticipated the new Chief of Police will commence work by mid-August.

Mr. Loughran has requested a modification to the standard benefits package which would require Council's formal approval. Council will discuss the issue in executive session.

Recommended Action – Dependent on discussion in Executive Session.

Item 9B: Police Officer Recruitment

The position for a full-time officer was posted for receipt of applications but at this time, Council needs to address one outstanding item for the hiring process. Applications are due on August 7th. The agility test, written test and oral interviews are scheduled for August 19th and August 24th.

Staff recommends that medical testing be conducted by Dr. Magley at the rate of \$75.00 per applicant.

Recommended Action – Approve Dr. Magley to administer the medical testing at a rate of \$75.00 per applicant.

10. DIVERSITY COMMITTEE	Kuhar & Houser
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11. GENERAL BUSINESS	3
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Item 11A: Ebensburg Municipal Airport

RACRA requested the Borough engineer to look at the existing hangar, which is owned by the Borough, to determine the feasibility of rehabilitation of the hangar. After this review, the structural engineer determined the hangar could not be rehabilitated. Based upon the findings, RACRA requested a meeting with borough staff, which Solicitor Matt Gribler also attended.

During the meeting, RACRA stated they request a solution to this situation and suggested that the Borough raze or shore up the building as soon as possible to ensure their ability to continue to supply fuel and erect a new hangar. The cost of a new hangar is yet to be determined as the prices range from \$250,000 to \$650,000. RACRA has requested that the borough provide the necessary funds to construct the new hangar while they seek federal funds for the reimbursement. It is the understanding of Borough staff that this money is not guaranteed.

Staff met with RACRA this past week to discuss their options for going forward with the airport. It is Staff's recommendation to consult with a structural engineer regarding the hangar and the gasoline pumps.

Recommended Action- Pursuant upon discussion in executive session.

Item 11B: Ebensburg Municipal Airport

RACRA expressed their intent to utilize the five-year extension to the lease, as is their option. The RACRA Board has an upcoming meeting to take official action.

Recommended Action- Staff recommends granting RACRA a sixty-day extension to exercise their option to extend the lease for an additional five years.

* Item 11C: Minutes of Previous Meeting(s)

The minutes of the June 2023 regular meeting and the July 10, 2023 Special Meeting are presented for Council review and approval.

Recommended Action – Approve the minutes of the previous meetings.

* Item 11D: Financial Statement/Quarterly Transfers

The financial statement for June 2023 is presented for approval, along with a list of the 2nd quarter transfers.

Recommended Action – Approve the June 2023 financial statement and the 2nd quarter transfers.

* Item 11E: Bills

A list of bills totaling \$755,726.97 for June 2023 is submitted for approval.

Recommended Action – Approve payment of the bills as submitted.

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 Josh Surkovich 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 – No activity

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 – Council will meet to discuss personnel matters.

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.

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. Notification 48-hours before the meeting will enable the Borough to make reasonable arrangements to ensure accessibility to this meeting.