



**Ebensburg Borough Council Meeting**  
**Monday, September 25, 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.*

**JUNIOR COUNCILOR**

A Junior Councilor position was first created by Borough Council in 2002 by Resolution #2002-02. Council recognized the importance of involving residents of all ages in the decision-making process, and that, while not yet able to vote for its elected representatives, youth nonetheless have an interest in the operation of borough government. Isaac Bradley, who is a junior at Central Cambria High School and who recently worked for the Borough this past summer, would like to be named for this position.

The Junior Councilor must be a borough resident completing the junior year of high school. The term is September-July. The junior member is permitted to attend all meetings of Council (except executive sessions) and all committee meetings and is permitted to participate fully in those proceedings, except shall not be afforded the right to vote.

Mayor Datsko will administer the oath of office to Mr. Bradley.

**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 6A: Approve report of Inframark for the Wastewater Treatment Plant Operations.

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

Item 11C: Approve the minutes of the August 28, 2023 regular monthly meeting of Borough Council.

Item 11D: Approve the financial statement for August.

Item 11E: Approve payment of bills for September.

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: 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 6B: 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**

**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. New Enterprise commenced paving on August 24 and completed it on August 30<sup>th</sup>.

Recommended Action – No action is required.

**Item 8B: Sidewalk and Curbing Project 2023:**

Bids were awarded in February to CH & D Construction in the amount of \$136,827.88. The tentative start date for this is September 28, 2023 with an expected completion of October 10, 2023, well before their December 1, 2023 deadline.

Recommended Action – No action is required.

**9. ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE**

**Houser, Jacoby & Kuhar**

**Item 9A: Full-time Police Position**

Four applications were received for the position, and one applicant was unable to make the mandatory testing date. One applicant failed the written examination. All testing is now completed, and the Civil Service Board has certified the final list of two candidates. The Chief, Mayor, Manager and Council members interviewed the two finalists with hopes that final recommendation will be made at this meeting.

Recommended Action – Approve the hiring of a full-time police officer, effective October 16, 2023, subject to pre-employment medical and psychological exams.

**Item 9B: 2024 Budget**

Preparations for the 2024 budget began with a meeting of the Administrative Committee on September 6, 2023. There is an objective of presenting a preliminary budget at the October meeting which would be finalized in November. Heavy emphasis will be placed on reviewing all services and fees in an effort to avoid an increase in taxes.

Recommended Action – Council members are asked to provide suggestions for cost savings and/or revenue enhancements to the Borough Manager for consideration in the budget preparation process.

**Item 9C: Employee Pension Plans**

Last month Council passed resolution 2023-04 establishing an employee contribution rate of 3% (unchanged) for the non-uniformed pension plan for 2024. However, upon further review and discussion with the actuaries, it has been determined that the rate should be increased to 5%.

Recommended Action: Adopt Resolution #2023-09 establishing an employee contribution rate of 5% for the uniformed pension plan for 2024.

**10. DIVERSITY COMMITTEE**

**Kuhar & Houser**

**11. GENERAL BUSINESS**

**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.

After July’s meeting, Council sought a second opinion from a structural engineer. This engineer recently met with staff and believes it is possible to repair the existing hangar. It is anticipated that a report and the cost for the preparation of specifications for repairs will be received within a month.

Recommended Action- No action is required.

**Item 11B:** The garbage/recycling contract expires at the end of 2023. Bids were advertised and opened on September 19<sup>th</sup>.

	<u>Current</u>	<u>2024</u>	<u>2025</u>	<u>2026</u>
Pro Disposal, Inc.	\$149,780.00	\$236,995.20	\$260,669.40	\$278,140.20
Waste Management		\$290,167.20	\$310,423.20	\$332,198.40
		<u>2027</u>	<u>2028</u>	
Pro Disposal, Inc.		\$297,256.80	\$324,729.00	
Waste Management		\$355,492.80	\$380,433.00	

The bid cost of other related services are:

<u>Pro Disposal</u>	<u>2024</u>	<u>2025</u>	<u>2026</u>	<u>2027</u>	<u>2028</u>
<b>OPTION 1</b>					
Spring clean-up	\$5,000.00	\$6,125.00	\$7,000.00	\$7,500.00	\$7,750.00
<b>OPTION 2</b>					
1 Bulk item per customer per month for scheduled pickup: <u>No extra cost</u>					
Additional Can					
Cost per month	\$8.00	\$8.00	\$8.50	\$8.50	\$9.00

<u>Waste Mgmt.</u>	<u>2024</u>	<u>2025</u>	<u>2026</u>	<u>2027</u>	<u>2028</u>
<b>OPTION 1</b>					
Spring clean-up	No Bid				
<b>OPTION 2</b>					
1 Bulk item per customer per month for scheduled pickup: <u>No extra cost</u>					
Additional Can					
Cost per month	\$120	\$128.40	\$137.39	\$147.01	\$157.30

The borough's current customer charge is \$18.50/mo. There will need to be an adjustment of rates, depending upon the outcome. With the spring cleanup this would result in a fee of \$28.14 a month and without the cleanup it is \$27.62 a month.

A question was asked about the viability of recycling programs in general. Pro Disposal operates the only functional recycling site in Cambria County. In addition to its own customers, they accept recyclables from Waste Management and the county's program. The market is volatile. When the market is poor Pro Disposal is able to store recyclables for later disposal, but storage is limited. There are times when recyclables do end up in the landfill for lack of any other option.

Recommended Action – Award a contract to Pro Disposal for weekly garbage collection and recycling service for the 5-year period beginning January 1, 2024 plus Option 1 or Option 2.

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

The minutes of the August 28, 2023 regular meeting are presented for Council review and approval.

Recommended Action – Approve the minutes of the previous meetings.

\* Item 11D: Financial Statement

The financial statement for August 2023 is presented for approval.

Recommended Action – Approve the August 2023 financial statement.

\* Item 11E: Bills

A list of bills totaling \$847,455.89 for September 2023 is submitted for approval.

Recommended Action – Approve payment of the bills as submitted.

## 12. DEPARTMENT REPORTS

**Item 12A: Police Department**

Chief Loughran 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](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.*