



Ebensburg Borough Council Meeting
Monday, October 23, 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 6A: Approve report of Inframark for the Wastewater Treatment Plant Operations.
- Item 6B: Approve report of Inframark for the Water Treatment Plant Operations.
- Item 11E: Approve the minutes of the September 25, 2023 regular monthly meeting of Borough Council.
- Item 11F: Approve the financial statement for September and quarterly transfers.
- Item 11G: Approve payment of bills for October.

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.

Item 6C: **Operating Agreement between the Borough and Municipal Authority-** An agreement exists between the two parties that sets a compensation for the Authority to pay the Borough for administrative support. The agreement allows for the adjustment of the compensation through a resolution by both parties. The current cost is \$201,000/ year and Staff recommends an increase of 10% to \$221,100 annually. The rate has not changed since 2017 but due to increased costs and expenditures, an adjustment is necessary and appropriate.

Recommended Action – Approve Joint Resolution #2023-1 governing the administrative support to the Authority and increasing the rate to \$221,100 annually.

7. RECREATION COMMITTEE

Jacoby, Miller & Owatt

Item 7A: **Resolution #2023-11:** A Resolution authorizing the submission of a grant through the Statewide Local Share Account Grant.

Borough will apply for a grant for the procurement of playground equipment at the Memorial Field Playground.

Recommended Action-Approve Resolution #2023-11 authorizing the application of a \$50,000 grant through the Statewide Local Share Account Grant, and further authorizing Borough officers to execute any and all documents required to secure the grant.

8. STREET COMMITTEE

Ball, Houser & Owatt

Item 8A: 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 was September 28, 2023 but has changed to October 30, 2023 with an expected completion of November 10, 2023, well before the December 1, 2023 deadline.

Recommended Action – No action is required.

Item 8B: Pedestrian Crosswalk Rectangular Rapid Flashing Beacons (RRFB) for Julian and High Street

The Borough continues to pursue obtaining RRFBs for West High Street at the intersection of Julian. Application to the State requires a notarized application and a formal financial commitment from the Borough. This commitment is for the total funds for the construction (less any grants received) and the ongoing operation and maintenance of the signal. The state will draft the plans for the Borough to be submitted for review. The estimated cost of construction is \$50,000.

Recommended Action – Approve the Application and the letter of commitment for the construction of a RRFB on both sides of W. High Street at the intersection of Julian Street.

Item 8C: Resolution #2023-12: A Resolution authorizing the submission of a grant through the Statewide Local Share Account Grant.

Borough will apply for a grant for the installation of two RRFBs . at the intersection of West High and Julain Streets.

Recommended Action-Approve Resolution #2023-12 authorizing the application of a \$50,000 grant through the Statewide Local Share Account Grant, and further authorizing Borough officers to execute any and all documents required to secure the grant.

9. ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE

Houser, Jacoby & Kuhar

Item 9A: 2024 Annual Budget

The administrative committee has compiled a tentative 2023 budget for Council's review.

The 2024 Operating Budget calls for revenues of \$6,881,360 and expenditures of \$6,881,360. The general fund budget is balanced without an increase in taxes.

	Revenues	Expenditures	Surplus/Deficit
General Fund Budget	\$2,529,760	\$2,529,760	\$0
Water Fund Budget	\$2,181,600	\$2,181,600	\$0
Wastewater Fund Budget	\$2,005,530	\$2,005,530	\$0
Stormwater Fund Budget	<u>\$ 230,500</u>	<u>\$ 230,500</u>	<u>\$0</u>
Total Operating Fund	\$6,947,390	\$6,947,390	\$0

The General Fund Budget reflects an increase of 9.1% over last year. This increase is primarily due to overall inflation in supplies and services. In particular, the budget reflects a new five-year garbage and recycling contract and the hiring of an additional full-time police officer.

The Water and Wastewater Fund Budgets have a minimal increase, despite a new five-year contract with Inframark for operations of the systems.

Recommended Action – Grant tentative approval to the 2024 annual budget and advertise for public inspection.

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, who believes the structure can be rehabilitated. A meeting is scheduled next week to discuss temporary measures to secure the structure in preparation for potential long-term repairs in 2024. Prior to these repairs, the building will not be utilized. Further evaluation will be made concerning the current location and ongoing use of the fuel pumps.

Recommended Action- Dependent upon discussion.

Item 11B: The Borough advertised for the sale of a 2015 Ford Explorer. Bids were opened today, and staff will recommend the sale of the item to the highest bidder.

Recommended Action – Award the sale of the 2015 Ford Explorer to the highest bidder.

Item 11C: The Borough and Cambria County have a lease for the former Babcock Property. The term of the existing lease is until August 31, 2035 but the County has requested an extension of the lease until August 31, 2055. The County wants to insulate, heat and connect water to their existing building and they do not want to make the expenditures without the assurance of an extended lease.

Recommended Action – Award the revised lease with the county for a term of September 1, 2023 until August 31, 2055.

Item 11D: The Borough was notified by a letter from Marcus & Mack that Ms. Paula Teeter intends to commence a cause of action against the Borough for an accident that allegedly occurred on July 19, 2023 at or near the intersection of High and Center Streets. At this time, we have no additional details regarding the accident, as there was no police involvement or report. The information had been forwarded to our insurance carrier.

Recommended Action No Action Required

* **Item 11E:** Minutes of Previous Meeting(s)
The minutes of the September 25, 2023 regular meeting are presented for Council review and approval.

Recommended Action – Approve the minutes of the previous meetings.

* **Item 11F:** Financial Statement and Quarterly Transfers
The financial statement for September 2023 and the third quarter transfers are presented for approval.

Recommended Action – Approve the September 2023 financial statement and quarterly transfers.

* **Item 11G:** Bills
A list of bills totaling \$694,304.06 for October 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 Dana 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- At their October 5, 2023 meeting, the Planning Commission recommended approval of the Springer lot joiner for property located at 618 Margaret Street from property obtained from 614 Margaret Street.

Recommended Action – Approve the Springer lot joiner at 618 Margaret Street.

Item 12H: Ebensburg Zoning Hearing Board – A hearing was held on September 27, 2023 for a variance at the residence of Michale and Dawn Springer at 618 Margaret Street. A variance was applied for the rear and both side yard setbacks for the construction of a fence. The Zoning Hearing Board approved the variance.

Recommended Action – No action required.

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.