

The regular monthly meeting of the Ebensburg Borough Council was called to order on Monday, January 22, 2024, 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  
Jeff Ball  
Dave Kuhar  
Mike Murphy  
Kelly Cook, Borough Manager

Absent: Randy Datsko, Mayor  
Theresa Jacoby  
Robert Miller  
Isaac Bradley, Junior Councilor  
Abraham Remillard, Junior Councilor

Others: Joseph Loughran, Chief of Police  
Dirk Johnson, Recreation Director  
Danea Koss, Community Development Director  
Josh Surkovich, Public Works Director  
Luke Byrne, Inframark  
Matt Gribler, Solicitor  
Matt Churella, The Altoona Mirror  
Julie Pittman, Mainline Newspapers

Audience: 2

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. (Ball)  
Motion passed unanimously.

1. Approve report of Inframark for the Wastewater Treatment Plant Operations.
2. Approve report of Inframark for the Water Treatment Plant Operations.
3. Approve the minutes of the December 18, 2023 regular monthly meeting and January 2, 2024 reorganization meeting of Borough Council.
4. Approve the financial statement for December and quarterly transfers.
5. Approve payment of bills for January.

D. **Appointments to Address Council** – None.

E. **Consideration of Any Motion(s) to Amend Agenda** – None.

F. **Mayor's Report** – None.

G. **Council President Comments**

Mr. Tusing reported the following committee assignments for the next two years:

- Water, Wastewater & Stormwater: Ball, Miller & Murphy
- Recreation: Jacoby, Kuhar & Miller
- Streets: Ball, Houser & Murphy
- Administration: Houser, Jacoby & Kuhar
- Human Relations & Diversity: Houser & Kuhar

#### H. **Water/Wastewater Committee**

##### 1. **Report from Inframark on Wastewater Treatment Plant Operations**

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

##### 2. **Report from Inframark on Water Treatment Plant Operations**

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

#### H. **Recreation Committee**

##### 1. **Agreement with TranSystems**

Mr. Kuhar reported the borough is continuing to explore dredging Lake Rowena. Staff met last year with the Bureau of Abandoned Mine Reclamation regarding potential grant opportunities.

Mr. Kuhar made a motion to approve the agreement for TranSystems in an amount not to exceed \$2,200 to prepare and submit applications for grant funding. (Houser) Motion passed unanimously.

#### I. **Street Committee**

##### 1. **Rectangular Rapid Flashing Beacon**

Ms. Houser reported that the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation submitted a plan and estimates for the proposed RRFB at Julian and High Street. The estimate of the work is \$52,747.50. We applied for a grant for this, but Staff will not learn of the outcome of this until March. If the Borough puts the plans out for bid prior to that time, it might jeopardize any potential funding. It is therefore recommended that we wait until the spring to put it for bid.

##### 2. **Municipal Parking Lot**

Ms. Houser in July of 2023 this lease was extended for one year with Sara Williamson. The property is now owned by Jack and Timothy Williamson. Therefore, an assignment of the existing lease needs to be established. All other conditions remain the same.

Ms. Houser made a motion to approve the assignment of the existing lease for the Municipal Parking lot at a rate of \$1,300 per month. (Kuhar) Motion passed unanimously.

#### K. **Administration Committee** – None.

#### L. **Human Relations & Diversity Committee** – None.

**M. General Business**

**1. Ebensburg Municipal Airport**

Ms. Cook shared that a report from the structural engineer with details of the permanent hangar repairs needed to resolve corrosion of the columns and other bracing issues was received. There is a possibility that the permanent repairs can be made fairly quickly, which would eliminate the expense of temporary shoring of the structure. However, there is no cost estimate available for the repairs, and the engineer did not indicate how long the repairs would extend the life of the structure. RACRA needs to review the report and come back to Council with a recommendation as to how they wish to proceed.

In the meantime, the Borough did sign a one-year lease extension with RACRA prior to the end of 2023. The extension also allows for an additional one-year extension after that if both parties agree.

**2. Natural Gas Contract**

Ms. Cook shared that the borough's current gas supplier is Peoples's Natural Gas. The People's contract expired at the end of 2023. Competitive pricing was sought through APPI Energy, a joint municipal purchasing program offered through the Pennsylvania Municipal League. Multiple suppliers were asked for quotes, but the prices change daily. For this reason, APPI recommended a 12–60-month contract with the best available price on January 23, 2024. Bids from three companies were received on the 23<sup>rd</sup> and were reviewed at the meeting.

Ms. Houser made a motion to award a 36-month contract to Snyder Brothers, Inc. at a rate of \$4.33 Dth. (Ball) Motion passed unanimously.

**3. Garbage Ordinance**

Ms. Cook reported that a draft ordinance is submitted to council which amends the previous ordinance by allowing for a larger garbage receptacle, requiring the use of lids for all garbage receptacles, and allowing a maximum time prior to the pick-up day (24 hours) that garbage can be taken to the curb for collection, with the same amount of time for the removal of the receptacle after the pick-up day.

Ms. Houser made a motion to approve a draft Ordinance outlining the changes discussed with regard to putting cans away within 24 hours from pick-up day, as well as only allowing use of contractor-supplied or borough-approved containers. (Ball) Motion passed unanimously.

**N. Department Report**

- 1. Police Department** – Chief Loughran reported on winter weather parking and shoveling reminders.
- 2. Public Works Department** – Public Works Director Josh Surkovich reported on recent water line breaks and repairs and the reopening of S. West Street.

3. **Community Development** – Ms. Danae Koss gave updates on events including WinterFest, Art in Bloom and Wheels & Wings.

4. **Recreation Department** – Mr. Dirk Johnson gave updates on WinterFest and the popularity of cross-country ski rentals so far this season.

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

P. **Public Comments** - None

Q. **Executive Session** – None.

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

Meeting Adjourned 7:00 PM

Minutes Recorded by: Danae Koss, Community Development Director