

The regular monthly meeting of the Ebensburg Borough Council was called to order on Monday, March 25, 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  
Theresa Jacoby  
Dave Kuhar  
Robert Miller  
Mike Murphy  
Isaac Bradley, Junior Councilor  
Abraham Remillard, Junior Councilor

Others: Kelly Cook, Borough Manager  
Randy Datsko, Mayor  
Joseph Loughran, Chief of Police  
Dirk Johnson, Recreation Director  
Danea Koss, Community Development Director  
Luke Byrne, Inframark  
Matt Gribler, Solicitor  
Matt Churella, The Altoona Mirror  
Julie Pittman, Mainline Newspapers

Audience: 4

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 February 26, 2024 regular monthly meeting.
4. Approve the financial statement for February.
5. Approve payment of bills for March.

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

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

F. **Mayor's Report** – Mayor Datsko reminded residents that winter parking ends March 31<sup>st</sup>. He added a reminder that parking is not permitted on sidewalks or on driveway areas that encroach onto a sidewalk.

G. **Council President Comments** - None.

**H. Water/Wastewater Committee**

**1. 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.

**2. 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.

**H. Recreation Committee**

- 1. Pool Bids** - Ms. Jacoby reported that one bid had been received from Avalotis Corporation for \$657,425.00 for the pool repair project. The estimated cost of this project was \$250,000 to \$300,000. Ms. Cook shared that total bid was broken down between the kiddie pool (shallow area) and the main pool area. The bid for repairs to the kiddie pool area was \$171,000. Staff recommends that we proceed with this part of the project now and rebid the remaining portion of the project at some point in the future. Ms. Cook informed Council that the grant received for the project could still be fully utilized even if only the kiddie pool section was included.

Ms. Jacoby made a motion to award a bid to Avalotis Corporation in the amount of \$171,000. (Houser) Motion passed unanimously.

**I. Street Committee – None.**

**J. Administration Committee**

**1. Summer Hires**

Mr. Kuhar reported that the following applicants were hired for summer employment:

Summer Public Works - Gabe Forst                      3<sup>rd</sup> year

It is a matter of record that the person listed above will be hired to the respective position at a rate of \$10.50/hour.

**K. Human Relations & Diversity Committee**

- 1. Complaint Investigation** – Ms. Houser reported that a complaint was submitted to the Borough that potential discriminatory actions occurred at the YPCC by an independent contractor of the Borough. Staff completed a thorough investigation with the Borough Solicitor. Security video was reviewed, interviews were conducted and written statements were received. Ultimately, it was determined that there was insufficient evidence to substantiate a discrimination claim. At this point, the investigation has been closed.

Mr. Miller questioned why this matter was not referred to the Recreation Committee when it was determined that one of the two members of the Human Relations and Diversity Committee had a potential conflict of interest.

**L. General Business**

**1. Ordinance #670: An Ordinance for Compliance with the Unit Debt Act**

Ms. Cook reported the Borough needs to establish an Ordinance for Compliance with the Unit Debt Act. Ms. Jacoby made a motion to grant tentative approval for Ordinance 670 determining the Borough to incur lease rental debt under the Pennsylvania Local Government Unit Debt Act, by its guaranty of a loan in the amount of \$3,389,310 for Stormwater. (Miller) Motion passed unanimously.

**M. Department Report**

- 1. Police Department** – Chief Loughran reported on recent training sessions that the Ebensburg Borough Police Department hosted and attended with the Institute for Law Enforcement Education. Officers from 40 local, state and federal departments were in attendance. Additional training sessions have been scheduled for May.
- 2. Public Works Department** – Public Works Director Josh Surkovich reported that the public works department has been prepping for the waterline replacement project as well as locating leaks in the system.
- 3. Community Development** – Ms. Danae Koss reported on a new business opening at the Mini Mall called Laser Creations. They will host a grand opening/ribbon cutting on April 13<sup>th</sup>. Additionally Escape Room Ebensburg and Roots Kitchen & Juicery are slated to open in April as well. She also provided updates on upcoming events including Art in Bloom, Memorial Day Parade & Ceremony and the Farmer’s Market.
- 4. Recreation Department** – Recreation Director Dirk Johnson gave updates on the success of the last Bingo event held and the recent Breakfast with the Easter Bunny hosted by State Rep. Frank Burns.
- 5. Ebensburg Planning Commission**
  - a. Ms. Cook reported that the Illig Investment Group LLC applied for a land development to the Planning Commission. The Planning Commission recommends approval of the land development plan, which alters the property lines of 129 Union Street. Mr. Miller made a motion to approve the land development plan at 129 Union street. (Houser) Motion passed unanimously.
  - b. Ms. Cook reported that Gary E. Sloan applied for a lot merger which joins two parcels at 807 W. High Street (Our Station House). The Planning Commission recommends approval of the lot merger. Ms. Jacoby made a motion to approve the lot merger at 807 W. High Street. (Murphy) Motion passed unanimously.
- 6. Ebensburg Zoning Hearing Board** – Mr. Tusing shared that Illig Investment Group, LLC applied for and received approval of variances associated with minimum lot size and side and rear yard setbacks for property located at 129 Union Street.

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

O. **Public Comments**

1. Mr. Tom Bortel, E. Sample Street, asked if there were any updates on the former prison project.

P. **Executive Session** – Council entered into Executive Session at 6:56 pm and exited at 7:08 p.m.

Upon exiting Executive Session, Ms. Jacoby made a motion to extend the time allotted for the Borough Manager's residency requirement for an additional year (Houser) Motion passed unanimously.

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

Meeting Adjourned 7:09 PM

Minutes Recorded by: Danae Koss, Community Development Director