

The regular monthly meeting of the Ebensburg Borough Council was called to order on Monday, April 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
Theresa Jacoby
Dave Kuhar, via phone
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

Absent: Robert Miller

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 March 25, 2024 regular monthly meeting.
4. Approve the financial statement for March and quarterly transfers.
5. Approve payment of bills for April.

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 shared that the primary elections are coming up and he encourages everyone to exercise their right to vote.

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. Lake Rowena Dredging and Grant Application** - Ms. Jacoby reported that an application is being submitted to the Bureau of Abandoned Mine Reclamation in July, with grants to be awarded in December. Due to the growing scope of work, staff requested an agreement with TranSystems Engineering for the expanded application. The additional work included on this grant application entails replacement and/or modifications to pavilions, concession stand and restrooms, docks, pedestrian bridge, parking area, playground equipment, etc. The cost of engineering is not reimbursable under the grant.

Based on staff's recommendation, Ms. Jacoby made a motion to approve the agreement with TranSystems, not to exceed \$14,500.00. (Houser) Motion passed unanimously.

- 2. Tennis Center** - Ms. Jacoby shared that the tennis center is experiencing moisture problems that are getting worse. It has been proposed to the Recreation Committee that the Borough put out for bid a course of action that would line the ceiling with a membrane that prevents the thermal barrier from being compromised. The Rec Committee and Rec Board recently had a meeting scheduled to discuss this issue but the meeting was cancelled. It is estimated that the cost of repairs would be approximately \$150,000 to \$200,000. The consensus of Council was to table this discussion to the May meeting, allowing time for the Rec Committee and Rec Board to meet and discuss the matter.

3. Resolution 2024-02

Ms. Jacoby reported that last year the Borough approved Resolution 2023-13 regarding a grant for purchasing equipment to revitalize playground equipment through the Local Share grants. The state requested a new resolution based on updated pricing of the equipment. The amount was changed from \$120,000 to \$143,229. (Ball) 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
Tobey Becquet

3rd yr.

Brock Martin	3 rd yr.
Bob Koscho	3 rd yr.
Jace Koss	3 rd yr.
Henry Bradley	2 nd yr.
Isaac Bradley	2 nd yr.
Sophie Becquet	1 st yr.
Alec Prokop	1 st yr.
William Tremel	1 st yr.
Benjamin Ream	1 st yr.
Carter Rummel	1 st yr.
<u>Swimming Pool Manager</u>	
Nolan Johnson	9 th yr.
<u>Co-Head Lifeguards</u>	
Abbey O'Brien	6 th yr.
Karson Johnson	6 th yr.
<u>Lifeguards</u>	
Jaylee Sikora	7 th yr.
Elizabeth Bopp	7 th yr.
Tessa Novotny	6 th yr.
Loralyn Simmers	5 th yr.
Jewel Sikora	4 th yr.
Maggie McCullough	3 rd yr.
Kayden Magulick	3 rd yr.
Maya Sirsikar	3 rd yr.
Gwendalyn Fodor	3 rd yr.
Naveen Sirsikar	3 rd yr.
Jemma Sikora	2 nd yr.
Broderick Ryan	2 nd yr.
Ian Estep	2 nd yr.
Victoria Griffith	2 nd yr.
Devan Wasser	2 nd yr.
Reagan Tronzo	1 st yr.
Keira Link	1 st yr.
Angus Ryan	1 st yr.
Alaina Long	1 st yr.
Rowyn Ruddek	1 st yr.
Aubrey Ruddek	1 st yr.

It is a matter of record that the persons listed above will be hired to the respective positions. Pay for public works and lifeguards is \$10.50 per hour. The head lifeguard rate is \$11.50 per hour and the pool manager rate is \$14.50 per hour.

K. Human Relations & Diversity Committee – None.

L. General Business

1. Ebersburg Municipal Airport

A. Ms. Cook reported that, using plans prepared by structural engineers Diviney & Associates, RACRA contacted four companies and received two estimates for repair work on the closed Hangar. An estimate from Joseph Maintenance Services was received in the amount of \$15,552 and RACRA intends to enter into a contract with them. RACRA would like to make certain that the Borough will allow the use of the building if repairs are made in accordance with the engineering plans.

Ms. Houser made a motion that the Borough engages Diviney & Associates to inspect the work and to assure that all work is done in compliance with the engineering drawings of the required improvements deemed necessary by Diviney prior to the use of the building. (Ball) Motion passed unanimously.

B. RACRA would like to proceed with a Runway Lighting Design Agreement in order to apply for federal funding.

Ms. Jacoby made a motion to consider the Runway Lighting Design Agreement. (Murphy) Motion passed unanimously.

C. RACRA would like to proceed with Design Agreements for projects that involve Bipartisan Infrastructure funding (Fencing, obstruction removal).

Ms. Houser made a motion to consider the Design Agreement for Bipartisan Infrastructure funding. (Ball) Motion passed unanimously.

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

Ms. Jacoby made a motion to grant final 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 the Stormwater Project. (Houser) Motion passed unanimously.

3. **Planning Commission Vacancy**

Ms. Cook shared that there has been a vacancy on the planning commission for several months, and recently the Borough received a request for consideration to be appointed to the Planning Commission.

Ms. Houser made a motion to appoint Greg Illig to the Planning Commission for the vacant term ending December of 2024. (Murphy) Motion passed unanimously.

4. **Municipal Parking Lot**

Ms. Cook and Mr. Tusing shared that the Borough has a lease in place for the Municipal lot which expires in August of this year. Recently, the owner listed the property for sale. The Borough was contacted by a potential buyer who has proposed a new long-term lease for Council to consider. Council may also consider the submission an offer for the Borough to acquire the property. The consensus of council was to discuss this matter further in executive session.

M. Department Reports

1. **Police Department** – Chief Loughran reported that the department had applied for a grant through the 1889 Foundation, for two tactical plate carrier vests and has received them. He added that the department is continuing with additional trainings and has one scheduled for the week of May 6th.
5. **Public Works Department** – Public Works Director Josh Surkovich provided a written report from the public works department.
6. **Community Development** – Community Development Director Danae Koss reported on a new mural installation in the downtown at the end of May, upcoming events including Art in Bloom and Memorial Day and the Cambria County Borough’s Association dinner meeting that Ebensburg had just hosted.
7. **Recreation Department** – Recreation Director Dirk Johnson gave updates on the upcoming Bingo event and Red Cross blood drive. He added certification for new and returning lifeguards is scheduled.
8. **Ebensburg Planning Commission** – None.
9. **Ebensburg Zoning Hearing Board** – None.

N. Media Comments/Questions – None.

O. Public Comments

1. Mr. Bill Grady and Rod Davis, treasurer and president, respectively, of RACRA, asked if the borough had received confirmation from all the property owners adjoining the airport property to proceed with tree removal and/or pruning.

P. Executive Session – Council entered into Executive Session at 7:06 pm and exited at 8:16 p.m.

Upon exiting Executive Session, Ms. Houser made a motion to reject the lease offer from the potential buyer of the Municipal Parking Lot. (Jacoby) Motion passed unanimously.

Ms. Houser made a motion to order an appraisal for the Municipal Parking Lot. (Murphy) Motion passed unanimously.

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

Meeting Adjourned 8:18 PM

Minutes Recorded by: Danae Koss, Community Development Director