

The regular monthly meeting of the Ebensburg Borough Council was called to order on Monday, June 24, 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  
Dave Kuhar, via phone  
Robert Miller  
Mike Murphy  
Abraham Remillard, Junior Councilor

Absent: Jeff Ball  
Theresa Jacoby  
Isaac Bradley, Junior Councilor

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

Audience: 3

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. (Miller)  
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 May 20, 2024 regular monthly meeting.
4. Approve the financial statement for May.
5. Approve payment of bills for June.

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** – 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.

3. **Waterline Replacement Project**

It was reported that this project is proceeding well and is on schedule. Guyer Brothers has installed approximately 40% of the mainline. Service installations began in mid-June.

4. **Stormwater Project**

Ms. Cook reported that this project consists of the installation of approximately 5,515 feet of 60", 30", 24", 18" and 15" storm sewer piping, inlets, manholes, headwalls and all necessary appurtenances. Work is to take place on West Highland Avenue, between N. West Street and N. Julian Street; N. Julian, N. Beech, N. Marian and N. Spruce Streets, north of West Highland Avenue; Randolph Street, Elderwood Drive and a portion of the Fairgrounds area. Bids were awarded by the Authority to the lowest bidder, A. Liberoni, Inc., for \$1,727,128.67 in May. The loan closing is scheduled with Pennvest for July 11<sup>th</sup> and a notice to proceed should be issued soon after. The project should take approximately seven months to complete.

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

1. **Tennis Center** – Mr. Miller reported that the tennis center is experiencing moisture problems that are getting worse. Last month the Borough put out for bid a ceiling liner membrane that prevents the thermal barrier from being compromised. One bid was received from Sports Interiors in the amount of \$114,751.00 for the ceiling membrane. The cost to add the walls within one year of the date of the bid submittal is \$90,333.00.

Mr. Miller made a motion to approve the bid received from Sports Interiors in the amount of \$114,751.00. (Houser) Motion passed unanimously.

2. **Recreation Director**

Ms. Jacoby reported the current Recreation Director, Dirk Johnson, has accepted a job offer from another municipality. The vacancy was advertised, and multiple interviews were given over the course of the past month. Two candidates were chosen for a second interview that will be conducted later this week. It is hopeful that a candidate will be offered a position and can begin to work alongside Dirk for a period of time prior to his departure.

I. **Street Committee** – None.

J. **Administration Committee** – None.

**K. Human Relations & Diversity Committee – None.**

**L. General Business**

**1. Ebensburg Municipal Airport**

Ms. Cook reported that RACRA had planned to initiate remedial work to shore up the hangar building which is in need of structural repairs. Prior to the start of work, they sought clarification from the engineering firm that designed the repairs, Diviney & Associates, to determine if the remedial work would be enough to allow the building to be occupied. Diviney stated that “Given the level of deterioration in the roof purlins, we can’t be sure when an isolated failure may occur. It would be best to have them replaced or sistered” (prior to occupying the building).

No action is needed currently. Staff is waiting for RACRA to determine their course of action.

**2. Municipal Parking Lot**

Ms. Cook reported that the Municipal Parking Lot has been sold by the Williamson family. The Borough had a lease in place for the lot which expires in August of this year, and that lease has been assigned to the new owner. Council just received an independent third-party appraisal for the property and discussed the matter in an executive session.

**3. Pension Audits**

Ms. Cook reported that audits for the compliance period of January 1, 2019 to December 31, 2023 were received for the Non-Uniformed Plan, Money Purchase Non-Uniformed Plan and Police Pension Plan from the PA Auditor General. There were no deficiencies or findings noted for any plan.

**4. Code Enforcement – Old Jail Property**

Ms. Cook reported that letters have been sent to DSherwoodD Enterprises LLC. regarding the condition of the property at 201 North Center (the Old Jail). The owner has been in contact with the borough and said they will be undertaking repairs. The owner has created a website: [www.old-stone-jail.com](http://www.old-stone-jail.com) where their plans are listed.

No action required. Staff will follow up periodically with regard to repairs and will take further action if remedial repairs are not initiated in a timely manner.

**M. Department Report**

**1. Police Department** – Chief Loughran reported that the department activity for the month.

**1. Public Works Department** – Public Works Director Josh Surkovich reported on department activity for the month.

**2. Community Development** – Community Development Director Dana Koss provided a written report and was unable to attend due to attendance at the Pennsylvania Downtown Center annual conference in York, PA.

3. **Recreation Department** – Recreation Director Dirk Johnson gave an update on the recent activity for the month.
  4. **Ebensburg Planning Commission** – None.
  5. **Ebensburg Zoning Hearing Board** – None.
- N. **Media Comments/Questions** – Mr. Matt Churella, Altoona Mirror, asked about the completion date for the Tennis Center project and a closing date for the stormwater project.
- O. **Public Comments** – Mr. Bill Link, N. Spruce Street, asked about the stormwater project status.
- P. **Executive Session** – Council entered into Executive Session to discuss real estate issues at 6:51 pm and exited at 7:10 p.m. No action was taken following the Executive Session.
- Q. **Adjournment** – There being no further business, Ms. Houser made a motion to adjourn. (Miller) Motion passed unanimously.

Meeting Adjourned 7:11 PM

Minutes Recorded by:           Randy Datsko, Mayor  
  Danea Koss, Community Development Director