



Ebensburg Borough Council Meeting
Monday, July 22, 2024
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
Mike Murphy
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 11F: Approve the minutes of the June 24, 2024 regular monthly meeting and the July 1, 2024 Special Meeting of Borough Council.

Item 11G: Approve the financial statement for June.

Item 11H: Approve payment of bills for July.

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, Miller & Murphy

*** 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: Waterline Replacement Project

This project is proceeding well and on schedule. Guyer Brothers has installed approximately 48% of the mainline. Service installations began in mid-June and a second crew has started on this project as well.

Recommended Action – No action required.

Item 6D: Stormwater Project

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 closed with Pennvest on July 11th and a notice to proceed should be issued soon. A pr-construction meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, July 24th with the contractor. The project should take approximately seven months to complete.

Recommended Action – No action required.

7. RECREATION COMMITTEE

Jacoby, Kuhar & Miller

Item 7A: Tennis Center

The tennis center has been experiencing moisture problems that are getting worse. Last month the Borough awarded a bid to Sports Interiors in the amount of \$114,751.00 for the ceiling membrane. The work is to commence the second week of August.

Recommended Action – No action is required.

Item 7B: Recreation Director

The Recreational Director committee has completed its review of applications for the position and candidates were interviewed. A conditional offer of employment has been made to Rebecca Williamson, pending all pre-employment clearances. The start date for the new Recreational Director is August 12th. The annual salary is \$50,000.

Recommended Action – Make it a matter of record that Rebecca Williamson has been hired for the position of Recreation Director.

8. STREETS COMMITTEE	Ball, Houser & Murphy
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9. ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE	Houser, Jacoby & Kuhar
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Item 9A: Billing Department

A long-term employee is anticipating retirement within a year. The administrative committee will meet to discuss succession planning.

Recommended Action - No action required.

10. HUMAN RELATIONS & DIVERSITY COMMITTEE	Kuhar & Houser
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11. GENERAL BUSINESS

Item 11A: Ebensburg Municipal Airport

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).

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

Item 11B: Municipal Parking Lot

After receipt of an independent appraisal and as a result of the Special Meeting held by Borough Council on July 1, 2024, a formal offer of \$250,000 was made by the Borough and accepted by the owner. The offer was for the appraised value of \$250,000 plus \$2,500 towards closing costs. Closing of the sale was being scheduled as this agenda was being prepared. The purchase will be made using available cash from the General Reserve Fund.

Recommended Action – Make it a matter of record that the Borough entered into an Agreement of Sale for the purchase of the “Municipal Parking Lot” with closing expected soon.

Item 11C: Parking within the Borough

The Borough owns several parking lots within the Borough and the lots have different meters, and methods of parking. Staff has started a comprehensive review of all paid parking within the Borough, including on-street parking and lot parking. The fees and rules for monthly passes will also be evaluated.

Recommended Action - No action required.

Item 11D: Parking behind the Borough building

The Borough has been experiencing increased use of the lot behind the Municipal Building both during the day and during early evening when parking is still needed for Borough business, public meetings, etc. In general, the lot is only to be used by authorized personnel for Borough purposes. That said, until a Rectangular Rapid Flashing Beacon is installed at the crosswalk on West High and Julian, Council has temporarily agreed to allow public parking in non-employee designated spaces only during non-business hours (from 6pm until 6am on weekdays). During business hours (6am to 6pm weekdays), any vehicles, unless involved in borough business, will be ticketed.

The public is prohibited from parking in employee-designated parking spaces at any time, thus keeping them available to employees should they need to come into the office (employees and other authorized personnel have been given special Parking Passes). Vehicles in employee-designated spaces that do not display the special Parking Pass will be ticketed.

Lastly, the public is prohibited from parking anywhere in the lot during Borough or Mainstreet Partnership events, including those on evenings and weekends.

Recommended Action - No action required.

Item 11E: Sidewalk Loan

The Borough took out a loan for the sidewalk project in 2021 for \$550,000. Due to the reserve directed to cover that cost and the amount collected from the residents, the loan was expected to have been paid off in five years. However, adequate money currently exists in the Sidewalk Reserve fund to pay off the loan balance of approximately \$230,000. The interest rate due on the loan and the interest currently earned on the money differs by only one tenth of one percent. Currently, there are no plans for curb or sidewalk work within the next year. After paying off the loan, the remaining money can then be transferred to a PLIGIT account where the interest yield is greater. Also, any future payments received from residents/property owners for the project will be deposited into the Sidewalk Reserve.

Recommended Action - Approve payoff of the existing Sidewalk Project loan and transfer remaining funds to an account with PLIGIT.

- * Item 11F: Minutes of Previous Meeting(s)
The minutes of the June 24, 2024, regular meeting and July 1, 2024 special meeting are presented for Council review and approval.

Recommended Action – Approve the minutes of the previous meetings.

- * Item 11G: Financial Statement
The financial statement for June 2024 and quarterly transfers are presented for approval.

Recommended Action – Approve the June 2024 financial statement and second quarter transfers.

- * Item 11H: Bills
A list of bills totaling \$767,965.17 for July 2024 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 Danae 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-No Activity

Item 12H: Ebensburg Zoning Hearing Board – No Activity

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 – discussion of personnel and real estate issues

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.