



**Ebensburg Borough Council Meeting  
Monday, October 28, 2024  
6:30 p.m.**

**Phone: 814-472-8780  
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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.*

**ADMINISTRATION OF OATH – JUNIOR COUNCILOR**

A Junior Councilor position was first created by Borough Council in 2002 by Resolution #2002-02. Council recognized the importance of involving residents of all ages in the decision-making process, and that, while not yet able to vote for its elected representatives, youth nonetheless have an interest in the operation of borough government. The position was last occupied in 2023/24 by Abraham Remillard and Issac Bradley. The Borough would like to thank them for being involved last year.

The Junior Councilor must be a borough resident completing high school. The term is August-July. The junior member is permitted to attend all meetings of Council (except executive sessions) and all committee meetings and is permitted to participate fully in those proceedings, except shall not be afforded the right to vote.

Mr. Remillard has expressed this interest in continuing as a Junior Councilor. Abraham is homeschooled and is entering his senior year.

Mayor Datsko will administer the oath of office to Mr. Remillard.

**1. CONSENT AGENDA**

*All items marked with an asterisk or 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 11D: Approve the minutes of the September 23, 2024 regular monthly meeting of Borough Council.

Item 11E: Approve the financial statement for September and quarterly transfers.

Item 11F: Approve payment of bills for October.

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 93% of the mainline and 60% of the service installations.

Recommended Action – No action required.

**Item 6D: Stormwater Project**

Construction began on this project by A. Liberoni Construction on August 12, 2024. The 60” pipe has been installed and currently the contractor is working on North Beech Street toward Highland Avenue. This project will take approximately seven months to complete.

Recommended Action – No action required.

**7. RECREATION COMMITTEE**

**Jacoby, Kuhar & Miller**

**8. STREETS COMMITTEE**

**Ball, Houser & Murphy**

**Item 8A: Ordinance 672: Loading Zone on Municipal Streets**

The Borough’s current ordinance does not include a procedure to allow for loading zones to be designated. Staff recommends modifying the ordinance to allow for the placement of loading zone signs where and when warranted, at Council’s discretion. The procedure would equal that of the handicap spaces in that it is reviewed and approved by the manager and police chief.

Recommended Action – Grant tentative approval for Ordinance 672 which allows for the designation of loading zones where and when warranted, at Council’s discretion.

**Item 8B: North Spruce Street**

Last month there was a question about the process for changing North Spruce Street from High to Crawford to one way. After staff review, it was determined that the State Motor Vehicle Code requires that Council consider statistics for the subject street regarding previous accidents, injuries and property damage. The borough Police Department is not aware of any reports of accidents, incidents or property damage that has occurred in that area of North Spruce Street since the street was converted to two-way traffic (believed to be in 2015). There being no data or evidence to support a change, Staff recommends keeping North Spruce as a two-way street.

Recommended Action – Dependent on discussion.

**Item 8C: Rectangular Rapid Flashing Beacon (RRFB)**

The Borough applied for a grant through the Local Share Account for \$52,000 to erect a RRFB at the intersection of Julian and High Street. The Borough was awarded this grant to improve pedestrian safety. As soon as the paperwork is received and finalized, Staff will prepare to place the project out for the bidding process.

Recommended Action – No action needed at this time.

**9. ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE**

**Houser, Jacoby & Kuhar**

**Item 9A: 2025 Annual Budget**

The administrative committee has compiled a tentative 2025 budget for Council’s review.

The 2025 Operating Budget calls for revenues of \$7,436,845 and expenditures of \$7,436,845. The general fund budget is balanced without an increase in real estate taxes.

	Revenues	Expenditures	Surplus
General Fund Budget	\$2,561,445.00	\$2,561,445.00	\$0.00
Water Fund Budget	\$2,588,600.00	\$2,588,600.00	\$0.00
Wastewater Fund Budget	\$2,058,000.00	\$2,058,000.00	\$0.00
Stormwater Fund Budget	<u>\$228,800.00</u>	<u>\$228,800.00</u>	<u>\$0.00</u>
<b>Total Operating Fund</b>	<b>\$7,436,845.00</b>	<b>\$7,436,845.00</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>

The General Fund Budget reflects a decrease of .048% over last year. Revenues are slightly down due to the assessed value of the real estate, the transfer tax and interest earnings decreasing. The decrease in expenditure is primarily due to the purchase of a parking lot in 2024 from the capital budget and therefore, the borough is not paying rent. Furthermore, the sidewalk loan was paid in full in 2024. This in turn allowed any inflationary expenditure increases to be offset.

The Water Fund Budget has a 5.37% increase, which is due to an increase in revenues and expenditures due to a large infrastructure project to replace a third of the borough’s antiquated waterlines. The Borough has a rich history but unfortunately, the waterlines are a product of this history, and many have not been updated. Fortunately, the Borough’s Municipal Authority was able to secure a substantial grant that covers a little over forty percent of a water main replacement project, but the rest will have to be paid for by the users. The Authority received funding to help cover the cost of a Phase I Stormwater Project. The Stormwater Fund has an adequate revenue stream to fund the debt service for this project and enough in reserve for the design fees needed for future projects.

Recommended Action – Grant tentative approval to the 2025 annual budget and advertise for public inspection.

**10. HUMAN RELATIONS & DIVERSITY COMMITTEE**

**Kuhar & Houser**

**11. GENERAL BUSINESS**

**Item 11A: Garbage Collection**

Over the past several weeks, the Borough has received a few complaints regarding noise associated with trash pickup during early morning hours. Staff has spoken with Pro Disposal, the Borough's trash hauler, and has received assurances that residential pickup should not be occurring before 6am (as per our bid specifications). Commercial pickups may still occur at various overnight times, but Pro Disposal is willing to pursue the use of plastic vs. metal dumpsters, which produce much less noise.

As discussed at last month's meeting, trash collection activities are exempt from the Borough's noise ordinance, as they are considered to be an "essential service". Any changes to that part of the ordinance could create issues with the safe and timely removal of garbage and debris from Borough homes and businesses.

Recommended Action – dependent on discussion.

**Item 11B: Lease Agreement with Goodwill of the Southern Alleghenies**

Ebensburg Borough and Goodwill of the Southern Alleghenies negotiated a lease agreement for one year, ending on September 31, 2025, allowing for two one-year extensions at a new lease rate of \$1,285.00 per month (a 10% increase over the previous rent).

Recommended Action – Make a motion to ratify the lease agreement with Goodwill.

**Item 11C: Lease Agreement with Cambria County Child Development Corp.**

Ebensburg Borough and the Cambria County Child Development Corp. entered into a lease agreement October 1, 2021 for three years, ending on September 31, 2024 at rate of \$1,666.94 per month. The tenant has requested to renew the lease with the Borough for three years at the current rate of \$1,666.94. Staff continues to negotiate a new rate with the tenant.

Recommended Action – No action needed at this time.

\* Item 11D: Minutes of Previous Meeting(s)

The minutes of the September 23, 2024, regular meeting are presented for Council review and approval.

Recommended Action – Approve the minutes of the previous meetings.

\* Item 11E: Financial Statement

The financial statement for September 2024 and quarterly transfers are presented for approval.

Recommended Action – Approve the September 2024 financial statement and quarterly transfers.

\* Item 11F: Bills

A list of bills totaling \$386,273.92 for October 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 Rebecca Williamson 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 the 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 – Discuss a real estate lease matter (if necessary).

## 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](http://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](mailto:eburg@ebensburgpa.com). Notification 48-hours before the meeting will enable the Borough to make reasonable arrangements to ensure accessibility to this meeting.*