

The regular monthly meeting of the Ebensburg Borough Council was called to order on Monday, September 23, 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  
Mike Murphy  
Jeff Ball  
Theresa Jacoby  
Robert Miller

Absent: Randy Datsko, Mayor

Others: Kelly Cook, Borough Manager  
Chris Bopp, Police Officer  
Danea Koss, Community Development Director  
Rebecca Williamson, Recreation Director  
Luke Byrne, Inframark  
Matt Gribler, Solicitor  
Matt Churella, The Altoona Mirror  
Julie Pittman, Mainline Newspapers

Audience: 1

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. (Jacoby)  
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 August 26, 2024 regular monthly meeting.
4. Approve the financial statement for August.
5. Approve payment of bills for September.

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. Wastewater Replacement Project**

Mr. Miller reported that this project is proceeding well and on schedule. Guyer Brothers has installed approximately 80% of the mainline and 50% of service installation.

**4. Stormwater Project**

Mr. Miller reported that construction began by A. Liberoni Construction on August 12, 2024. Currently the contractor is working on the largest part of the project with the installation of 60" pipe on North Julian and North Beech Streets. This project will take approximately seven months to complete.

**I. Recreation Committee**

- 1. Pool Bids** – Ms. Jacoby reported that one bid was received from Avalotis Corporation for \$198,750 for the second part of the renovations at the borough pool.

Ms. Jacoby made a motion to accept the bid from Avalotis Corporation in the amount of \$198,750. (Houser) Motion passed unanimously.

**J. Street Committee**

**1. Loading Zone of West Triumph Street**

Ms. Houser reported that Laurel Medical Solutions has requested an area adjacent to their property on West Triumph Street between West Ogle St. and South West Street be designated a loading zone during business hours, Monday through Friday. They receive several tractor-trailer deliveries a day which can pose a hazard for public safety. Random checks over the past few weeks have indicated that the parking area in question is not being used by the public on a regular basis. Staff would recommend this to be considered but are reviewing procedures for its implementation. The consensus of council was to table this item to ensure the proper procedures are followed.

Mr. Mike Murphy asked what the process would be for making Spruce Street one way from Crawford to West High Street.

**K. Administration Committee**

- 1. Budget** - Ms. Jacoby reported that the department heads have begun their preparation on the 2025 budget and a draft will be ready for review at next month's meeting.
- 2. Full-time Public Works Hires & Part-Time Tennis Center Hire** - Ms. Jacoby made it a matter of record that Robert Yahnert and Gabe Forst were hired as full-time employees with

Public Works as Laborer I at a rate of \$22.79/hour and Alexa Miller was hired as part-time employee with the Tennis Center at a rate of \$8.50/hour.

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

**M. General Business**

1. **Ordinance #670: Garbage Ordinance** - Ms. Cook reported that an ordinance which amends the current ordinance by prohibiting garbage and/or recycle receptacles to be placed in public roadways received preliminary approval at last month's meeting.

Ms. Houser made a motion to grant final approval for Ordinance #670 amending provisions of the garbage ordinance. (Kuhar) Motion passed unanimously.

2. **Lock Boxes for Fire Department Use** - Ms. Cook reported that the installation of lock boxes on commercial and multi-household residential buildings was discussed as the August meeting. After further investigation, it was determined that the existing fire code already authorizes the local "fire code official" (normally the fire chief) to specify where lock boxes are needed and what type of box should be installed. The same section of the fire code also addresses emergency access needs for fences and gates. As such there is no need for an additional ordinance. It is expected that the Fire Chief will issue a letter explaining what will be required. That letter will be provided to LMIA (code enforcement agency) so that they can include this as a part of inspections for new or renovated structures.

3. **Lease Agreement with Goodwill of the Southern Alleghenies**

Ms. Cook reported that Ebensburg Borough and Goodwill of the Southern Alleghenies entered into a lease agreement last September for one year, ending on September 30, 2022, but allowing for two one-year extensions which were utilized. The tenant has requested to renew the lease with the Borough for three years, commencing on October 1, 2024, at the current lease rate of \$1,117.38. Discussion of the matter was deferred to the executive session.

4. **Lease Agreement with Cambria County Child Development Corporation**

Ms. Cook reported that Ebensburg Borough and Cambria County Child Development Corporation entered into a lease agreement October 1, 2021, for three years, ending on September 30, 2024, at the current lease rate of \$1,117.38. The tenant has requested to renew the lease with the Borough for three years at the current rate of \$1,666.94. Discussion of the matter was deferred to the executive session.

5. **Noise Complaint** - Ms. Cook provided a follow-up to the noise complaint presented at the August meeting of Council regarding the emptying of waste receptacles which occur during quiet times. The complaint considered such an act as a violation of Borough's noise ordinance. Solicitor Gribler reported that the issue has been investigated and found that the Borough is limited to our noise ordinance that gives an exemption for essential services, which by definition within the ordinance, includes garbage removal activities. As such, no violation has occurred.

N. **Department Report**

1. **Police Department** – Officer Bopp reported that there were 310 calls for the month of August. A swatting call took place that caused a shelter-in-place all-call to be issued to borough residents in the southeast quadrant of town. This incident is still under investigation. A \$40k grant has been awarded to the department that will allow for an upgraded reporting management system that will significantly reduce the amount of time it takes to complete incident reports.
  2. **Public Works Department** – Public Works Director Josh Surkovich provided a written report on department activity for the month. It was confirmed that the street sweeper is in working order, but its use is somewhat limited by ongoing construction in a several areas of the Borough.
  3. **Community Development** – Community Development Director Danae Koss reported on recent activities including the upcoming Potatofest, Fall Foliage Ride on the Trail and the Halloween Parade and Trick-or-Treat. She added that the art students from Cambria Elementary will once again be painting our downtown storefront windows for Halloween.
  4. **Recreation Department** – Recreation Director Rebecca Williamson gave an update on the recent activity for the month including new scoreboard installations at Lions and Lake Fields in Memory of Luke Trotz and Justin Yahner, respectively. She also shared upcoming events scheduled at the YPCC to include a Blood Drive, Senior Fair, Bingo Night and Halloween Party to be held on Sunday, 10/27 from 3 to 5 pm.
  5. **Ebensburg Planning Commission** – None.
  6. **Ebensburg Zoning Hearing Board** – None.
- O. **Media Comments/Questions** – Matt Churella, The Altoona Mirror, asked how many people would be affected by the Knox Box requirement and whether there are grants available to help cover the cost.
- P. **Public Comments** – Luke Byrne from Inframark suggested that the borough may want to consider the installation of a Knox Box at the Water and Wastewater Treatment Plants.
- Q. **Executive Session** – Council entered into executive session at 6:57 pm to discuss a real estate matter. The meeting was then reopened to the public at 7:00 pm.
- R. **Adjournment** – There being no further business, Ms. Jacoby made a motion to adjourn. (Houser) Motion passed unanimously.

Meeting Adjourned 7:00 PM  
Minutes Recorded by:

Danae Koss, Community Development Director