



Ebensburg Borough Council Meeting
Monday, November 25, 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.

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 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.

Abraham Remillard, who served as a Junior Councilor last year, was sworn in in last month's meeting and will continue to serve in that capacity.

Subsequently, Mr. Roy Lian who is junior At Central Cambria High School and serves as the Junior Class president expressed interest in becoming a Junior Councilor.

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

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 9B: Make it a matter of record that Garrett James was hired as a part-time employee at the YPCC at a rate of \$8.00 per hour.

Item 11G: Approve the minutes of the October 28, 2024 regular monthly meeting of Borough Council.

Item 11H: Approve the financial statement for October.

Item 11I: Approve payment of bills for November.

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 98% of the mainline and 85% 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.

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| 7. RECREATION COMMITTEE | Jacoby, Kuhar & Miller |
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Item 7A: Agreement between the Borough and Ebensburg Youth Softball Association

An agreement that allows for certain portions of Memorial Field so the League can have programs. Fee for use of facilities is \$2,200.00 per year.

Recommended Action – Approve the Agreement between the Borough and Ebensburg Youth Softball Association.

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| 8. STREETS COMMITTEE | Ball, Houser & Murphy |
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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. 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 final approval for Ordinance 672 which allows for the designation of loading zones where and when warranted.

Item 8B: North Spruce Street

Council has been discussing the process for changing North Spruce Street from High to Crawford to one way. Council requested staff to investigate the curbing and what could be done. In a meeting, one member of staff discussed limiting turning from High Street onto Spruce Street. Staff spoke to PennDOT who informed us they allow it as it would not disrupt their traffic pattern on High Street. Currently TranSystems, the Borough engineer is reviewing and will issue a report based on today’s standards.

It should also be noted that four residents that live on Spruce Street called the borough within the past month to express their support for this. They all said while there have not been accidents, there have been near misses and incidents that required a driver to back up or pull onto someone’s lawn to allow the other vehicle to get through.

Recommended Action – Dependent on discussion.

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| 9. ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE | Houser, Jacoby & Kuhar |
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Item 9A: 2025 Annual Budget

The administrative committee presents the 2025 budget for Council’s approval.

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> |
| Total Operating Fund | \$7,436,845.00 | \$7,436,845.00 | \$0.00 |

The General Fund Budget reflects a decrease of 0.48% 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 final approval to the 2025 annual budget.

*Item 9B: Garrett James was hired as a part-time employee at the YPCC at a rate of \$8.00 per hour.

Recommended Action – No action required.

10. HUMAN RELATIONS & DIVERSITY COMMITTEE

Kuhar & Houser

11. GENERAL BUSINESS

Item 11A: RACRA Lease

The Lease Agreement between Ebsenburg Borough and RACRA is due to expire on December 31 of this year. The current lease allows for a one-year extension, and RACRA has requested that the lease be extended.

Staff recommends that the lease between the Borough and RACRA be extended for a period of one year, to expire on December 31, 2025. During the course of 2025, the possibility of a longer term extension will be examined.

Recommended Action – Approve an extension to the Lease Agreement between the Borough and RACRA for a period of one year.

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

Ebsenburg Borough and the Cambria County Child Development Corp. negotiated a three-year lease, ending October 31, 2027 at a new rate to increase every year by 5%. This is essentially equivalent to the flat 10% increase we were seeking.

Recommended Action – Make a motion to ratify the lease agreement with the Cambria County Child Development Corp.

Item 11C: Resolution #2024-10

A resolution fixing the tax rate for the year 2025 at 36.75 mills on each dollar of assessed valuation for land, 11.75 mills on each dollar of assessed valuation for buildings and 2.5 mills on each dollar of assessed valuation of land for stormwater management.

Recommended Action – Approve Resolution #2024-10 to establish 2025 tax rates.

Item 11D: School Resource Officer

The Borough received a request from Holy Name Church School to provide a School Resource Officer to enhance overall safety of students, faculty and staff. The school expressed a willingness to cover the cost of the SRO. Police Chief Joe Loughran will provide additional information to Council regarding the pros and cons of such an endeavor.

Recommended Action – Dependent upon discussion.

Item 11E: Resolution #2024-11: A Resolution authorizing the submission of a grant through the Statewide Local Share Account Grant.

The Cambria County Historical Society continues to explore any and all opportunities available for obtaining grants to preserve the historic windows in the A. W. Buck House. They have requested our assistance in applying for an \$85,000 grant to be used to refurbish their building, including the windows.

Recommended Action - Approve Resolution #2024-11 supporting and applying for, on behalf of the Cambria County Historical Society, an \$85,000 grant through the Statewide Local Share Account Grant, and further authorizing Borough officers to execute any and all documents required to secure the grant.

Item 11F: Resolution #2024-12: A Resolution authorizing the submission of a grant through the Statewide Local Share Account Grant.

The Borough continues to explore opportunities available for obtaining grants for the improvement of Memorial Field.

Recommended Action - Approve Resolution #2024-12 supporting and applying for a \$42,000 grant through the Statewide Local Share Account Grant, and further authorizing Borough officers to execute any and all documents required to secure the grant.

* Item 11G: Minutes of Previous Meeting(s)

The minutes of the October 28, 2024, regular meeting are presented for Council review and approval.

Recommended Action – Approve the minutes of the previous meetings.

* Item 11H: Financial Statement

The financial statement for October 2024 is presented for approval.

Recommended Action – Approve the October 2024 financial statement.

* Item 11I: Bills

A list of bills totaling \$693,549.91 for November 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 – Discussion of a personnel matter.

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.