



Ebensburg Borough Council Meeting
Monday, December 16, 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 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: Schedule the 2025 Council meetings for the 4th Monday of each month at 6:30 p.m., with the exception of November and December, which will be held on the 3rd Monday.
- Item 10E: Designate First National Bank, First Commonwealth Bank, AmeriServ Financial Bank, 1st Summit Bank and PLGIT as depositories.
- Item 11F: Approve the minutes of the November 25, 2024 regular monthly meeting of Borough Council and the November 29 Special Meeting of Borough Council.
- Item 11G: Approve the financial statement for November.
- Item 11H: Approve payment of bills for December.

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. In the past month the contractor has tested lines and prepared for the installation of the vault on Ann Street.

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, the majority of the work on North Beech was completed and work on Highland Avenue was suspended until the spring. The crew is installing pipes and inlets on North Julian toward Randolph. 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: North Spruce Street

Council has been discussing the possibility of changing North Spruce Street to one-way traffic from High to Crawford. The matter was tabled at the November Council meeting pending receipt of a review and report by TranSystems, the Borough Engineer.

Staff will review the report when received and will provide details on relevant findings and/or recommendations.

Recommended Action – Dependent on discussion.

9. ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE

Houser, Jacoby & Kuhar

Item 9A: 2025 Wage Resolution #2024-14

A Resolution is adopted each year to establish the wages to be paid to borough employees. AFSCME and FOP wages are adjusted in accordance with labor contracts. Historically, non-union employees receive the same adjustment as negotiated with AFSME, which is the case this year with the exception of a small additional increase for the Community Development Director.

Recommended Action – Approve Resolution #2024-14 establishing wages for 2025.

10. HUMAN RELATIONS & DIVERSITY COMMITTEE

Kuhar & Houser

11. GENERAL BUSINESS

Item 11A: Tax Collector proposal for increase to compensation for the year 2026

Compensation for the Tax Collector can only be changed prior to the election year (becoming effective the year following the election) to allow all candidates an opportunity to run based on the expected compensation to be received. 2025 is an election year and the current Tax Collector is proposing an increase to the amount paid per parcel. That rate is currently at \$0.75 per parcel and it is proposed to increase it to \$2.50 per parcel.

In total, this proposal would increase the total compensation paid by the Borough from approximately \$7,950 to \$10,500 or \$2,550, representing a total increase of 23 percent. Since the compensation has not been changed in sixteen years, this amounts to an increase of less than 1.5 percent per year.

Additionally, the fee charged by the Tax Collector for tax certifications is currently set at \$15.00, with a proposed increase to \$20.00. The higher amount more accurately reflects the time and effort involved in preparing the certifications which are required at that time a

property is sold or transferred. The proposal amounts to an annual fee increase of \$500, which is paid for by the seller of the property through closing companies.

As an aside, the Tax Collector is also seeking increased compensation from the County and the School District with regard to their portion of the taxes being collected.

Staff recommends an increase in compensation for the year 2026 for the incoming tax collector for both the per-parcel rate and the tax certification fee.

Recommended Action – Pursuant to discussion.

Item 11B: 2025 Fee Resolution #2024-15

A Resolution is required each year to establish fees to be charged for various services for the coming year. The fees for the water meters and laborer have been adjusted to reflect current costs. Equipment, other than a tractor and weed eater are seldom utilized, but in order to have a rate that can be assessed when needed, the Borough will adopt the current FEMA Schedule of Equipment Rates.

Recommended Action – Adopt Resolution #2024-15 establishing the fees to be charged in 2025 for various purposes.

Item 11C: Appointments to Boards and Commissions

1. Reappoint Eric Rummel to a 5- year term on the Ebensburg Municipal Authority, expires 12/2029.
2. Appoint Susan Barber to fulfill the unexpired term of Randy Seymour, expires 12/2026.
3. Reappoint Rich Barber to a 4-year term on the Ebensburg Planning Commission, expires 12/2028.
4. Reappoint Jessica Lieb to a 4-year term on the Ebensburg Planning Commission, expires 12/2028.
5. Reappoint Greg Illig to a 4-year term on the Ebensburg Planning Commission, expires 12/2028.
6. Reappoint Barry Templeton to a 3-year term on the Zoning Hearing Board, expires 12/27.
7. Reappoint Samantha Kemock to a 5-year term on the Ebensburg Recreation Board, expires 12/2029.
8. Appoint Amber Mesoras to fulfill the unexpired term of Kristen Roberts to the Recreation Board, expires 12/2025.
9. Reappoint Tim Myers as alternate on the Ebensburg Civil Service Commission, expires 12/2025.
10. Reappoint Charlie Moyer as Chairman of the Ebensburg Vacancy Board, expires 12/2025.
11. Appoint John Hawksworth and Chief Mike Sheehan to 1-year terms on the Central Cambria Emergency Management Council, expires 12/2025.
12. Appoint Borough Manager as delegate to the Cambria/Somerset Council of Governments.
13. Appoint Borough Manager as delegate to the Cambria County Tax Collection Committee.
14. Appoint CCSD Business Manager as alternate to the Cambria County Tax Collection Committee.
15. Appoint Borough Manager as delegate to the Laurel Municipal Inspection Agency.

16. Appoint Danae Koss as alternate to the Laurel Municipal Inspection Agency.

Recommended Action – Approve the listed appointments to Boards, Commissions and Authorities

* Item 11D: 2025 Meeting Schedule

Routine action to announce schedule of next year’s regular Council meetings.

Recommended Action – Schedule the 2025 Council meetings for the 4th Monday of each month at 6:30 p.m., with the exception of May and December, which will be held on the 3rd Monday.

* Item 11E: Designation of Depositories

Routine action to approve bank depositories for coming year.

Recommended Action – Designate First National Bank, First Commonwealth Bank, AmeriServ Financial Bank, 1st Summit Bank and PLGIT as depositories.

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

The minutes of the November 25, 2024, regular 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 November 2024 is presented for approval.

Recommended Action – Approve the November 2024 financial statement.

* Item 11H: Bills

A list of bills totaling \$209,554.44 for December 2024 is submitted for approval.

* Item 11I: Ambulance Association LSA Grant Application

The Ebensburg Ambulance Association requested that the Borough authorizes and assists with the submission of a grant through the Statewide Local Share Account in the amount of \$274,341.95 to be used for the purchase of a new ambulance.

Recommended Action – Make it a matter of record that during a Special Meeting held on Friday, November 29, Borough Council approved Resolution #2024-13 supporting and applying for, on behalf of the Ebensburg Area Ambulance Association, a \$274,341.95 grant, and further authorizing Borough officers to execute any and all documents required to secure the grant.

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

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.