



Ebensburg Borough Council Meeting
Monday, January 27, 2025
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. Correspondence received from Dauntless Fire Company
- Item 11E: Approve the minutes of the December 16, 2024 regular monthly meeting of Borough Council.
- Item 11F: Approve the financial statement for December and the quarterly transfers.
- Item 11G: Approve payment of bills for January.

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 95% of the service installations. The contractor continues to test lines and prepare for the installation of the vault on Ann Street and the main line on Cindy Street. However, due to the weather, the contractor has not been working since mid-January.

Recommended Action – No action required.

Item 6D: Stormwater Project

Construction began on this project by A. Liberoni Construction on August 12, 2024. The contractor has completed approximately 65% of the installation. Substantial completion was scheduled for the end of this month, but that will not be met. The Municipal Authority has requested an update.

Recommended Action – No action required.

7. RECREATION COMMITTEE

Jacoby, Kuhar & Miller

8. STREETS COMMITTEE

Ball, Houser & Murphy

Item 8A: Ordinance # 673 North Spruce Street

Council voted last month to begin the procedure necessary to designate North Spruce Street as one way headed south-bound from West Crawford to High Street.

TranSystems, the Borough Engineer, is obtaining the necessary permits necessary from PennDOT regarding this as well.

Recommended Action – Grant tentative approval of Ordinance #673 designating North Spruce as a one-way street headed southbound from West Crawford to High Street.

Item 8B: Rapid Rectangular Flashing Beacon

The Borough received a grant for \$52,747.00 for the installation of the RRFB at the corner of Julian and High Street (on the east side). The grant has been executed, and staff is preparing the specification documents to put it out for bid.

Recommended Action – Approve to put the RRFB project out for bid.

Item 8C: Agreement for the Maintenance and Repairs of Traffic Signals

The Borough is required to have a contract with a company that can provide traffic signal repairs. In the past the Borough utilized Tel-Power but they have been out of business since last year. At that time, the Borough started to use Kuharchik Construction. Staff recommends we enter into an agreement with Kuharchik Construction for annual maintenance and repairs on a as needed basis.

Recommended Action – Approve the Kuharchik Construction Proposal.

Item 8D: Discussion Regarding Parking

The Borough has two main parking terminals (Penn-Eben lot and Courthouse lot) that are no longer operational. The estimated \$30,000 cost for the Borough to replace them is not financially practical given the amount of money that is generated. Staff investigated several companies regarding both lot and street parking. Most of these companies are not feasible for the Borough. There is one company that would require a startup cost of approximately \$7,500. It entails software and the utilization of a mobile phone application by customers. Permits can still be used for those who want to utilize the lots as well. We can also discuss a maximum of two-hour parking to keep the spaces rotating to allow new customers to come into town.

Recommended Action – Dependent upon discussion.

9. ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE

Houser, Jacoby & Kuhar

Item 9A: Consider Part-time Police Wages

The current pay scale for a part time officer in the Borough is as follows:

1-4 Years Service	\$19.00
5-14 Years Service	\$20.00
15+ Years Service	\$21.00

Staff has determined that the surrounding municipalities have flat rates that range from \$16 to \$21/ hour. We need to stay above that range to retain the quality of officers we currently have and to obtain new officers. Furthermore, we are in the process of hiring an SRO and that requires extra training. If we court a vocational school for an officers, we need to look at a pay rate closer to \$25-\$27 per hour. Staff recommend changing the pay scale as follows:

1-4 Years Service	\$25.00
5-14 Years Service	\$26.00
15+ Years Service	\$27.00

Recommended Action –Dependent upon discussion.

10. HUMAN RELATIONS & DIVERSITY COMMITTEE

Kuhar & Houser

11. GENERAL BUSINESS

Item 11A: The borough was contacted by Congressman’s Joyce office to utilize a space in the borough building on an as needed basis. The office may be used once or twice a month as a meeting place for the Congressman or a representative of his office for appointments with constituents. This activity is not expected to involve any significant time by staff or other resources, aside from granting access to visitors who have pre-planned appointments. Depending on how the first few visit days go, the Borough reserves the right to change of modify this plan.

Recommended Action – No action is required.

Item 11B: An Ordinance discussing the feeding of stray cats in Ebensburg.

Several residents have complained regarding feral and/or stray cats in the Borough. Rather than providing a temporary fix to abate the problem through capture and spaying/neutering, staff suggests a legislative solution to prevent the problem from occurring. Other municipalities have instituted regulations forbidding residents from feeding stray or feral cats. For example, the City of Altoona has an ordinance that states, “ No person shall feed any stray or feral cats, where such feeding causes a nuisance to neighbors or creates a condition contrary to the health, safety and welfare of the community. Any person who chooses to feed stray or feral cats shall from such point forward be responsible for the care of said animal and shall be required to have

it vaccinated for rabies and spayed or neutered.” Council may consider a similar ordinance.

Recommended Action – Dependent upon discussion

Item 11C: SRO Agreement between the Borough and Holy Name School

The borough is to consider an Agreement with Holy Name School regarding all aspects of the implementation of a School Resource Officer, financially and otherwise. A draft Agreement has been provided in the Supplement Package. The Agreement has been reviewed by the School.

Recommended Action – Approve the SRO agreement with Holy Name School.

- * Item 11D: Correspondence was received from Dauntless Fire Company in a letter dated 1-7-2025 informing Council of their anticipated activities for 2025.

Recommended Action – No action required.

- * Item 11E: 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 11F: Financial Statement
The financial statement and quarterly transfers for December 2024 are presented for approval.

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

- * Item 11G: Bills
A list of bills totaling \$578,004.56 for January 2025 is submitted for approval.

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- Oyaski Subdivision: At their regularly scheduled meeting on January 2, 2025 the Planning Commission recommended for approval the Oyaski subdivision. The subdivision affects two parcels at 522 and 512 West Sample Street. The proposed subdivision will subdivide one (512) parcel, and one part will become Parcel B, as depicted on the map, and the other portion will join with 522 W. Sample Street to form one lot, Parcel A.

Recommended Action – Approve the Oyaski Subdivision Plan.

* 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.