

The regular monthly meeting of the Ebensburg Borough Council was called to order on Monday, February 24, 2025, at 6:30 p.m. at the Ebensburg Municipal Building, 300 W. High Street, Ebensburg, by Council President Doug Tusing.

Present: Doug Tusing, President
Theresa Jacoby
Dave Kuhar – via phone
Mike Murphy
Roy Lian, Junior Councilor
Abe Remillard, Junior Councilor
Absent: Cecilia Houser, Vice President
Jeffrey Ball
Robert Miller
Randy Datsko, Mayor
Others: Kelly Cook, Borough Manager
Joe Loughran, Chief of Police
Danea Koss, Community Development Director
Matt Gribler, Solicitor
Erika Dominik, Pennsylvania One Call
Luke Byrne, Inframark
Julie Pittman, The Mountaineer Herald

Audience: 2

A. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

B. **Public Comments** – None.

C. **Consent Agenda**

Because there was not a physical quorum present, these items were tabled for approval at the March meeting.

1. Approve report of Inframark for the Wastewater Treatment Plant Operations.
2. Approve report of Inframark for the Water Treatment Plant Operations.
3. Approve letter of support for the Pennsylvania One Call.
4. Approve the minutes of the January 27, 2025 monthly meeting of Borough Council.
5. Approve the financial statement for January.
6. Approve payment of bills for February.

D. **Appointment to Address Council**

Ms. Meghan Freidhof of Wessel & Company provided an overview of the 2024 Borough audit, which yielded a favorable opinion. Copies of financial statements and an executive summary report were provided.

E. **Consideration of Any Motion(s) to Amend Agenda** – None.

F. **Mayor's Report** – None.

G. **Council President** – Mr. Tusing announced that he has been appointed by the Commissioners to the Cambria County Agricultural Land Review Board. He added that it is a Municipal election year and encouraged anyone interested in serving to get their petitions signed and turned in. He added that his seat, and those of Mr. Miller and Ms. Jacoby would be up for reelection.

H. **Water/Wastewater Committee**

1. **Report from Inframark on Wastewater Plant Operations**

Inframark's written report was submitted regarding operations, projects and activities at the wastewater plant for Council review.

2. **Wastewater Project**

Inframark's written report was submitted regarding operations, projects and activities at the water plant for Council review.

3. **Waterline Replacement Project**

Mr. Murphy reported that this project is proceeding well and on schedule. Guyer Brothers has installed approximately 98% of the main line 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. Due to the weather, the contractor has not been working since mid-January.

It was noted that upon evaluation of the remaining work items, the Authority has approximately \$600,000 of unallocated funds remaining in the project budget. A discussion took place at the last Authority meeting indicating that the Authority would like to continue replacement of the 12" waterline on Lovell Avenue. The engineers are working with the other agencies to receive approval for this work.

4. **Stormwater Project**

Ms. Cook reported that A. Liberoni Construction has completed approximately 85% of the installation. Substantial completion was scheduled for the end of February, but that will not be met. Liberoni requested an extension from the Municipal Authority that they have granted through March 14th with completion by June 2nd.

I. **Recreation Committee**

1. **Small Dock and Boat Launch**

Ms. Jacoby reported that The Ebensburg Main Street Partnership has requested to replace the kayak launch/dock that was previously located at the Upper Reservoir (former site of Nathan's Divide). Since this site is owned by the Municipal Authority, their approval is needed to submit the permit application. Additionally, the municipality will need to serve as the applicant for a GP-2 Small Dock and Boat Launch permit through the Cambria County Conservation District. The Main Street Partnership has solicited quotations and is planning to purchase an EZ Dock floating modular dock, pending approval from all the appropriate agencies, Council and the Municipal Authority.

This item was tabled until the next meeting of Borough Council.

J. Street Committee

1. Ordinance #673 - North Spruce Street

Mr. Murphy reported that 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 permits necessary from PennDOT regarding this as well. In the meantime, the Borough has started to notify residents of the upcoming change.

Final approval of this ordinance was tabled until the next meeting of Borough Council.

2. Letter of Support

A letter of support was requested for the Pennsylvania One Call System and the Underground Utility Line Protection Law, plus designating April 2025 as “Pennsylvania Safe Digging Month.”

This item was tabled until the next meeting of Borough Council.

3. Parking Enforcement

Mr. Murphy reported that at the January meeting, Council voted unanimously to move away from metered parking toward free two-hour parking. Since then, staff has been working with Borough Police to develop a detailed plan as to how such a change could be implemented. The issue has also been discussed with staff at the Cambria County Courthouse to determine the best course of action with regard to parking enforcement in the courthouse lots and surrounding streets. It was decided that the designated County spaces would be moved from the Prave Lot over to the County Lot directly across S. Center Street from the Courthouse.

K. Administration Committee

1. Billing Clerk

Applications have been received to fill an upcoming vacancy in this position. Staff is reviewing the applications and interviews will be scheduled in the near future.

L. Human Relations & Diversity Committee – None.

M. General Business

1. The airport put out bids for the rehabilitation of fencing. Four bids were received from Fye Fencing in the amount of \$136,470.00, Pro Max Fence Systems for \$164, 695.00, G.B. Hastie Fence in the amount of \$174,025.00 and Hiles Excavating for \$193, 725.00. After discussion with the airport and contactor, a supplemental agreement will be issued decreasing the base bid from \$136, 470.00 to \$78, 970.00, a \$57,000.00 difference. Therefore, there is a recommendation from staff to issue the entire revised project to Fye Fencing in the amount of \$78, 970.00.

This item was tabled for discussion at the next meeting of Borough Council.

2. Ordinance #674 regarding the feeding of stray/feral cats in Ebensburg

Ms. Cook reported that the borough proposes an ordinance in which residents shall not 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. If they choose to do so, involved residents shall be responsible for the vaccinations and for ensuring that any cats being fed are spayed or neutered.

This item was tabled for discussion at the next Borough Council meeting.

3. Update Regarding SRO for Holy Name School

Chief Loughran reported that Holy Name has approved the SRO agreement with the Borough. The Borough staff is in the process of hiring a part-time officer and certifying said employee, as well as additional staff, to fill this position.

4. Gambling Devices

Ms. Cook shared that several council members have inquired about permits for games of chance machines located within the borough. The Borough can assess fees for the permits. This can be established with a flat rate per machine, or there can be a sliding scale based on the number of machines in an establishment.

This item was tabled for further discussion at the next meeting of Borough Council. Mr. Tusing shared that the Governor's 2025 budget proposal includes provisions for state regulation of skill games, which could be taxed at rates as high as 52%. Such regulation may preclude municipalities from instituting license fees, so further investigation should be made before proceeding.

N. Department Reports

1. **Police Department** – Chief Loughran reported that the department has been working well as a team and that he will continue to advocate training and look for grant funding to help offset the cost to the department. He added that if anyone has concerns or complaints for the department, please reach out by phone rather than posting them to Facebook.
2. **Public Works Department** – Mr. Surkovich provided a written report on last month's activities.
3. **Community Development Department** - Community Development Director Danae Koss reported last month's activities including planning of the upcoming Main Street Family Fun Night at the North Central Recreation Center, planning for Art in Bloom and planning for the 200th Anniversary of Ebensburg Borough's incorporation.
4. **Recreation Department** – Recreation Director Rebecca Williamson submitted a written report on last month's activities.
5. **Codes Enforcement**
A monthly codes enforcement report was forwarded to Council.

6. Ebensburg Municipal Authority

A copy of the minutes of the last municipal authority meeting is included in Council's packet.

7. Ebensburg Planning Commission – None.

O. Media Comments/Questions – None.

P. Public Comments – Ms. Erika Dominik, Pennsylvania One Call Systems, Inc., thanked Borough Council for their support in helping to recognize April 2025 as Pennsylvania Safe Digging Month. She expressed the importance of always calling 811 before any digging to ensure the safety of residents and communities.

Q. Executive Session – None.

There being no further business Mr. Miller made a motion to adjourn. (Murphy)

Meeting Adjourned: 7:14 PM

Minutes Recorded by: Danae Koss, Community Development Director