

The regular monthly meeting of the Ebensburg Borough Council was called to order on Monday, April 28, 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
Cecilia Houser, Vice President
Jeffrey Ball
Theresa Jacoby
Robert Miller
Mike Murphy
Susan Kuhar
Roy Lian, Junior Councilor
Absent: Abe Remillard, Junior Councilor
Others: Kelly Cook, Borough Manager
Randy Datsko, Mayor, via phone
Joe Loughran, Chief of Police
Danea Koss, Community Development Director
Rebecca Williamson, Recreation Director
Matt Gribler, Solicitor
Luke Byrne, Inframark
Matt Koenigsberg, Gannet Fleming TranSystems
Renee Schoop, Gannet Fleming TranSystems
Dave Petrosky, Ebensburg Pickleball Club
Julie Pittman, The Mountaineer Herald

Audience: 3

A. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

B. Public Comments

Mr. Dave Petrosky, 311 N. Locust Street, speaking on behalf of the newly-formed Ebensburg Pickleball Club, talked about how the group is working toward establishing a nonprofit status and how there is a growing interest in the sport. They have been working with Rebecca Willimson, Recreation Director, and their preference for the creation of pickleball courts would be the roller rink area at Lake Rowena because of the enclosed space and the easy access to parking and restrooms.

C. Consent Agenda

Ms. Jacoby made a motion to approve the consent agenda containing the following items. (Houser)

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 March 24, 2025 regular monthly meeting.
4. Approve the financial statement for March.
5. Approve payment of bills for April.

D. Appointment to Address Council – None.

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

F. **Mayor's Report** – None.

G. **Council President** – Mr. Tusing welcomed Mrs. Susan Kuhar to Council. He also thanked everyone who came out for the 200th Anniversary Celebration of Ebensburg Borough's Incorporation which was held the previous day. He additionally thanked State Rep Frank Burns for issuing a proclamation recognizing the Borough's milestone anniversary which is now available for display at the Borough office.

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. **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. **Waterline Replacement Project**

Mr. Miller reported that this project is proceeding well and on schedule. Guyer Brothers has installed essentially 100% of the main line, including Lovell Avenue, and 96% of the service installations. The contractor continues to test lines and prepare for the installation of the vault on Ann Street. Upon completion of the vault, restoration will begin.

4. **Stormwater Project**

Mr. Miller reported that A. Liberoni Construction was issued substantial completion for the Stormwater Project with the exception of the unplanned work needed on Highland Avenue. The Authority has suggested that Liberoni subcontracts with Guyer Brothers to complete the work.

I. **Recreation Committee**

1. **Application for a Greenways, Trails and Recreation Program Grant (GTRP)**

Ms. Jacoby shared that an application for a GTRP grant is proposed by the Recreation board to convert two of the three basketball courts at Memorial Field into pickleball courts. There is a 15% match required. The Recreation Director should have an estimate of the amount of the share needed for the next meeting.

Ms. Jacoby made a motion to approve staff to proceed with applying for the GTRP grant. (Ball)
Motion passed unanimously.

2. **Abandoned Mine Land and Acid Mine Drainage (AML/AMD) Grant Program**

Ms. Jacoby reported that the borough applied for a grant to dredge Lake Rowena. While researching the grant, staff learned that they could include other needs within the Lake Rowena facility, this includes bank stabilization, new docks, playground equipment, concession stand, as

well as many other improvements, including some at the adjacent Tennis Center. The Borough was notified last week that we were awarded the full amount of the grant for \$4,093,234.20.

Ms. Jacoby made a motion to accept the grant offer of \$4,093,234.20 for the Lake Rowena Revitalization Project and to authorize staff to prepare specifications and solicit bids. (Houser) Motion passed unanimously.

Ms. Cook wanted to acknowledge and thank the Borough Engineer, Mr. Matt Koenigsberg of Gannet Fleming TranSystems, for his efforts into getting this grant completed and approved.

J. Street Committee

1. Parking Enforcement

Ms. Houser reported that during 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. Cambria County Commissioners would like to see the location of their spots unchanged. Their spaces will then be used as permit parking and 4-hour parking for court business only.

2. Rectangular Rapid Flashing Beacon (RRFB)

Ms. Houser reported that due to the high volume of traffic on High Street, the Borough sought funding and received a Local Share Account Grant in the amount of \$52,747.00, which was the estimated cost of construction of an RRFB. Bids were advertised and two bids were received. A bid was received from M and B Services in the amount of \$96,471.18 and another from Kuharchik Construction in the amount of \$109,888.50. Funds are available within the capital budget to cover the additional cost.

Ms. Houser made a motion to approve the low bid of M and B Services, LLC in the amount of \$96,471.18. (Jacoby) Motion passed unanimously.

K. Administration Committee

1. Billing Clerk

Ms. Jacoby made it a matter of record that Ms. Tammy Young has accepted an offer for the position of Billing Clerk and is now working alongside Rose Myers, the current billing clerk, until Rose's retirement in mid-June.

2. Summer Hires

The following applicants were hired for summer employment:

Summer Public Works

Bob Koscho	4 th year
Noah Bagley	2 nd year
Sophie Becquet	2 nd year
Alec Prokop	2 nd year
Carter Rummel	2 nd year

William Tremel	2 nd year
Max Bradley	1 st year
Sam Tremel	1 st year
Theodore Gallagher	1 st year

Landscaper

Matt Evans	1 st year
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Summer Intern

Summer Koss	1 st year
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Swimming Pool Manager

Abbey O'Brien	7 th year
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Head Lifeguard

Kayden Magulick	4 th year
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Returning Lifeguards

Loralyn Simmers	6 th year
Maya Sirsikar	4 th year
Naveen Sirsikar	4 th year
Gwen Fodor	4 th year
Maggie McCullough	4 th year
Brode Ryan	3 rd year
Jemma Sikora	3 rd year
Vickie Griffiths	3 rd year
Ian Estep	3 rd year
Gus Ryan	2 nd year
Regan Tronzo	2 nd year
Ally Kabo	2 nd year

New Lifeguard Hires:

Maddy Wandel
Bryn Wandel
Elle Conrad
Bella Mesoras
Izzy O'Brien
Kendel Magulick
Allie Mogan

Limited Hours:

Aubrey Kabo
Jaycee Kleinstuber
Karlee Nileski
Joey McFadden

Isaac Oravec

Ms. Jacoby made it a matter of record that the persons listed above will be hired to the respective positions. Pay for public works and lifeguards is \$10.50 per hour. The head lifeguard rate is \$11.50 per hour, the pool manager rate is \$14.50 per hour and the landscaper is \$12.30 an hour.

L. Human Relations & Diversity Committee – None.

M. General Business

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

Ms. Cook reported that the borough has proposed 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 vaccinations and for ensuring that any cats being fed are spayed or neutered

Ms. Jacoby made a motion to final approval of Ordinance #674 regarding the feeding and care of stray/feral cats. (Ball) Motion passed unanimously.

2. Update Regarding SRO for Holy Name School

Ms. Cook reported that Holy Name has approved the SRO agreement with the Borough. Several officers completed the SRO training on April 25, 2025, and the SRO was expected to start the day of the meeting. Unfortunately, a delay in getting the training completed pushed the start date back slightly. Operating through the month of May will provide valuable feedback as both parties intend to re-enter into an SRO agreement for the 2025-26 school year.

3. Skills Machines

Ms. Cook reported that, as suggested by Council, the Planning Commission will review and recommend potential changes to the zoning ordinance regarding skills machines, or “gaming parlors” as well as zoning for vape and/or tobacco shops, CBD shops and possible future marijuana dispensaries. Council also discussed the idea of resurrecting the “Amusement Tax,” which would apply to skills machines as well as other games/gaming devices. Staff will conduct research to determine how other municipalities are handling this issue and will make recommendations at the May meeting of Council.

4. Resolution #2025-01

Ms. Cook reported that a Resolution supporting the Pennsylvania Commission for the United States Semiquincentennial (Amernia250PA) was under consideration. Ms. Jacoby made a motion to approve Resolution #2025-01. (Murphy) Motion passed unanimously.

5. Recreation Board Vacancies

Ms. Cook reported that Ms. Melanie Boland and Ms. Ashley Bobby have submitted statements of interest which were reviewed by the Board. Approval of both candidates is recommended by the Recreation Board.

Ms. Jacoby made a motion to appoint Melanie Boland to fulfill the unexpired term of Jamie Oravec, expiring 12/2026 and Ashley Bobby fulfilling the unexpired term of Kristen McRoberts, expiring 12/2025 on the Recreation Board. (Houser) Motion passed unanimously.

N. Department Reports

1. **Police Department** – Chief Loughran reported that the new School Resource Officer would soon be starting at Holy Name and the PennDOT permit has been submitted for closure of streets during the upcoming Wheels & Wings event.
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 upcoming activities including Art in Bloom, Brighten Up the Burg Clean-Up Day, Memorial Day Parade & Ceremony, and Historic Ebensburg District Signage placement.
4. **Recreation Department** – Recreation Director Rebecca Williamson reported on current department activities including completion and passing the public pesticide applicator certification, swimming pool preparations, and the softball field project. She also reported that Mr. Richard Nikolishen had volunteered to tend to all three ballfields at the Memorial Field Complex.
5. **Building Permits/Codes Enforcement** - A monthly 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.
8. **Ebensburg Zoning Hearing Board** – None.

O. Media Comments/Questions – None.

- P. Public Comments** – Mr. Pat Lauer, 313 E. Horner Street, noted that his neighborhood has several stray cats and he suspects that a neighbor is feeding them. He was advised that as is the case with most ordinances, enforcement would be handled by the Borough Police Department.

Q. Executive Session – None.

There being no further business Ms. Jacoby made a motion to adjourn. (Murphy) Motion passed unanimously.

Meeting Adjourned: 7:04 PM

Minutes Recorded by: Danae Koss, Community Development Director