

The regular monthly meeting of the Ebensburg Borough Council was called to order on Monday, May 19, 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
Jeffrey Ball
Theresa Jacoby
Susan Kuhar
Robert Miller
Mike Murphy
Roy Lian, Junior Councilor
Absent: Cecilia Houser, Vice President
Abe Remillard, Junior Councilor
Kelly Cook, Borough Manager
Others: Randy Datsko, Mayor
Joe Loughran, Chief of Police
Josh Surkovich, Public Works Director
Danea Koss, Community Development Director
Rebecca Williamson, Recreation Director
Matt Gribler, Solicitor
Luke Byrne, Inframark
Dwayne Lowry, Inframark
Matt Churella, The Altoona Mirror
Julie Pittman, The Mountaineer Herald

Audience: 1

A. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

B. Public Comments – None.

C. Consent Agenda

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

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 April 28, 2025 regular monthly meeting.
4. Approve the financial statement for April and quarterly transfers.
5. Approve payment of bills for May.

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 encouraged everyone to get out and vote in the upcoming municipal election. He added that street repairs and paving would be continuing through the next month.

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 99% of the service installations. The contractor continues to test lines and prepare for the installation of the vault on Ann Street. Restoration has begun and it is anticipated that the project will be complete by the end of next month.

4. **Stormwater Project**

Mr. Miller reported that A. Liberoni Construction was issued substantial completion for the Stormwater Project with the exception of the work needed on Highland Avenue. The Authority is negotiating to get this completed as well.

I. **Recreation Committee**

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

Ms. Jacoby shared that after further consideration, the Recreation Board recommends that the Borough does not submit an application for grant that was proposed to transform two basketball courts into pickleball courts at Memorial Field. The Recreation Board wishes to solicit input from the community regarding the current use of the roller rink at Lake Rowena to consider use of that area for pickleball courts.

Ms. Jacoby made a motion to rescind last month's approval to proceed with the aforementioned grant. (Ball) Motion passed unanimously.

2. **Tennis Center Fire Alarm System**

Ms. Jacoby shared that the Tennis Center's fire alarm system has been malfunctioning and frequently sounds throughout the day/night for no apparent reason. Staff has tried to have the problem fixed but was told that due to the age of the system currently in place, parts are not available. Bids were sought from two businesses who are familiar with this type of system, and two bids were received:

Gittings Security: \$14,440.00

Bettwy Systems: \$22,974.62

Ms. Jacoby made a motion to approve the low bid from Gittings Security in the amount of \$14,400.00. (Ball) Motion passed unanimously.

J. Street Committee

1. Parking Enforcement

Mr. Murphy reported that during the January meeting, Council voted 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. Staff continues to work on this and enforcement is still in effect.

2. Rectangular Rapid Flashing Beacon (RRFB)

Mr. Murphy reported that a contract was awarded to M and B Services, LLC last month. It is anticipated that the project will begin this summer and be completed within 30 days of the start date.

It was also noted that the crosswalks in town need to be repainted this summer.

K. Administration Committee – None.

L. Human Relations & Diversity Committee – None.

M. General Business

1. Update Regarding SRO for Holy Name School

Chief Loughran reported that the School Resource Officer started on April 29, 2025. He added that operating through the month of May will provide valuable feedback as both parties intend to reenter into an SRO agreement for the 2025-26 school year. He also noted that he's gotten positive feedback from the students and parents.

2. Skills Machines

Mr. Tusing reported that the Planning Commission met on May 1st and reviewed 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. The Planning Commission also discussed the idea of resurrecting the "Amusement Tax," which would apply to skills machines as well as other games/gaming devices. Staff will continue to research the matter to determine how other municipalities are handling this issue and will make recommendations at a future meeting.

N. Department Reports

- 1. Police Department** – Chief Loughran reported that Officer Eric White was hired for the School Resource Officer (SRO) position. White is a retired PA State Police Trooper from the Ebensburg

Barracks. He added that a resident was the victim of a Publisher's Clearing House scam, and a fatal car accident that took place at the intersection of E. High and Ben Franklin Highway was still under investigation. Lastly, the new software reporting system is set to go live the week of June 4th.

2. **Public Works Department** – Public Works Director Josh Surkovich gave an update on projects including the Peoples Gas line installation, the waterline replacement project and water leak detection and repairs.
3. **Community Development Department** - Community Development Director Danae Koss reported upcoming activities including the Memorial Day Parade & Ceremony as well as the success of the recent Art in Bloom Spring Art Show and Ebensburg's 200th Anniversary Celebration. She also thanked Junior Councilor Roy Lian and his classmates for their Brighten the Burg clean-up project.
4. **Recreation Department** – Recreation Director Rebecca Williamson reported on current department activities including the scheduled opening of the pool on May 31st, a roof leak at the YPCC that was being looked into and gave an update on the status of the McDonald's Field that has been unusable this year due to water.
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** – The Planning Commission met on May 1, 2025.
8. **Ebensburg Zoning Hearing Board** – None.

O. **Media Comments/Questions** – None.

P. **Public Comments** – None.

Q. **Executive Session** – None.

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

Meeting Adjourned: 6:54 PM

Minutes Recorded by: Danae Koss, Community Development Director