

The regular monthly meeting of the Ebensburg Borough Council was called to order on Monday, June 23, 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
Susan Kuhar
Robert Miller
Mike Murphy
Roy Lian, Junior Councilor
Absent: Abe Remillard, Junior Councilor
Others: Kelly Cook, Borough Manager
Randy Datsko, Mayor
Joe Loughran, Chief of Police
Josh Surkovich, Public Works Director
Danea Koss, Community Development Director
Rebecca Williamson, Recreation Director
Heath Long, Solicitor
Luke Byrne, Inframark
Matt Churella, The Altoona Mirror
Julie Pittman, The Mountaineer Journal

Audience: 6

A. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

B. Public Comments – None.

C. Consent Agenda

Ms. Houser 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 May 19, 2025 regular monthly meeting.
4. Approve the financial statement for May.
5. Approve payment of bills for June.

D. Appointment to Address Council

RACRA – Representatives from RACRA were present and Mr. Rod Davis gave an update on projects happening at the airport to include tree removal, repainting of numbers and markings, and fencing and lighting projects.

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

F. Mayor's Report – None.

G. **Council President** – Mr. Tusing commented that Elite Outdoor Services did an excellent job on repairing the softball field and that the field was playable the day after the recent flooding.

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 100% of the service installations. The contractor continues to test lines and prepare for the complete evacuation of the old system. Restoration has begun and it is anticipated that the project will be complete by the end of the month.

4. **Stormwater Project**

Mr. Miller reported that A. Liberoni Construction was issued substantial completion for the work needed on Highland Avenue. The remaining work on Highland Avenue commenced last week and is expected to be completed by the end of next week.

I. **Recreation Committee**

1. **YPCC**

Ms. Jacoby reported that the YPCC is experiencing moisture problems, similar to the problems previously experienced at the Tennis Center. It has been proposed to the Recreation Committee that the Borough puts out for bid a course of action that would line the ceiling with a membrane that prevents the thermal barrier from being compromised. It is estimated that the cost of repair would be approximately \$61,750 for the ceiling. The Recreation Committee recommends putting the membrane out for bid now.

Ms. Jacoby made a motion to approve the Recreation Director to prepare the bids and advertise accordingly. (Ball) Motion passed unanimously.

J. **Street Committee**

1. **Parking Enforcement**

Ms. Houser 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)

Ms. Houser 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.

K. Administration Committee – None.

L. Human Relations & Diversity Committee – None.

M. General Business

1. RACRA

Ms. Cook reported that the lease agreement between Ebensburg Borough and RACRA is due to expire on December 31 of this year. The current lease allows for a one-year extension, and RACRA has requested that the lease be extended for one year and that consideration is given to an extended lease.

Mr. Miller made a motion to extend a one-year lease to RACRA. (Murphy) Motion passed unanimously.

2. Consider Proposal with TranSystems regarding renovations to the T-Hangar at the Airport

Ms. Cook shared that the proposal is for \$68,200 for engineering services regarding renovations to the T-hangar. The costs for this proposal are to be completely covered by the grants for these renovations.

Ms. Jacoby made a motion to approve the proposal with TranSystems for engineering systems in the amount of \$68,200 regarding the T-hangar grant. (Houser) Motion passed unanimously.

3. Skills Machines and Zoning

Council discussed a draft ordinance that would regulate and require licenses for amusement and gaming devices. The consensus of Council was that this is needed and that they would support an annual fee of \$250.00 fee per gaming terminal or device that pays out, and a \$100.00 annual fee per gaming terminal or device that does not pay out. The Solicitor was asked to update the draft ordinance accordingly for presentation to Council at the July meeting.

Council discussed a draft ordinance that would define the Zoning Districts in which certain uses would be permitted, namely, gaming parlors, hookah bars, marijuana dispensaries, CBD stores, Vape shops and tobacco stores. It was the consensus of Council that such businesses be limited to the MX/CV zone, with further limitations within the Historic District Overlay. Council also agreed to define such businesses based on a combination of factors to include percentage of floor space, percentage of annual sales revenue or percentage of signage promoting the subject

product. The Solicitor was asked to update the draft ordinance accordingly for presentation to Council at the July meeting.

4. Parking in Front Yards

Council discussed the possibility of enacting an ordinance to prohibit parking in front lawn (grass) areas. The consensus of Council was not to proceed with such an ordinance, but to deal with any problems or issues resulting from this on an individual basis.

5. Planning Commission Appointment

Ms. Cook shared that Mr. David Petrosky submitted a letter of interest to be appointed to one of two vacancies for the Planning Commission.

Mr. Miller made a motion to appoint Mr. Dave Petrosky to fill a vacancy on the Planning Commission to serve through December of 2028. (Jacoby) Motion passed unanimously.

N. Department Reports

1. **Police Department** – Chief Loughran reported on the department’s new software upgrade that will allow for more robust and professional reporting capabilities, as well as the department’s plans for the upcoming Wheels & Wings event.
2. **Public Works Department** – Public Works Director Josh Surkovich gave updates to include the street sweeper is back in operation, the department is still down a staff member and he would like to readvertise for that position. Additionally, two 2012 vehicles are in poor condition and will need replaced soon. Public works is also in need of a new skid steer to replace the old unit sent down to the sewer plant for use by Inframark.
3. **Community Development Department** - Community Development Director Dana Koss reported on recent activities including the upcoming opening of the time capsule in Veteran’s Park, plans for Wheels & Wings, an update on Potatofest and recent community improvement projects to include new lighting to be installed in Penn Eben Park and garbage can and bench restoration. She added that she had submitted an application for the CFA’s community endowment fund contest.
4. **Recreation Department** – Recreation Director Rebecca Williamson reported on current department activities including the recent pool closure due to flooding of the pump room and creating a community survey regarding the Ebensburg Skate Park to assess the possibility of permanently converting that area into Pickleball courts.
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 June 5, 2025 and recommended two plans for approval:

- a. Consider the Cambria County Minor Subdivision and Merger.
Ms. Jacoby made a motion to approve the Cambria County Minor Subdivision and Merger. (Houser) Motion passed unanimously.
- b. Consider Wess Final Minor Subdivision
Ms. Jacoby made a motion to approve the Wess Final Minor Subdivision. (Houser) Motion passed unanimously.

8. **Ebensburg Zoning Hearing Board** – None.

9. **Code Enforcement Property Violations**

Ms. Cook reported that 9 violations have been issued; 4 for shrubs and vegetation, 1 nuisance vehicle, 1 broken window, 1 condition of garage, 2 for junk on property.

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

P. **Public Comments**

Mr. Pat Lauer, 313 W. Horner Street, asked why he has to pay People's Gas to replace a line when no one else had to. Mr. Tusing explained that the borough has no jurisdiction over People's Gas and he would have to work with them for clarification.

Q. **Executive Session** – None.

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

Meeting Adjourned: 7:46 PM

Minutes Recorded by: Danea Koss, Community Development Director