



Ebensburg Borough Council Meeting
Monday, August 25, 2025
6:30 p.m.

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Borough Council
Doug Tusing, President
Cecilia Houser, Vice-President
Jeffrey Ball
Theresa Jacoby
Susan 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 11I: Approve the minutes of the July 28, 2025 regular meeting and the August 14, 2025 special meeting of Borough Council.

Item 11J: Approve the financial statement for July.

Item 11K: Approve payment of bills for August.

Recommended Action – Approve the consent agenda.

2. APPOINTMENTS TO ADDRESS COUNCIL

Item 2 A: Derek and Chrissy Kauffman would like to appeal to council to request that they be allowed to keep chickens on their property at 609 East Crawford Street.

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

Guyer Brothers has essentially completed the project and is currently working on punch-list items. A few items are left to be completed, and an inspection will be scheduled.

Recommended Action – No action required.

*Item 6D: Stormwater Project

A. Liberoni Construction was issued substantial completion for the Stormwater Project. They have completed most of the restoration and an inspection is scheduled for later this week.

Recommended Action – No action required.

7. RECREATION COMMITTEE

Jacoby, Kuhar & Miller

Item 7A YPCC

The YPCC is experiencing moisture problems that are getting worse. Last month the Borough put out for bid a ceiling liner membrane that prevents the thermal barrier from being compromised. Bids will be opened on Monday, August 25 at noon and reviewed. Staff will give council a tabulation sheet and make a recommendation to council at the meeting

Recommended Action – Dependent on the lowest bid received and completeness of the submittal.

Item 8A: Parking Enforcement

During the January meeting, Council voted unanimously to move away from metered parking. The thinking at that time was to simplify parking by moving to a low-tech enforcement solution while offering 2-hour free parking to users. Since then, Staff has determined that enforcement of 2-hour parking through marking tires is not an acceptable option.

It has been difficult finding other viable options:

- The large terminals would need to be updated with new systems costing \$20,000 each with an annual software maintenance fee of \$3,000-\$5,000. That is \$80,000 for the initial purchase with an annual maintenance of \$12,000 to \$20,000 per year.
- License plate readers with a terminal connection would cost roughly \$75,000 per lot with an annual maintenance fee of \$12,000 to \$20,000 per year. This initial cost would be \$300,000 with the annual fees.
- Staff has had conversations with the cellphone-based app MeterFeeder. For that option, the borough would be charged approximately \$0.50 for each transaction a person enters. If this is to be free to the residents, the Borough would have to pay that fee. If we assume 75 customers per day use the meters for two-hour free parking, it will cost the Borough \$37.50 per day. If we utilize this six days a week, the cost would still be \$11,737.50 a year. There is a startup cost of approximately \$7,500 with \$4,000-\$5,500 annual cost, plus part-time employee expenses of approximately \$22,500 a year. With this option, the Borough could still face over \$40,000 in annual expenses.

The current meters are antiquated, freeze in the winter and need to be maintained frequently. As such, staff still recommends phasing out most of the coin meters. Due to the high costs of the systems compared to the revenue generated (\$33,400 in 2024), none of the options are sustainable. Council may wish to consider other adjustments to parking enforcement, such as:

- Changing the parking times revenue is generated from 8 am-10 pm six days a week to generate extra revenue to offset any of the options.
- Using maximum 2-hour parking in some areas, not necessarily throughout the entire borough.
- Abandon the idea of “free” 2-hour parking if the cost to the Borough is prohibitive.

Recommended Action – Dependent on discussion. Staff is leaning toward using MeterFeeder to facilitate parking payments within the Borough, but additional research should be conducted.

Item 8B: Rectangular Rapid Flashing Beacon (RRFB)

A contract was awarded to M and B Services, LLC. Construction began last week, and it is hopeful that the beacon will be functioning by the first full week in September.

Recommended Action – No action is required at this time.

9. ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE

Houser, Jacoby & Kuhar

Item 9A: Advertise for the Public Works Director.

A vacancy exists for the Director of Public Works. Staff recommends the job is posted at a rate of \$65,000 to 85,000, dependent upon qualifications, experience and certifications.

Recommended Action – No action is required at this time.

Item 9B: Acting Public Works Director

Jerry Poruban is the acting director for public works. Staff recommends his pay increases to \$29.81 per hour which is equivalent to an approximate salary of \$62,000 while in this position.

Recommended Action – Approve the salary of the acting director to a wage of \$29.81 per hour.

10. HUMAN RELATIONS & DIVERSITY COMMITTEE

Houser & Kuhar

11. GENERAL BUSINESS

Item 11A: Transient retailer's ordinance.

The borough currently has an ordinance that has not been utilized and is outdated. A draft ordinance is on the agenda for discussion.

Recommended Action – Dependent upon discussion

Item 11B: Ordinance #675 Zoning Ordinance regulating the location of certain businesses within zoning districts.

The Borough developed a proposed ordinance to regulate the location and zoning of certain commercial uses including gaming parlors, hookah bars, marijuana dispensaries, CBD stores, Vape shops and tobacco stores.

A public hearing has been scheduled for Monday, September 22 at 5:30pm in the Borough Building to solicit input on the proposed ordinance. Council may take action on the ordinance following the hearing, depending on the testimony presented.

Item 11C: Ordinance #676 changing the zoning map of the Borough.

The Borough has developed a proposal changing the zoning map to establish the north side of the 400 and 500 block of High Street between Beech and Spruce Streets, the 100 block of N. Marion, and the south side of the 400 and 500 block of W. Sample Street from Residential Multi Household (RMH) to Mixed Village Commercial (MX/VC).

A public hearing has been scheduled for Monday, September 22 at 5:30pm in the Borough Building to solicit input on the proposed ordinance. Council may take action on the ordinance following the hearing, depending on the testimony presented.

Item 11D: The VFW has requested the Borough to remove our banners, replace with “Hometown Hero” banners, around Memorial Day and Veteran’s Day and then remove them shortly thereafter. They have also asked the Borough to store the banners.

Recommended Action – Dependent upon discussion.

Item 11E: Update to Borough Council regarding the possibility to remove or cut back vegetation behind the Borough Pool.

Staff met with the Borough engineers and representatives of the Cambria County Conservation District at the pool to discuss the vegetation and consult with them regarding future improvements. The Conservation district does not recommend any changes to the current vegetation except for possibly a few trees that may cause problems with the bank in the future and an area close to the pool fence. Approximately a month and a half ago Staff began work to remove dead limbs, brush, stones, a pipe, and a bridge that blocks and/or redirects the stream.

Recommended Action – No action needed.

Item 11F: Community Foundation for the Alleghenies

Ebensburg has been selected as one of the communities to receive the Community Foundation for the Alleghenies Small Town Challenge Fund Grant. Four communities were selected to receive a dollar for dollar match up to \$25,000 towards

a community endowment. It should be noted that to be eligible for the match, the Borough would need to achieve a minimum of \$10,000 in donations.

Recommended Action – Accept the Small-Town Challenge Fund Grant and direct staff to work with The Community Foundation for the Alleghenies to develop the necessary plans and procedures to proceed.

Item 11G: Kauffman’s Chickens

Recommended Action – Approve or deny the Kauffman’s request to be allowed to keep their chicken at 609 E. Crawford Street.

Item 11H: Regional Police Study

The borough is considering participating in a regional police study with several neighboring municipalities, including Cambria Township, Nanty Glo Borough and possibly others. The study would analyze the combination of multiple police departments into a single regional department. It is important to investigate this due to the challenges of recruiting and training law enforcement officers, the high costs of maintaining a small department and the staffing issues arising from the need for twenty-four-hour coverage. This study will be conducted by the state, free of charge and does not obligate the Borough in any way with regard to further participation after the study is completed.

Recommended Action – Approve participation in a regional police study to be conducted by the Department of Community and Economic Development.

- * Item 11I: Minutes of Previous Meeting(s)
The minutes of the July 28, 2025 regular meeting and the August 14, 2025 special meeting are presented for approval.

Recommended Action – Approve the minutes of the previous meeting.

- * Item 11J: Financial Statement
The financial statement for July 2025 for approval.

Recommended Action – Approve the July 2025 financial statement.

- * Item 11K: Bills
A list of bills totaling \$283,268.68 for August 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 Danea 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: Building Permit Enforcement**

A monthly building permit 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 – Minutes of the 8-7-2025 meeting**

*** Item 12H: Ebensburg Zoning Hearing Board – No Activity**

Item 12I: Code Enforcement Property Violations Issued – 18 violations: 8 high grass and weeds, 4 for vegetation, 2 nuisance junk, 2 property maintenance (gutters/ miscellaneous maintenance), 2 fowl

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 – Discussion of a personnel matter.

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.