

The regular monthly meeting of the Ebensburg Borough Council was called to order on Monday, July 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
Susan Kuhar
Robert Miller
Mike Murphy
Roy Lian, Junior Councilor
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
Matt Gribler, Solicitor
Luke Byrne, Inframark
Gerry McMullen, Municipal Authority
John Cobaugh, American Legion
Phil Rice, American Legion
Bob Slebodnick, Ebensburg VFW
Brandon Kopp, Ebensburg VFW
Matt Churella, The Altoona Mirror
Julie Pittman, The Mountaineer Journal

Audience: 14

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. (Murphy)

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 June 23, 2025 regular monthly meeting.
4. Approve the financial statement for June.
5. Approve payment of bills for July.

D. Appointment to Address Council

VFW Post 4963 – Brandon Kopp was present and read a prepared letter requesting that Council consider making an exception for non-profit organizations from the proposed mechanical device tax.

Mr. Phil Rice and Mr. Randy Datsko echoed the same sentiment for the American Legion and Ebensburg Moose Lodge, respectively.

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

F. Mayor's Report – Mayor Datsko shared a reminder that signs are not permitted to be hung on utility poles anywhere in the borough.

G. Council President – Mr. Tusing commented that he was remiss at last month's meeting from reporting that long-time, valued borough employee Rose Myers had retired after 15 years of service. Ms. Myers was a great asset to the borough and will be missed. He added that Ms. Tammy Young has taken over the position vacated by Myers and was able to train with Myers for almost six weeks prior to her retirement.

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 Guyer Brothers has essentially completed the project and is currently working on punch-list items. It is anticipated that all of these items will be completed within a few weeks.

4. Stormwater Project

Mr. Miller reported that A. Liberoni Construction was issued substantial completion for the stormwater project with the exception of the work to be completed on Highland Avenue. The remaining work on Highland Avenue is expected to be completed by the end of the week and then restoration will continue.

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. Council agreed to put this out for bid. Bids will be received and opened next month for consideration at the August meeting.

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. Staff is considering several options and will give council a recommendation next month.

2. Rectangular Rapid Flashing Beacon (RRFB)

Ms. Houser reported that a contract was awarded to M and B Services, LLC. The company is meeting with PennDOT in the very near future regarding pole placement. It is anticipated that the project will begin shortly thereafter and be completed within 30 days of the start date.

K. Administration Committee – None.

L. Human Relations & Diversity Committee – None.

M. General Business

1. Consider appointing Doug Tusing as a voting delegate for the resolutions Committee at the Municipal League annual Leadership Summit in October

Ms. Houser made a motion to appoint Doug Tusing as a voting delegate. (Jacoby) Motion passed unanimously.

2. Discuss the Borough's transient retailer's ordinance

Ms. Cook shared that the borough currently has an ordinance that is outdated and enforcement would be difficult. Staff recommends a revision of the current ordinance to include only door-to-door solicitation.

The consensus of Council was to move forward with the revision to only include door-to-door solicitation to transient retailer's ordinance.

3. Gaming License Ordinance

Ms. Cook reported that based on Council's input from last month's meeting, the Solicitor has updated the proposed ordinance regulating and requiring a license for Amusement and Gaming Devices.

It is a matter of record that the Mayor and all Council members received a letter from the American Legion Home Association of Ebensburg Post 363 expressing opposition to the enactment of such an ordinance.

After some discussion on what the state is currently considering on taxing, Mr. Miller made a motion to table this item until the state decides how they will proceed with establishing their own tax on gaming devices. (Houser) Motion passed unanimously.

4. Consider changes to the Zoning Ordinance regulating the location and zoning of certain commercial uses including gaming parlors, hookah bars, marijuana dispensaries, DBD stores, Vape shops and tobacco stores.

Ms. Cook stated that if the majority of Council is amenable to this, staff recommends that the matter be referred to the County and Borough Planning Commission, with posting of the property and an eventual public hearing to be scheduled.

Ms. Houser made a motion to refer the matter to the County and Borough Planning Commission with an eventual public hearing to be scheduled. (Miller) Motion passed unanimously.

5. Consider changing the zoning map of the Borough to establish the north side of High Street between Beech to Spruce Streets from Residential Multi Household (RMH) to Mixed Village Commercial (MX/VC).

Ms. Cook stated that if the majority of Council is amenable to this, staff recommends that the matter be referred to the County and Borough Planning Commission, with posting of the property and an eventual public hearing to be scheduled.

Ms. Jacoby made a motion to refer this matter to the County and Borough Planning Commission. (Ball) Motion passed unanimously.

5. Penn Eben Park

Councilman Murphy suggested that the trees located between the gazebo and the adjacent building in Penn Eben Park be removed. The consensus of Council was to have the borough manager ask the arborist to check out the health of the trees and determine the best course of action.

Mr. Miller made a motion to ask an arborist to check out the health of the trees and determine the best course of action. (Murphy) Motion passed unanimously.

6. Borough Pool Property

Councilman Murphy suggested that the vegetation along the stream behind the Borough pool be cut back or removed. Staff believes that depending on the extent of the work to be done, DEP permits would be required. The consensus of Council was to ask the borough engineer to take a look at the area to see if anything needs to be done.

Ms. Jacoby made a motion to have the borough engineer assess the area to see if there is anything that can be done to avoid future flooding of the area. (Ball) Motion passed unanimously.

7. Ebensburg Planning Commission – Ms. Cook shared that Mr. Bryan Hurtack submitted a letter of interest to be appointed to the Planning Commission. Ms. Houser made a motion to appoint Mr. Brian Hurtack to the Planning Commission to fill an unexpired term until December 2028.

N. Department Reports

1. **Police Department** – Chief Loughran reported on department activities including an incident free Downtown Shutdown and Homecoming weekend. He added that Holy Name was very pleased with the new School Resource Officer and, lastly, added that the training for the new reporting software is very intensive.
2. **Public Works Department** – Public Works Director Josh Surkovich gave updates to include the event preparation and setup/tear down, recent repairs to the streets and a recent tree that came down on Alton Street and how public works is not permitted to remove trees and branches when there is a also a downed powerline. For those instances, Penelec must be contacted, by the property owner from which the tree fell, to come out and clear the power line.
3. **Community Development Department** - Community Development Director Dana Koss reported on recent activities including the opening of the time capsule, a wrap-up on the Homecoming weekend events, Potatofest updates, and an upcoming meeting with the Community Foundation of the Alleghenies to discuss our Small Town Challenge application.
4. **Recreation Department** – Recreation Director Rebecca Williamson submitted a written report but was out of the office on vacation.
5. **Ebensburg Municipal Authority**
A copy of the minutes of the last municipal authority meeting is included in Council's packet.
6. **Codes Enforcement Property Violations Issued** – Ms. Cook reported that there were 9 violations this month including 6 for shrubs/vegetation, 1 nuisance vehicle/junk, 1 feral cat and 1 junk on property.

O. Media Comments/Questions – None.

P. Public Comments

Mr. Pat Lauer, 313 W. Horner Street, asked when the hole on E. Horner Street would be repaired.

Q. Executive Session – Council entered into an Executive Session at 7:31 pm to discuss a personnel matter and exited at 8:07 pm.

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

Meeting Adjourned: 8:08 PM

Minutes Recorded by: Dana Koss, Community Development Director