

The regular monthly meeting of the Ebensburg Borough Council was called to order on Monday, August 25, 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
Mike Murphy
Roy Lian, Junior Councilor

Others: Kelly Cook, Borough Manager
Randy Datsko, Mayor
Joe Loughran, Chief of Police
Jerry Puroban, Acting Public Works Director
Rebecca Williamson, Recreation Director
Tammy Young, Recording Secretary
Matt Gribler, Solicitor
Gerry McMullen, Municipal Authority
Matt Churella, The Altoona Mirror
Julie Pittman, The Mountaineer Journal

Audience: 8

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. (Kuhar)

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 July 28, 2025 regular monthly meeting and August 14, 2025 special meeting of Borough Council.
4. Approve the financial statement for July.
5. Approve payment of bills for August.

D. Appointment to Address Council

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

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

F. Mayor's Report – None

G. **Council President** – Mr. Tusing commented that school started, be mindful.

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. A few items are left to be completed, and an inspection will be Scheduled.

4. **Stormwater Project**

Mr. Miller reported that 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.

5. **Water/Sewer Billing**

An error was found within the water/sewer billing. The Ebensburg Municipal Authority is working on correcting the error.

I. **Recreation Committee**

1. **YPCC** - Ms. Jacoby reported that 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 were opened on Monday, August 25th at noon and reviewed. Sport Interior was the only bid. Ms. Jacoby made a motion to accept Sport Interior's bid (Houser). Motion passed unanimously.

J. **Street Committee**

1. **Parking Enforcement**

Ms. Houser reported that during the January meeting, Council voted unanimously to move away from metered 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 leaning toward using MeterFeeder to facilitate parking payments within the Borough, but additional research should be conducted. Tabled till September to do additional research.

2. **Rectangular Rapid Flashing Beacon (RRFB)**

Ms. Houser reported that 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.

K. Administration Committee

1. 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.

2. Acting Public Works Director

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

Ms. Houser made a motion to approve the salary of the acting director to a wage of \$29.81 per Hour while in this position (Kuhar). Motion passed unanimously.

L. Human Relations & Diversity Committee – None.

M. General Business

1. Discuss the Borough's 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. It would be Ordinance 677. This ordinance regulates transient retail businesses, including door-to-door solicitation by requiring a permit, establishing fees and penalties, and repealing prior ordinance no. 439.

Ms. Jacoby made a motion to tentatively approve the Ordinance No. 677 (Murphy). Motion passed unanimously.

2. Ordinance No. 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 22nd at 5:30 PM 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.

3. Ordinance No. 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 blocks of W. High Street between Beech and Spruce Streets, the 100 block of N. Marion, and the south side of the 400 and 500 blocks of W. Sample Street from Residential

Multi Household (RMH) to Mixed Village Commercial (MX/VC).

A public hearing has been scheduled for Monday, September 22nd at 5:30 PM 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.

- 4. 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.**

This item has been tabled until September’s meeting to see if sponsors can be secured to cover the costs for hanging and removal of banners.

- 6. 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.

- 7. 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.

Ms. Houser made a motion to 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 (Ball). Motion passed unanimously.

- 8. Kauffman Chickens**

Ms. Houser made a motion to approve the Kauffman’s request to be allowed to keep chickens at 609 E. Crawford Street with the limit of 4 hens. As per the Ordinance, any other request to have chickens will be looked at on an individual basis (Ball). Motion passed unanimously.

- 9. 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.

Ms. Houser made a motion to approve participation in a regional police study to be conducted by the Department of Community and Economic Development (Murphy). Motion passed unanimously

N. Department Reports

1. **Police Department** – Chief Loughran has submitted a written report on the police department’s activities during the month
2. **Public Works Department** – Acting Public Works Director Jerry Poruban has submitted a written report on the public works department’s activities during the month.
3. **Community Development Department** - Community Development Director Danae Koss has submitted a written report on the community development department’s activities during the month. Potato Fest is on schedule.
4. **Recreation Department** – Recreation Director Rebecca Williamson submitted a written report on the recreation department’s activities during the month. Labor Day is the last day for the pool to be open.
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 18 violations this month including 8 for high grass and weeds, 4 for shrubs/vegetation, 2 nuisance vehicle/junk, 2 property maintenance (gutters/miscellaneous maintenance), 2 fowl.
7. **Building Permit Enforcement**
A monthly building permit report was forwarded to Council.
8. **Ebensburg Planning Commission**
Minutes of the 8-7-2025 meeting
9. **Ebensburg Zoning Hearing Board**
No Activity

O. Media Comments/Questions

Mr. Churella asked about public works personnel issues, if roof is leaking at YPCC and the ordinance related to chickens.

P. Public Comments

A resident asked for clarification as to what would be covered by the proposed Transient Retailer ordinance.

Q. Executive Session - None

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

Meeting Adjourned: 7:23 PM

Minutes Recorded by: Tammy Young, Recording Secretary