

The regular monthly meeting of the Ebensburg Borough Council was called to order on Monday, November 24, 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
Theresa Jacoby
Susan Kuhar
Bob Miller
Mike Murphy
Max Cafazza, Junior Councilor
Roy Lian, Junior Councilor

Absent: Jeffrey Ball

Others: Kelly Cook, Borough Manager
Randy Datsko, Mayor
Joe Lougrhan, Chief of Police
Rebecca Williamson, Recreation Director
Danea Koss, Community Development Director
Matt Gribler, Solicitor
Sue Stevens, Incoming Borough Councilor
Luke Byrne, Inframark
Julie Pittman, The Mountaineer Journal
Matt Churella, The Altoona Mirror
Members of Boy Scout Troop 98 & Leaders

Audience: 17

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)
Motion passed unanimously.

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 October 27, 2025 regular monthly meeting of Borough Council.
4. Approve the financial statement for October.
5. Approve payment of bills for November.

D. Appointment to Address Council – None.

E. Consideration of Any Motion(s) to Amend Agenda – Mr. Tusing announced that item 11A would be deleted from this month's agenda.

F. Mayor's Report – None

G. Council President – Mr. Tusing welcomed the local Boy Scout Troop 98 to the meeting as well as incoming Councilor, Sue Stevens. Tusing congratulated Ms. Jacoby and Ms. Kuhar on their election/reelection, as well as Mayor Datsko and Tax Collector Charlene Remillard.

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

A final inspection was conducted last month and all work has been completed. The Authority approved final payment at their meeting.

4. Stormwater Project

An inspection was conducted with A. Liberoni Construction last month, and final restoration has been completed for the season. The contractor will likely have to return the spring for additional restoration.

5. Distribution & Collection System Proposal

Ms. Houser reported that Inframark submitted a proposal to assume the operation of certain aspects of the water distribution and wastewater collection system for an annual cost of \$150,410. Currently Inframark operates the Water and Wastewater plants. Due to personnel changes, the borough does not currently have the required licensed operation for the water distribution and wastewater collection. Inframark will work in collaboration with Ebensburg Public Works for the ongoing repairs and maintenance of the system as specified in the agreement.

The Water, Wastewater and Stormwater Committee recommends approval of this proposal for the period of time to coincide with the main contract, expiring in December of 2028. At that time, it can be reevaluated to determine if this need still exists or it can be returned in-house.

Ms. Houser made a motion to accept the Distribution & Collection System proposal of Inframark. (Murphy) Motion passed unanimously.

I. Recreation Committee

1. YPCC - Ms. Jacoby reported that Sports Interiors has completed work to install a moisture barrier earlier this month. While staff will continue to monitor the situation, thus far, there have been no issues with water condensation. A similar installation at the tennis center has performed well.

J. Street Committee

1. Parking Enforcement

Ms. Houser reported that staff continue to evaluate options for parking management and enforcement and will give recommendations in the future. Staff spoke to several companies, including Passport, Meterfeeder, BTS, Park Mobile, Park Smarter, Metropolis and many others. Most of the companies cater to larger towns. Staff will continue to talk to a few companies who may be able to offer a hybrid system which would use a phone application, kiosk, and/or metered parking spaces at an affordable price.

2. Rectangular Rapid Flashing Beacon (RRFB)

Ms. Houser reported that a contract was awarded to M and B Services, LLC. Construction was completed this past month installing the RRFB at the corner of Julian and High Streets and the RRFB is working as designed. The existence and use of the RRFB will be highlighted in upcoming Borough communications, and the Ebensburg Police will conduct some traffic control checks in the future.

K. Administration Committee

1. 2026 Annual Budget – Ms. Jacoby reported that the administrative committee has compiled a tentative 2026 budget for Council's review.

The 2026 Operating Budget calls for revenues and expenditures of \$7,670,745. Within that framework the general fund budget is balanced with no increase in real estate taxes over the previous year.

	Revenues	Expenditures	Surplus
General Fund Budget	\$2,718,085.00	\$2,718,085.00	\$0.00
Water Fund Budget	\$2,656,600.00	\$2,656,600.00	\$0.00
Wastewater Fund Budget	\$2,065,560.00	\$2,065,560.00	\$0.00
Stormwater Fund Budget	\$230,500.00	\$230,500.00	\$0.00
Total Operating Fund	\$7,670,745.00	\$7,670,745.00	\$0.00

Overall, the General Fund Budget reflects an increase of approximately 6% over last year's budget. Primary increases in revenue are as follows:

- Nearly \$80,000 due to the full-year impact of the Student Resource Officer contract with Holy Name
- Another \$60,000 as a result of higher EIT collection (although the tax rate remains constant) and interest on fund deposits.

- Approximately \$60,000 in additional bulk water sales

Ms. Jacoby made a motion to grant tentative approval to the 2026 annual budget and advertise for public inspection. (Houser) Roll call was taken.

Jacoby	Yes	Kuhar	Yes	
Miller	No	Houser	Yes	
Tusing	Yes	Murphy	No	Motion passed 4 to 2.

2. Borough Manager Retirement

Ms. Houser reported that the Borough Manager will be retiring on April 6, 2026. Council's administration committee met on November 6th to discuss a search process for filling the vacancy. Council will meet in executive session at the conclusion of this meeting to further discuss with all members how to proceed.

Make it a matter of record that the administration committee met in executive session on November 6, 2025 to discuss the upcoming manager vacancy.

3. Manager Selection Process

Ms. Houser reported that the upcoming vacancy in the Borough Manager position has been advertised, and applications are due December 17. The administration committee intends to review the applications and seek additional information from several of the candidates. Initial interviews will likely occur during January. The committee hopes to agree on a candidate in early February with a start date to be determined. An overlap with the outgoing manager will assist with the transition.

4. Resolution #2025-06

Ms. Kuhar reported that a Resolution is adopted each year to establish the wages to be paid to borough employees. AFSCME and FOP wages increase in accordance with labor contracts, and as is historically the case, non-union employees receive the same adjustment as negotiated with AFSME.

Ms. Kuhar made a motion to adopt Resolution #2025-06 establishing wages for 2026. (Miller) Motion passed unanimously.

5. Vacancy in Public Works

Ms. Kuhar reported that applications for the opening in Public Works were reviewed and interviews were granted to six candidates. Scott Maul was offered a position as Laborer I within public works at a rate of \$23.48 per hour.

It is a matter of record that Scott Maul was offered a conditional offer of employment.

Mr. Murphy shared that he would like to see one or more additional public works laborers hired.

L. Human Relations & Diversity Committee – None.

M. General Business

1. Request of Justice and Rosalie Orlu

Ms. Cook reported that Mr. and Mrs. Orlu contacted the borough to purchase some of the borough's property that adjoins their land.

Council needs to first determine if they would like to pursue this proposal. If so, Council needs to obtain an appraisal of the property in question. If the appraised value of the land is more than \$6,000 Council would need to advertise to receive bids for the sale of the property. When bids are received, council may reject all bids or award the highest bid, which should exceed the appraised value. As part of the agreement of sale, the cost of the appraisal and legal publications should be required of the buyer.

Ms. Jacoby made a motion to refer this to the Planning Commission for a recommendation to Council. (Houser) Motion passed unanimously.

2. Discussion Regarding Winter Parking

Council Member Murphy requested a discussion of the enforcement of winter parking regulations in the Borough. It is his opinion that winter parking rules should remain in effect daily throughout the entire mandated period (from December 1 through March 31). That had been the case for many years, but a number of years ago, due to a significant level of resident complaints, the system was relaxed somewhat by announcing specifically when winter parking regulations are “in effect” or “not in effect”.

After some discussion among Council, the Borough Manager and the Chief of Police, the matter was tabled until the December meeting to give the public an opportunity to provide input/comment regarding the issue.

N. Department Reports

1. **Police Department** – Chief Loughran gave an update including the upcoming Shop with a Cop participation, recent regionalization meeting, winter parking starting December 1st and free metered parking downtown through December.
2. **Public Works Department** – Public Works Director Jerry Poruban provided a written report for but was unable to attend the meeting.
3. **Community Development Department** - Community Development Director Danea Koss gave an update on Volunteer Appreciation Night, Small Business Saturday, Dickens of a Christmas, the Turkey Trot, Wreaths Across America and free parking for the month of December.
4. **Recreation Department** – Recreation Director Rebecca Williamson reported on the upcoming winter basketball league, upcoming coaches meeting, bathrooms locks being replaced at

Memorial Field, round robin tournaments at the Tennis Center and the upcoming field repair projects.

5. **Building Permit Enforcement** - A monthly building permit 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** – No activity
8. **Ebensburg Zoning Hearing Board** - No activity
9. **Codes Enforcement Property Violations Issued** – Ms. Cook reported that there were 4 verbal warnings regarding leaves raked into the road.

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

P. **Public Comment** – None.

Q. **Executive Session** – Council entered into Executive Session at 7:20 pm to discuss a personnel matter. Council exited Executive Session and re-opened the public meeting at 7:26 PM.

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

Meeting Adjourned: 7:27 PM

Minutes Recorded by: Danea Koss, Community Development Director