



Ebensburg Borough Council Meeting
Monday, December 15, 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 11H: Approve the minutes of the November 24, 2025 regular meeting of Borough Council.

Item 11I: Approve the financial statement for November.

Item 11J: Approve payment of bills for December.

Recommended Action – Approve the consent agenda.

2. APPOINTMENTS TO ADDRESS COUNCIL

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.

7. RECREATION COMMITTEE

Jacoby, Kuhar & Miller

8. STREETS COMMITTEE

Ball, Houser & Murphy

Item 8A: Parking Enforcement

Staff continue to evaluate options for parking management and enforcement and will give recommendations in the future.

Recommended Action – No action required at this time.

9. ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE

Houser, Jacoby & Kuhar

Item 9A: 2026 Annual Budget

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

Aside from general inflation in wages and materials, increases in expenses are due to the following:

- About \$80,000 for the police department, of which about \$30,000 is the SRO program with the remainder primarily pension and employee-related costs
- \$70,000 for the water fund, comprised of bulk water purchases, chemicals/supplies and increased electricity costs, mostly offset by a reduction in capital project reserves
- Roughly \$35,000 for recreation equipment and operations

Recommended Action – Grant final approval of the 2026 annual budget.

Item 9B: Manager Selection Process

The upcoming vacancy in the Borough Manager position has been advertised, and applications are due December 17. The administrative committee will meet in executive session after this meeting to review the applications and then additional information will be requested from qualified candidates. Should additional applications arrive prior to the deadline, they will also be reviewed as well. Initial interviews will occur during early January. The target is to agree on a candidate no later than February 1 with a start date sometime in early to mid-March. An overlap with the outgoing manager will ensure a smooth transition.

Recommended Action – No action required

10. HUMAN RELATIONS & DIVERSITY COMMITTEE

Houser & Kuhar

11. GENERAL BUSINESS

Item 11A: Request of Justice and Rosemary Orlu

Mr. and Mrs. Orlu reside at 311 W. Lloyd Street, which is adjacent to the parking lot behind the Municipal Building. They recently contacted the borough requesting to purchase some of the borough's property that adjoins their land. At last month's meeting council motioned to refer it to the Planning Commission for them to determine whether the sale of a portion of the borough property at 300 W. High Street should be kept for the future or if it could be considered for sale. The Planning Commission met on December 4, 2025 and discussed the parcel at great length. They made a motion to allow Council to consider selling a portion of the property assuming it was only for a few feet and allowed ample property left to enlarge the access driveway owned by the borough in the future. The motion passed unanimously and recommended that both parties had to agree upon the price and property lines and the buyer should be responsible for all legal and professional services and to comply with all local ordinances.

If in agreement with the Planning Commission's recommendation, Council should determine exactly how much property they would be willing to sell and then have staff discuss with the Orlus. If agreement is reached with them on the parcel size, the Orlus should update their recent boundary survey to show the proposed area to be purchased (including the exact square footage) along with the precise location of the Borough's driveway (it appears that their current survey does not accurately reflect the position of the driveway). The Borough could then proceed with an appraisal of the subject parcel.

Recommended Action – Dependent on discussion.

Item 11B: Decision on Winter Parking Enforcement

At last month's meeting, winter parking was discussed. Some felt that winter parking should resort to the original enforcement scheme whereby it remains in effect every day from December 1st until March 31st. Others felt that it should remain as it is now, which is to put it into effect only as needed.

Recommended Action – Dependent on discussion.

Item 11C: RACRA Lease

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.

Staff recommends that the lease between the Borough and RACRA be extended for a period of one year, to expire on December 31, 2026. During the course of 2026, the possibility of a longer term extension will be examined.

Recommended Action – Approve an extension to the Lease Agreement between the Borough and RACRA for a period of one year, through December 31, 2026.

Item 11D: Fee Resolution #2025-07

A Resolution is required each year to establish fees to be charged for various services for the

coming year. Staff is recommending a \$50 charge per year for the yard waste fob. Every year the fobs would be turned off and reactivated when payment is made. This will assist the borough in obtaining better security cameras to deter from dumping illegal material and help cover the costs associated with the service.

Recommended Action – Adopt Resolution #2025-07 establishing the fees to be charged in 2026 for various purposes.

Item 11E: Resolution #2025-08

A resolution fixing the tax rate for the year 2026 at 36.75 mills on each dollar of assessed valuation for land, 11.75 mills on each dollar of assessed valuation for buildings and 2.5 mills on each dollar of assessed valuation of land for stormwater management.

It should be noted that the proposed tax rates are the same rates that have been in effect since January 1, 2023.

Recommended Action – Approve Resolution #2025-08 to establish 2026 tax rates.

Item 11F: 2026 PELRAS Conference

The Pennsylvania Employee Labor Relations Advisory Service holds a conference every spring. The current manager has attended this conference every year for over thirty years, , and served on the Advisory Committee for approximately twelve of those years. She is requesting that she be allowed to attend in 2026 to assist in introductions to other managers, key personnel with the Municipal League, and the Borough's labor attorneys. It will also allow for the commencement of discussions regarding 2026 contract negotiations with the Borough's labor attorney. If the manager has attended these meetings in the past and knows the parties mentioned, attendance is not necessary.

Recommended Action – Dependent upon discussion.

Item 11G: Hometown Hero Banners

Members of the VFW will be present to revisit their request to utilize the Borough's lampposts to hang the banners.

Recommended Action – Dependent upon discussion.

* Item 11H: Minutes of Previous Meeting(s)

The minutes of the November 24, 2025 meeting are presented for approval.

Recommended Action – Approve the minutes of the previous meeting.

* Item 11I: Financial Statement

The financial statement for November 2025 is presented for approval.

Recommended Action – Approve the November 2025 financial statement.

* Item 11J: Bills

A list of bills totaling \$233,370.81 for December 2025 is submitted for approval.

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 Acting Director Jerry Poruban 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 from the December 4, 2025 meeting.

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

Item 12I: Code Enforcement Property Violations Issued – 1 violation issued for garbage, furniture and appliances on a porch. Two parties filed complaints but were issued letters stating the matters were civil and not under our jurisdiction

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. No action anticipated afterwards.

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.