

The regular monthly meeting of the Ebensburg Borough Council was called to order on Monday, December 15, 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  
Mike Murphy  
Max Cafazza, Junior Councilor  
Roy Lian, Junior Councilor

Absent: Jeffrey Ball  
Bob Miller

Others: Kelly Cook, Borough Manager  
Randy Datsko, Mayor  
Joe Lougrhan, Chief of Police  
Danea Koss, Community Development Director  
Jerry Poruban, Public Works Director  
Matt Gribler, Solicitor  
Sue Stevens, Incoming Borough Councilor  
Luke Byrne, Inframark  
Dwayne Lowry, Inframark  
Julie Pittman, The Mountaineer Journal  
Tammy Slobodnik, Ebensburg VFW  
Brandon Kopp, Ebensburg VFW  
Members of the Ebensburg VFW

Audience: 5

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 November 24, 2025 regular monthly meeting of Borough Council.
4. Approve the financial statement for November.
5. Approve payment of bills for December.

D. **Appointment to Address Council** – None.

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

**F. Mayor's Report – None.**

**G. Council President** – Mr. Tusing thanked Council Member Bob Miller for his participation and contributions over the last four years. He noted that a Reorganization Meeting will be held on Monday, January 5<sup>th</sup>.

**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.

**I. Recreation Committee – None.**

**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.

**K. Administration Committee**

**1. 2026 Annual Budget** – Ms. Jacoby reported that the staff and the administrative committee compiled the 2026 budget which was tentatively approved by Council at the November meeting. The budget was properly advertised and on display for public inspection.

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.

Ms. Jacoby made a motion to grant final approval to the 2026 annual budget. (Houser) Roll call was taken.

Jacoby	Yes	Kuhar	Yes
Houser	Yes	Murphy	No
Tusing	Yes		

Motion passed 4 to 1.

## **2. Manager Selection Process**

Ms. Jacoby reported that the upcoming vacancy in the Borough Manager position has been advertised, and applications are due December 17. The administration committee will meet in executive session after this meeting to review the applications received thus far and then additional information will be requested from qualified candidates. Should additional applications arrive prior to the deadline, they will also be reviewed. 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.

## **L. Human Relations & Diversity Committee – None.**

## **M. General Business**

### **1. Request of Justice and Rosalie Orlu**

Ms. Cook reported that Mr. and Mrs. Orlu 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 the matter to the Planning Commission for input as to whether the sale of a portion of the property at 300 W. High Street should be considered for sale. The Planning Commission met on December 4, 2025 and discussed the parcel at great length. They made a motion to recommend that Council could 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.

The consensus of Council is in agreement with the Planning Commission's recommendation. It was suggested that the Orlu's proceed with having their property survey updated to determine the proposed location of the revised property line, at which time the Borough could proceed with an appraisal. It was also the consensus Council that they consider granting an easement to allow Orlu's to access their parking area across the lower portion of the Borough's driveway. The proposed easement should also be reflected in the requested survey.

## **2. Discussion Regarding Winter Parking**

Ms. Cook shared that 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".

Mr. Murphy made a motion to keep winter parking in effect daily throughout the entire period of December 1 through March 31. That motion died for lack of a second. As such, winter parking enforcement will remain unchanged.

## **3. RACRA Lease**

Ms. Cook reported that a lease agreement 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 through December 31, 2026. During the course of 2026, the possibility of a longer-term extension will be examined.

Ms. Jacoby made a motion to approve an extension to the Lease Agreement between the Borough and RACRA for a period of one year, through December 31, 2026.

## **4. Fee Resolution #2025-07**

Ms. Cook shared that 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 use of the yard waste facility on South West Street. Beginning in 2026 and every year thereafter, the key fobs controlling access to the facility will be turned off and reactivated when payment is made. This will assist the borough in obtaining better security cameras to deter from dumping excessive or illegal material and help cover the costs associated with the service.

After some discussion on the fee, Ms. Jacoby made a motion to adopt Resolution #2025-07 establishing the fees to be charged in 2026 for various purposes, with the correction of a \$25 charge per year for a yard waste fob. (Murphy) Motion passed unanimously.

**5. Resolution #2025-08**

Ms. Cook presented 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. The proposed rates are consistent with the 2026 Annual Budget.

Ms. Houser made a motion to establish the 2026 tax rates. (Kuhar) Motion passed unanimously.

**6. 2026 PELRAS Conference**

Ms. Cook reported that the PA Employee Labor Relations Advisory Service holds a conference every spring. Ms. Cook 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.

After some discussion, Ms. Jacoby made a motion to reject the request stating that she feels the new manager will be capable of making their own introductions. (Murphy) Roll call was taken:

Jacoby	Yes	Murphy	Yes
Houser	Yes	Tusing	No
Kuhar	Yes		Motion passes 4 to 1.

**7. Hometown Hero Banners**

Ms. Koss reported that the Ebensburg VFW is requesting that Council revisit the request to place Hometown Hero banners on the lampposts throughout town. The VFW is planning to coordinate the project, then hand the banners over to the borough. Their request is to have them hung twice a year during the Memorial Day and Veteran's Day holidays.

After some discussion, Ms. Jacoby made a motion to approve their request to have the borough place the Hometown Hero banners twice a year. (Murphy) Roll call was taken:

Jacoby	Yes	Murphy	Yes
Houser	Yes	Tusing	No
Kuhar	Yes		Motion passes 4 to 1.

**N. Department Reports**

- 1. Police Department** – Chief Loughran gave an update including the upcoming “Shop with a Cop” participation, winter parking and trash and recycling can placement.
- 2. Public Works Department** –Public Works Director Jerry Poruban provided a written report and gave updates on recent seasonal emergency callouts due to winter weather as well as decorating for the holidays.

3. **Community Development Department** - Community Development Director Danea Koss gave an update on wrapping up the Shop Small holiday and contest, the Dickens of Christmas events and working on the January 2026 Newsletter.
4. **Recreation Department** – Recreation Director Rebecca Williamson provided a written report but was unable to attend the meeting.
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** – A copy of the minutes from the December 4, 2025 meeting were included in Council's packet.
8. **Ebensburg Zoning Hearing Board** - No activity
9. **Codes Enforcement Property Violations Issued** – Ms. Cook reported that there was one violation for garbage/furniture/appliances on a porch. Two parties filed complaints but were issued letters stating the matters were civil and not under borough jurisdiction.

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

**P. Public Comment** – Representatives from the Ebensburg VFW thanked Council for their consideration of the placing the Hometown Heroes banners on the lampposts throughout town and for committing to placing them twice a year, over the Memorial Day and Veteran's Day holidays.

**Q. Executive Session** – Council entered into Executive Session at 7:15 pm to discuss a personnel matter. Council exited Executive Session and re-opened the public meeting at 7:32 PM.

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

Meeting Adjourned: 7:32 PM

Minutes Recorded by: Danea Koss, Community Development Director