

The regular monthly meeting of the Ebensburg Borough Council was called to order on Monday, February 23, 2026, at 6:30 p.m. at the Ebensburg Municipal Building, 300 W. High Street, Ebensburg, by Council President Doug Tusing.

Present: Doug Tusing, President  
Theresa Jacoby, Vice President  
Jeff Ball  
Cecilia Houser  
Susan Kuhar  
Mike Murphy  
Sue Stevens  
Max Cafazza, Junior Councilor  
Roy Lian, Junior Councilor

Absent: Randy Datsko, Mayor  
Kelly Cook, Borough Manager

Others: Joe Loughran, Chief of Police  
Danea Koss, Community Development Director  
Jerry Poruban, Public Works Director  
Rebecca Williamson, Recreation Director  
Tracy Strom, Clerk  
Matt Gribler, Solicitor  
Luke Byrne, Inframark  
Meghan Friedhof, Wessel & Company  
Heather Riggelman, Wessel & Company  
Julie Pittman, The Mountaineer Journal

Audience: 3

A. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

B. **Public Comments** – None.

C. **Consent Agenda**

Ms. Jacoby made a motion to approve the consent agenda containing the following items. (Ball)

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 report of Inframark for the Collections & Distributions Report.
4. Approve the Letter of Support for the Pennsylvania One Call.
5. Note correspondence received from the Dauntless Fire Company.
6. Approve the minutes of the December 15, 2025 regular monthly meeting of Borough Council and the January 5, 2026 Reorganization Meeting of Borough Council.
7. Approve the financial statements for December and January and 4<sup>th</sup> quarter fund transfers for December.
8. Approve payment of bills for January and February.

**D. Appointment to Address Council**

Representatives from Wessel & Company distributed copies of the Borough's 2025 audit report and gave an overview of the results.

**E. Consideration of Any Motion(s) to Amend Agenda** – Mr. Tusing asked Council to amend the agenda to include a request to change the March meeting date to the fifth Monday of the month rather than the fourth. Motion to amend the agenda as such was made by Ms. Houser and seconded by Ball. Motion passed unanimously.

**F. Mayor's Report** – None.

**G. Council President** – Mr. Tusing reported that Ms. Cecilia Houser had notified Council that she will be submitting her letter of resignation at the March meeting due to a work conflict. He added that she had already planned to resign due to a planned relocation outside the borough that is scheduled to happen later this year. Mr. Tusing explained that Council would have 30 days from the date of accepting her letter of resignation to appoint a replacement, and that letters of interest would be solicited from interested residents.

**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. Report from Inframark on Collections & Distribution Operations**

Inframark's written report was submitted regarding collections and distributions.

**4. Water Line Issues**

Mr. Murphy reported that as a result of the extremely low temperatures experienced several weeks ago, a number of residents and businesses reported loss of water due to freezing lines. During this period, the Public Work Department assisted with restoring water service to eighteen properties. Borough Council formally recognized the diligent efforts of our crew members who worked tirelessly for many hours of the day and night in very difficult conditions to address these issues as quickly as possible.

Council commended the Public Works Department for their strong response to the various water line issues over the past few weeks.

**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. Manager Selection Process**

Ms. Houser reported that the upcoming vacancy in the Borough Manager position was advertised and applications were received and reviewed in December. The borough received thirteen applications in total. Questionnaires were sent out to six of the candidates requesting more information. Of those six requests, five were returned and reviewed. Interviews were conducted with three of the applicants. Being there was not a clear consensus for any single candidate, it was decided to readvertise.

The second advertisement, which included a slightly increased salary range and was also posted on the Indeed platform, yielded 35 applications. Pre-interview questionnaires were sent out to five candidates, and four interviews have been scheduled. The target is to agree on a candidate no later than March 1 with a start date sometime in late March. An overlap with the outgoing manager, who has agreed to stay beyond her initially planned retirement date of April 6, will ensure a smooth transition.

**L. Human Relations & Diversity Committee**

**1. Hometown Here Banners**

Ms. Kuhar reported that the Community Development Director and Borough Solicitor met with members of the VFW on January 23<sup>rd</sup> to review details regarding the program. The Solicitor laid out some basic requirements that would need to be followed for proper implementation. The solicitor is finalizing details with the VFW in preparation for the program roll-out.

**M. General Business**

**1. Codification of Ordinances**

Mr. Tusing reported that General Code has received the Ordinances of the Borough and is conducting an editorial and legal analysis.

**2. Police Cruiser and Equipment**

Mr. Tusing reported that Council has received proposals for a 2025 Ford Interceptor and associated equipment necessary to upfit the vehicle for a total of \$64,879.50. The price is off of the state contract and was included in the 2026 budget. The car is to be purchased from Laurel Ford for \$44,000 and the equipment and installation will be from West Penn Vehicle Specialists for \$20,879.50.

Ms. Stevens made a motion to approve the purchase of the 2025 Interceptor and equipment for a total of \$64,879.50 (Jacoby). Motion passed unanimously.

**3. Local Shares Grant**

Mr. Tusing reported that a grant was received in the amount of \$42,000 for restoration of McDonald’s Field and First Energy Field. Acceptance of the grant needs to be approved. One bid was received and opened on February 17<sup>th</sup>. Straw Construction submitted a bid for \$108,300, which was well above the funds available.

Ms. Stevens made a motion to approve acceptance of the grant in the amount of \$42,000, reject the single bid received and approve the project to rebid. (Jacoby) Motion passed unanimously.

**4. Ebensburg Airport - Rehabilitation Runway Lighting**

Mr. Tusing reported that the following four bids were received for this project. One bid was rejected due to not meeting specification requirements.

	<b>ENGINEER'S ESTIMATE</b>	<b>BRUCE-MERRILEES ELECTRIC, LLC</b>	<b>BRONDER TECHNICAL SERVICES, INC.</b>	<b>KOBO UTILITY CONSTRUCTION CORP.</b>
<b>BASE BID TOTAL</b>	\$434,100.00	\$412,740.00	\$369,246.00	\$448,715.00
<b>ADD ALTERNATE BID NO. 1 TOTAL</b>	\$106,875.00	\$51,220.00	\$71,930.00	\$80,775.00
<b>ADD ALTERNATE BID NO. 2 TOTAL</b>	\$127,500.00	\$17,850.00	\$51,800.00	\$67,250.00
<b>Total</b>	\$668,475.00	\$481,810.00	\$492,976.00	\$596,740.00

Ms. Jacoby made a motion to approve the contract to the lowest bidder, Bruce-Merrilees Electric, LLC for the base bid total of \$412,740 in addition to alternate one in the amount of \$51,220 and alternate two for \$17,850 for a grand total of \$481,810. (Houser) Motion passed unanimously.

**5. March Meeting Date**

As noted above, Council voted to amend the agenda to consider this issue. Mr. Tusing reported that several people were unable to attend the meeting originally planned for March 23 and suggested that the meeting date be moved back by one week to Monday, March 30.

Ms. Jacoby made a motion to change the meeting date (Houser). Motion carried unanimously. Borough Manager was tasked with publicly advertising the new meeting date.

**N. Department Reports**

1. **Police Department** – Chief Loughran gave an update on department activities including a recent meeting regarding regionalization with the PA Department of Community and Economic Development.
2. **Public Works Department** –Public Works Director Jerry Poruban provided a written report and gave updates on department activities including water main breaks/repairs, replacement of malfunctioning meters and setting up a leak response trailer to be better prepared going forward.

3. **Community Development Department** - Community Development Director Danae Koss gave an update on recent activities including an upcoming meeting to kick-off fundraising for the Ebensburg Endowment Fund, a wrap-up of the Sled Riding event held at the Fairgrounds, Art in Bloom updates and a reminder that the Ebensburg is hosting the Borough's Association Meeting and Dinner at the YPCC on April 21<sup>st</sup>.
  4. **Recreation Department** – Recreation Director Rebecca Williamson reported on activities including recent Bingo events, new equipment installed in the gym at the YPCC, recent meetings to discuss the dredging and lighting projects, updating field leases and activities at the Tennis Center.
  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** – Mr. Tusing reported that there were two violations for garbage on a porch and in a yard. No violations were issued in January but two warnings were issued.
- O. **Media Comments/Questions** – None.
- P. **Public Comment** – None.
- Q. **Executive Session** – None.

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

Meeting Adjourned: 7:08 PM

Minutes Recorded by: Danae Koss, Community Development Director