

The regular monthly meeting of the Ebensburg Borough Council was called to order on Monday, March 30, 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: Terry Carcella, Incoming Borough Manager  
Joe Loughran, Chief of Police  
Chris Bopp, Assistant Chief of Police  
Danea Koss, Community Development Director  
Jerry Poruban, Public Works Director  
Rebecca Williamson, Recreation Director  
Matt Gribler, Solicitor  
Luke Byrne, Inframark  
Matt Koenigsberg, GFT  
Renee Martin-Nagle, Municipal Authority  
Matt Churella, The Altoona Mirror  
Julie Pittman, The Mountaineer Journal

Audience: 2

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. (Houser)  
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 minutes of the February 23, 2026 regular monthly meeting of Borough Council.
5. Approve the financial statements for February.
6. Approve payment of bills for March.

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

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

**F. Mayor's Report** – None.

**G. Council President** – None.

**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.

**I. Recreation Committee** – None.

**J. Street Committee**

**1. Parking Enforcement**

Ms. Houser reported that staff continues to evaluate options for parking management and enforcement and will give recommendations in the future.

**2. LED Streetlight Conversion and Repair Agreement with FirstEnergy**

Ms. Houser reported that FirstEnergy Pennsylvania is upgrading all company-owned streetlights from non-LED to energy efficient LED fixtures. They have requested the borough to confirm the acceptance of LED streetlights with an agreement. This is to be done in 2027 and at a later date. Staff will meet with representatives of the light company to decide what size lights should be installed and if there are any lights they wish to remove or add.

Ms. Houser made a motion to approve the LED Streetlight Conversion and Repair Agreement with FirstEnergy. (Murphy) Motion passed unanimously.

**K. Administration Committee**

**1. Borough Manager Vacancy**

Ms. Jacoby reported that over the past several weeks, Council members have continued to review applications and conduct interviews with qualified applicants. After an exhaustive search, a clear lead candidate emerged in the past week. All pre-employment checks and verifications have been completed. The search committee proposes Mr. Terry Carcella for full

Council consideration. The start date for Mr. Carcella is April 1<sup>st</sup>. The annual salary is \$100,000, with benefits consistent with the current position.

Ms. Jacoby made a motion to approve the employment contract with Mr. Terry Carcella. (Houser) Motion passed unanimously.

**L. Human Relations & Diversity Committee**

**1. Hometown Here Banners**

Mr. Tusing 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 continues to finalize details with the VFW in preparation for the program roll-out.

**M. General Business**

**1. Local Shares Grant**

Mr. Tusing reported that a grant was received for Memorial Fields and requests for bids were advertised. Two bids were received and opened on March 17, 2026. One bid was from Elite Outdoor Services for \$41,999.87 and another was from Becker Lawn Care for \$68,000. The bid from Becker was deemed incomplete because it was not accompanied by the required bid security.

Ms. Houser made a motion to approve the lowest bid received from Elite Outdoor Services in the amount of \$41,999.87. (Jacoby) Motion passed with one abstention from Mr. Murphy due to a potential conflict of interest.

**4. Ebensburg Ballfield Leases**

Ms. Stevens made a motion to approve the Bishop Carroll lease in the amount of \$750/year for the First Energy Field, and the EYL lease in the amount of \$750/year for the McDonald's Field. (Kuhar) Motion passed unanimously.

**5. Public Works Skid Steer and Street Sweeper**

Mr. Tusing reported that Council has received proposals from Stephenson Equipment, Inc. for a 2026 JCB Tracked Skid Steer and associated necessary equipment for a total of \$88,216.00 and a lightly used 2024 Stewart Amos Star Street Sweeper in the amount of \$212,460.00. The prices are off the state contract and the necessary funds were included in the 2026 capital budget. Since both pieces of equipment were being considered from the same company, staff requested a further discount, and Stephenson gave the borough an additional \$3,500 off of the price of the sweeper.

Ms. Stevens made a motion to approve the purchase of the 2026 skid steer and equipment in the amount of \$88,216.00 and the 2024 Street Sweeper for the \$212,460.00 for a grand total of \$300,676.00. (Houser) Motion passed unanimously.

**6. Assistant Chief of Police**

Chief Loughran reported that the Borough's Civil Service Commission held written and oral examinations for the vacancy of Assistant Police Chief. The rules and regulations per the Civil Service were applied and a recommendation was given to Council to consider for the position.

Ms. Stevens made a motion to appoint Christopher Bopp as the Assistant Chief of Police of Ebensburg at a rate of \$33.15 per hour. (Murphy) Motion passed unanimously.

**7. Resignation of Cecilia Houser**

Mr. Tusing reported that Ms. Cecilia Houser has accepted new employment and to avoid any conflicts of interest in the future, has decided to resign from Council, effective March 31, 2026.

Ms. Jacoby made a motion to accept Ms. Houser's resignation with regrets and to advertise for letters of interest from residents to fill the seat through December 2027. (Stevens) Motion passed unanimously.

Ms. Houser read a statement of thanks and appreciation to the residents of Ebensburg Borough and to her fellow members of Council, and various members of Council shared their positive comments regarding her valued contributions throughout her many years of service on Council.

**8. AML/AMD Grant**

Mr. Tusing reported that the Borough was awarded a \$4,093,234.20 grant through the Abandoned Mine Land and Acid Drainage Grant Program. The largest component of this grant is for the dredging of Lake Rowena. Prior to bidding the remainder of the grant, only the dredging is being bid at this time so the costs for the remainder of the project can be determined.

Ms. Houser made a motion to authorize the advertisement and formal bidding process for the dredging of Lake Rowena. (Kuhar) Motion passed unanimously.

**N. Department Reports**

- 1. Police Department** – Chief Loughran gave an update on department activities including on a recent meeting with David Steffen of DCED on the police regionalization study. He also commended newly appointed Assistant Chief of Police Chris Bopp, highlighting the rigorous procedures implemented for his selection.
- 2. Public Works Department** – Public Works Director Jerry Poruban provided a written report and gave updates on department activities including thanking Council for approving the purchases of the street sweeper and skid steer. He also gave an update on fixing water leaks and completion of recent outstanding projects.
- 3. Community Development Department** - Community Development Director Danaea Koss gave an update on recent activities including the upcoming Art in Bloom Spring Art Show, Brighten the Burg clean-up day, the Cambria County Borough's Association Spring Meeting & Dinner and the status of the Ebensburg Endowment Fund.

4. **Recreation Department** – Recreation Director Rebecca Williamson reported on activities including finalization of the ballfield leases, events at the Tennis Center, hiring of swimming pool lifeguards and the Lake Rowena project.
  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** – Mr. Tusing reported that a hearing was held on March 25, 2026 to consider a variance for 167 Lovell Avenue. The variance was applied for the rear and side setbacks for the construction of a garage.
  9. **Codes Enforcement Property Violations Issued** – Mr. Tusing reported that there was one violation issued for a leaking heating oil tank.
- O. **Media Comments/Questions** – Ms. Julie Pittman, the Mountaineer-Journal asked for the spelling of Mr. Terry Carcella's name.
- P. **Public Comment** – None.
- Q. **Executive Session** – None.

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

Meeting Adjourned: 7:08 PM

Minutes Recorded by: Danae Koss, Community Development Director