

The regular monthly meeting of the Ebensburg Borough Council was called to order on Monday September 28, 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
Susan Kuhar
William Link
Mike Murphy
Sue Stevens
Absent: Max Cafazza, Junior Councilor
Others: Terry Carcella, Borough Manager
Randy Datsko, Mayor
Chris Bopp, Assistant Chief of Police
Danea Koss, Community Development Director
Jerry Poruban, Public Works Director
Rebecca Williamson, Recreation Director
Matt Gribler, Solicitor
Alli McKee, Parking Enforcement Officer
Julie Pittman, The Mountaineer Journal

Audience: 6

A. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

B. **Public Comments** – Mr. Dennis Simmers, 428 Vetera Road, Ebensburg expressed concerns with moving to the ParkMobile app and suggested doubling the rate and keeping it the same as it is now with the coin-operated meters.

C. **Consent Agenda**

Mr. Ball 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 report of Inframark for the Collections & Distributions Report.
4. Approve the minutes of the August 24, 2026 regular monthly meeting of Borough Council.
5. Approve the financial statements for August.
6. Approve payment of bills for September.

D. **Appointments to Address Council** –

Mr. Brian Nielson and Mr. Craig Kelly, both captains with Dauntless Fire Company, requested a letter of support for their bid to host the 2031 Fireman's Convention, August 14 – 16, 2031. Ms. Jacoby made a motion to approve the letter of support. (Kuhar) Motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Eric Danchanko, owner of High Street Body Shop located at 128 West High Street, expressed concerns over the increase in parking fees and the move to the ParkMobile app. He shared that his business brings 300-400 a day into downtown and it will be highly affected by these changes. He asked Council to consider an alternative meter-head solution that he found online that may be able to be swapped out with the current meter-heads.

- E. **Consideration of Any Motion(s) to Amend Agenda** – Mr. Tusing added that staff is requesting to add the advertisement of sale of Borough property at the end of Meadowbrook Road as previously discussed by Council. The appraisal of the Meadowbrook Road parcel that was received today. Ms. Stevens made a motion to approve the addition of the advertisement of Borough land for sale to the public to the agenda. (Link) Motion passed unanimously.
- F. **Mayor's Report** – Mayor Datsko reported that outgoing Junior Councilor Cafazza was unable to attend the meeting to receive his certificate of appreciation. We hope to see him at the October meeting.
- G. **Council President** – Mr. Tusing encouraged everyone to exercise their right to vote in the upcoming November elections.
- 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**
 - 1. **Coastal Engineering Report on Lake Rowena Dredging Progress**
Ms. Jacoby reported that the most recent activity report and pictures from the dredging project are presented in the supporting documents.
- J. **Street Committee**
 - 1. **Parking Enforcement Regulations Ordinance Amendment**
Ms. Jacoby reported that Council previously voted to adjust parking rates and fines and move forward with the implementation of the ParkMobile app. Those changes require an update of several sections of the parking ordinance, and a draft Ordinance had been included in Council's packet. Subsequent to creation of that draft, several additions/corrections were recommended by staff as follows:

- 11-514. Monthly Parking Passes – Under section F., delete line stating: “In the case where parking spaces are so designated for a particular lot, Section F above does not apply.”
- 11-515. Exceptions – Add Section C. Borough Council shall retain the right to approve the purchase of additional parking passes at the then-current rate for a residence or business that in Council’s sole determination would experience significant hardship if limited to a single pass. Granting of the right to purchase additional passes is subject to the availability of permit spaces within the given lot, and the borough shall retain the right to designate the specific spaces within said lot to be available for purchase as additional passes.

Mr. Link made a motion to update the proposed ordinance to reflect these two items. (Ball)
Motion passed unanimously.

Ms. Jacoby then made a motion to table any further action with regard to approval of the revised ordinance until the October 2026 meeting so that Council has time to review information presented at this meeting. (Ball) Motion passed unanimously.

2. Borough Building Front and Side Door Replacement Quotes

Mr. Link reported that borough management has been seeking quotes to replace the two deficient glass door and window units with one 36 x 84 front door and one 42 x 84 side door. The installation will include an electric striker installed for future locking and security.

Three quotes were received and are as follows:

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|-----------------------|-----|----------|
| - Bowser Construction | CGI | \$15,840 |
| - Al’s Glass | | \$18,600 |
| - Allegheny Glass | | \$23,900 |

Mr. Link made a motion to award the contract to the lowest qualified company, Bowser Construction in the amount of \$15,840.00. (Ball) Motion passed unanimously.

3. Appraisal for Meadowbrook Road Lot (item added by majority vote of Council)

Mr. Carcella reported that the appraisal had been received today for the Meadowbrook Road borough-owned lot located in Crestwood Estates. It was appraised at \$128,000.00. It is also noted that it is to be advertised with the disclosure that the property once served as a borough dump site and that the borough makes no representations regarding the environmental condition of the property or its suitability for use.

Mr. Link made a motion to advertise the lot for sale by sealed bid to be received by November 23rd. As required by law, the minimum bid must be \$128,000.00. (Jacoby). Motion passed unanimously.

K. Administration Committee

1. Acker Acquisitions Assessment Settlement

Ms. Kuhar reported that Acker Acquisitions is the current property owner of the former Grade School at 313 West High Street and they have appealed the tax assessment for the property, resulting in a settlement ruling issued by the Cambria County Court of Common Pleas.

Ms. Jacoby made a motion to approve the Common Pleas Court Settlement. (Kuhar) Motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Gribler noted that the property was now assessed at \$750k although it had recently sold within the last year for \$720k.

2. Part Time Facilities Maintenance Position

Ms. Kuhar reported that Council had previously granted approval of advertising this position which would have supervision from the Public Works and Recreation Director.

Ms. Kuhar made it a matter of record that Robert Ramsey was hired to fill a part-time position at the rate of \$17.00 per hour with no other benefits.

3. Planning Commission Resignation from Jessica Lieb

Ms. Kuhar reported that Ms. Jessica Lieb has submitted her letter of resignation from the Planning Commission.

Ms. Kuhar made a motion to regretfully accept Ms. Lieb's letter of resignation and to advertise for interested volunteers to fill the position. (Ball) Motion passed unanimously.

4. Request for Appointment of Assistant Emergency Management Coordinator for Ebensburg Borough

Ms. Stevens reported that Mr. Nicolas Burkhart submitted a letter of interest to Council and the Mayor for a volunteer appointment as "Assistant Emergency Management Coordinator" for Ebensburg Borough.

Ms. Stevens made a motion to appoint Mr. Burkhart to the position. (Jacoby) Motion passed unanimously.

5. Airport RFP for Operations in 2027

Ms. Stevens reported that Council recently advertised a proposal for a contract to operate the Ebensburg Airport. A line item in the draft budget displays some funding for improvements at the airport and a recent permit for the demolition of hanger "B" was obtained by the Borough at the request of our insurance carrier. The option to proceed with either the demolition of all or part of hanger B, or the repair and replacement of the hanger must be discussed with a new operator in any proposal for consideration by the Borough. Proposals are to be submitted by October 19th to the Borough Manager's Office.

L. Human Relations & Diversity Committee – None.

M. General Business

1. Resolution #2026-03 Designating Ebensburg Area Ambulance Association as the Primary Emergency Medical Services Provider for Ebensburg Borough

Ms. Jacoby made a motion to approve Resolution #2026-03 designating Ebensburg Area Ambulance Association as the Borough's primary emergency medical services provider. (Kuhar) Motion passed unanimously.

2. Borough Insurance Policies/UPMC Health Care

Mr. Carcella reported that the borough's recent policy renewal with our provider "The Health Insurance Place" will not be available for any rate comparison until October. The borough was quoted a price for the same coverage from Municipal Benefit Services (MBS) for services beginning in January of 2027 through December of 2027 with a cost savings of between 2.5% to 14.3% vs our current plan, depending upon which plan the employee chooses in the coverage documents. This is before we get the anticipated price quote from our current provider and that is expected to increase for 2027. The proposal from MBS was discussed with the AFSME union in recent negotiations. The proposal was sent out to the Police union for comment.

Ms. Jacoby made a motion to contract with MBS for UPMC health care services and coverage for all plans including vision, dental, and disability that will be the same or better coverage options for the year 2027. (Stevens) Motion passed unanimously.

3. Electric Generator for Municipal Building Sealed Bids

Mr. Carcella reported that there were no bids received for the second time for the installation of an emergency backup generator and electrical panel work. The consensus of Council is to wait and rebid in March of 2027.

4. Court Decision and Skills games Enforcement

Mr. Carcella reported that the PA Supreme Court issued a determination that skill games are gambling devices, giving the PA General Assembly until October 13th, 2026, to issue new regulations. To date, no new regulations have been agreed upon. Unless new regulations or an extension of the deadline occurs in the next 15 days, current law requires the removal of all skills gaming machines from all establishments on or before October 13, 2026.

As a proactive step, the Borough will give notice to those businesses where we have knowledge of the presence of skills devices. This will give them and their vendors time to remove them before the 10/13 deadline if no action is taken by the legislature. Otherwise, staff will make plans to remove and store the machines, coordinating such action between the Police and Public Works departments.

Staff will continue to monitor potential developments at the state level and consult with the Borough Solicitor on legal authority to enforce the removal of the devices.

N. Department Reports

- 1. Police Department** – Assistant Chief Bopp gave an update on department activities including no issues at Potatofest on Saturday and that the department recently had two clean audit reports.

2. **Public Works Department** – Public Works Director Jerry Poruban gave updates on department activities including preparations for DEP inspections, receipt of a new truck, getting the leaf vac ready and getting a salt order placed for delivery.
3. **Community Development Department** - Community Development Director Danae Koss reported on recent activities including PotatoFest, Trick or Treat, Fall Foliage Ride, kicking off plans for Dickens, the upcoming SFU RED Day community project, and Volunteer Appreciation Night. Ms. Koss also stated that she would follow up again with Mr. Cooper of Cooper Signs to find out when the Lake Rowena entrance sign restoration project would be completed.
4. **Recreation Department** – Recreation Director Rebecca Williamson reported on activities including preparations for submission of a new AMLER grant for dredging of Jenck’s Dam and improvements to the swimming pool area, and update on the dredging project at Lake Rowena and concession stand project, the upcoming Halloween Party & Vendor Show, Tennis Clinics and Basketball League registrations.
5. **Building Permit Enforcement** - A monthly building permit report is included in Council’s packet.
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 report.
8. **Ebensburg Zoning Hearing Board** – No report.
9. **Codes Enforcement Property Violations Issued** – Warnings issued.

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

P. **Public Comment** – None.

Q. **Executive Session** – None.

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

A reminder was given that the October meeting would be held on 19th rather than the 26th.

Meeting Adjourned: 7:27 PM

Minutes Recorded by: Danae Koss, Community Development Director