

BOROUGH OF AMBRIDGE
MINUTES
Council Meeting: June 8, 2021
Live Meeting – Council Chambers



Executive Session: Personnel Matters.

- **Roll Call:**

Present: Mr. Cafarelli
 Mr. Dunn
 Mr. Flannery
 Mr. Gill
 Mrs. Miller
 Mr. Mikulich
 Mrs. Tessaro
 Mayor Drewnowski

Also Present: Executive Secretary Marilyn Sheleheda, Chief Gottschalk and Solicitor Start via phone call

Absent: Mario Leone.

- **Invocation** – the invocation was conducted by Mrs. Barbara Costa, Trinity School for Ministry,

- **Pledge of Allegiance**

- **Presentations -**

Dollar General Site Plan – request for Conditional Approval from Council

Bob Gage, SVP of Development Services GBT Realty Corporation presented to Council the plans on building the Dollar General Plus on 19th and Duss Avenue. He showed Council samples of the Nichiha Fiberboard that the Planning Commission requested for the outside of the building; it will have a red brick look like the building that is there now. He answered questions posed to him by Council about the parking lot- entrances and exits will be on Duss Ave, the location of the building, and lighting of the parking lot, if it will be more organized than the current DG. They would own the property and Dollar General would be leasing the property & building from them. He also stated that Dollar General does not own any of the properties- they lease all of them, however, GBT Realty does not own all of the leased properties around the country to Dollar General – there are other developers that own other DG. Mr. Gage commented that he did contact the other developer that owns the Merchant St. store and updated them on the situation on Merchant St. – DG has an obligation to each developer to keep the property in good condition, clean, insured, etc.

Mr. Gage stated they would be spending in the neighborhood of \$900,000.00 - \$1,000,000.00 on this project. The DG they will be building is a Dollar General PLUS and has an extra 1,500 square feet of floor for food such as produce and packaged meats, a mini grocery store. Mr. Mikulich asked if water and sewer authorities are on board, Mr. Gage stated yes, that he received the sewer approval today. Mr. Gage asked for Council’s conditional approval so that they can move forward with building plans.

Motion made by Mr. Gill, seconded by Mrs. Miller. a roll call vote was taken:

Council	VOTE	Council	Vote
Mr. Cafarelli	Yes	Mrs. Miller	Yes
Mr. Dunn	Yes	Mrs. Tessaro	Yes
Mr. Flannery	Yes	Mr. Mikulich	Yes
Mr. Gill	Yes	Mayor Drewnowski	
Motion carried.			

- **Citizen’s Participation On/Off Agenda Items (5 minutes per speaker)**

- 1) **Mr. Ted Chapman – 97 -12th St. Ambridge, PA**

Mr. Chapman commented on the Waste Management issues. Mr. Mikulich stated that Council has had a thorough discussion about their contract. We have to give them a specific period of time to straighten out their act or we will ask the solicitor will revoke their contract. Mrs. Miller stated that it’s her biggest regret but there is a process to it, she said if it was up to her – we would get rid of them tomorrow.

- 2) **Mrs. Boykins from 11th St.**

Thanked council for getting signs up and getting her street swept.

- 3) **Ms. Victoria Jackman, 306 15th Street**

She commented on the PALM concerts that were on the agenda. She has no problem with the music, but she did not want to have the street blocked off and have her parking displaced during the concerts – if she needed to leave her house for any reason – she wanted to be able to without walking a great distance to get to her vehicle. In addition, she did not want to have a Port-a-John near her house. Mrs. Miller questioned here about the volume of the music – Mrs. Jackman doesn’t hear it except in one room.

- 4) **Mandy Inches -612 Glenwood Ave.**

The abandoned house (612) next to hers is leaning on her house and it has been for years. She had a new roof put on and the roofers could not get a ladder on that side of her house because that house next door. Mr. Mikulich asked Fire Chief Gottschalk about this situation – the Chief commented that property owner is in the citation process now and it is on the Beaver County Emergency Demo list. It is a long process and the list is long because it contains properties from all over Beaver County that need help at the County level. Chief commented that he would look into it further.

- **Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes April 13, 2021
(May 11th meeting was cancelled)**

Mrs. Miller made the motion to accept the minutes, seconded by Mr. Flannery; a roll call was taken:

Council	VOTE	Council	Vote
Mr. Cafarelli	Yes	Mrs. Miller	Yes
Mr. Dunn	Yes	Mrs. Tessaro	Yes
Mr. Flannery	Yes	Mr. Mikulich	Yes
Mr. Gill	Yes	Mayor Drewnowski	
Motion carried.			

- **Approval of Previous Special Meeting Minutes May 17, 2021**

Mr. Flannery made the motion to accept the minutes, seconded by Mrs. Tessaro; a roll call was taken:

Council	VOTE	Council	Vote
Mr. Cafarelli	Yes	Mrs. Miller	Yes
Mr. Dunn	Yes	Mrs. Tessaro	Yes
Mr. Flannery	Yes	Mr. Mikulich	Yes
Mr. Gill	Yes	Mayor Drewnowski	
Motion carried.			

• **Borough Bills and Expenses**

Motion to pay the bills was made by Mrs. Miller, seconded by Mr. Flannery; a roll call vote was taken:

1. General Fund Unpaid: \$32,373.73 Paid: \$145,275.79
2. Grants / Special Project Fund Unpaid: \$3,371.12
3. Recreation Fund Unpaid: \$0.00 Paid: \$0.00
4. Escrow Fund Unpaid: \$0.00 5. Police Pension Fund Unpaid: \$0.00
6. Service Employees Pension Fund Unpaid: \$0.00
7. Firemen's Pension Fund Unpaid: \$0.00
8. Drug Investigation Fund Unpaid: \$0.00
9. Fire Apparatus Replacement Fund Unpaid: \$0.00

Council	VOTE	Council	Vote
Mr. Cafarelli	Yes	Mrs. Miller	Yes
Mr. Dunn	Yes	Mrs. Tessaro	Yes
Mr. Flannery	Yes	Mr. Mikulich	Yes
Mr. Gill	Yes	Mayor Drewnowski	
Motion carried.			

• **Consent Agenda:**

Those matters included under the consent agenda are self-explanatory and are not expected to require further review or discussion. Items will be enacted by one motion. If discussion is desired by any member of Council, that item must be removed from the consent agenda and considered separately.

Removing #4 from the Consent Agenda because of some concerns. Will table it until July meeting.

Motion to accept remaining items listed on the Consent Agenda made by Mr. Cafarelli, seconded by Mrs. Miller: all were in favor.

- 1) Borough Financial Report - acknowledge receipt of the Borough Treasurer's Report.

**Treasurer's Report
June 8, 2021**

Marilyn Sheleheda - Treasurer

General Fund Analysis

\$1,504,535.10	General Fund Bank Account Balance as of:	-June 8, 2021 -3:00 pm
\$283,289.44	All (including today's checks) Outstanding Checks as of:	-June 8, 2021 -3:00 pm
\$1,221,245.66	Available Balance as of:	-June 8, 2021 -3:00 pm
General Fund Bank Summary:	Totals that cleared the bank are as follows:	
	Deposits:	\$386,698.31

Debits:		\$290,310.59
-which include the following:		
60	Checks	\$120,104.03
2	Payroll (s)	\$170,206.56
Other Fund Balances as of June 8, 2021 3:00 pm Ambridge		
\$201.01	Bicentennial 2024 Fund.	
\$775.33	Ambridge Borough Drug Investigation Fund	
\$21,559.64	Ambridge Fire Apparatus Replacement Fund	
\$23,673.50	Escrow Disbursement Account	
\$22,912.69	Grants/Special Funds	
\$195,822.18	Liquid Fuels Fund	
\$35,877.96	Recreation Fund	
\$27,758.12	Sinking Fund	3
\$328,580.43	Total Other Funds Balances (Restricted Use)	

- 2) Approval of Handicap parking space for resident located at 633 Glenwood Avenue.
- 3) Approval of Handicap parking space for resident located at 226 Locust Street.
- 4) Approval of Street Closure on the Dead-End portion of 15th Street for the purposes of Performing Arts Legends Museum (PALM) to host their Celebrate America Summer Concert Series on the 1st & 3rd Sunday afternoons of July, August, and September between the hours of 1pm to 5 pm.

New Business - Items for Discussion:

- A. Consider action to approve the installation of Emergency Access Gate located on Alley “A” at the dead-end near 11th Street by Country Fab in the amount of \$1,250.00 as recommended by the Police Chief, Fire Chief, and Borough Manager. Some discussion on who will be able to use this gate. Moving companies, any company that needs to deliver large quantities and they will have to contact the Borough first. Motion made by Mr. Flannery, seconded by Mrs. Miller. A roll call vote was taken:

Council	VOTE	Council	Vote
Mr. Cafarelli	Yes	Mrs. Miller	Yes
Mr. Dunn	Yes	Mrs. Tessaro	Yes
Mr. Flannery	Yes	Mr. Mikulich	Yes
Mr. Gill	Yes	Mayor Drewnowski	
Motion carried.			

- B. Consider action to approve the fabrication of Aluminum side rail for the Public Works new flat bed truck by Country Fab in the amount of \$3,405.00. A question was raised if we received other bids. Mr. Cafarelli stated that we do not need bids if it’s under \$10,000.00. Mr. Mikulich added that this is an Ambridge business that we have been doing business with him for years and they give the Borough best prices. Motion made by Mr. Cafarelli, seconded by Mr. Miller. A roll call vote was taken

Council	VOTE	Council	Vote
Mr. Cafarelli	Yes	Mrs. Miller	Yes
Mr. Dunn	Yes	Mrs. Tessaro	Yes
Mr. Flannery	Yes	Mr. Mikulich	Yes
Mr. Gill	Yes	Mayor Drewnowski	
Motion carried.			

- C. Consider action to provide a donation to the National Enforcement Memorial and Museum in the amount of \$1,000 in memoriam to help cover costs of the Memorial engraving and Museum plaque for National Law Enforcement week. Chief DeLuca explained in detail that it would appear on the National Monument for Mark Romutis. Questions: Mr. Gill would like a motion to be made for a plaque to be made for Chief Romutis here in Ambridge. He stated that if Chief Romutis didn't come back to work for Ambridge he might still be alive, so in order to honor him, we should have a plaque here in Ambridge. Mr. Mikulich stated that we could do that also, but this is to honor the fallen police officers nationally. Mrs. Miller commented that maybe his family would like to take a trip to see it. Mr. Mikulich, we need a separate motion. Motion made by Mrs. Miller, seconded by Mr. Dunn. A roll call vote was taken.

Council	VOTE	Council	Vote
Mr. Cafarelli	Yes	Mrs. Miller	Yes
Mr. Dunn	Yes	Mrs. Tessaro	Yes
Mr. Flannery	Yes	Mr. Mikulich	Yes
Mr. Gill	Yes	Mayor Drewnowski	
Motion carried.			

- D. Consider action to accept the resignation of Part-time fire fighter Jordan Turner. Motion made by Mr. Flannery – with deep regret, seconded by Mr. Dunn. A roll call vote was taken.

Council	VOTE	Council	Vote
Mr. Cafarelli	Yes	Mrs. Miller	Yes
Mr. Dunn	Yes	Mrs. Tessaro	Yes
Mr. Flannery	Yes	Mr. Mikulich	Yes
Mr. Gill	Yes	Mayor Drewnowski	
Motion carried.			

- E. Consider action to hire Part-Time Fire Fighters: (Pending Physical & Drug screening) *Shayne Michael Quinn. Motion was made by Mrs. Tessaro, seconded by Mrs. Miller. A roll call vote was taken.

Council	Vote	Council	Vote
Mr. Cafarelli	Yes	Mrs. Miller	Yes
Mr. Dunn	Yes	Mrs. Tessaro	Yes
Mr. Flannery	Yes	Mr. Mikulich	Yes
Mr. Gill	No	Mayor Drewnowski	

Motion Carried.

*Alexander F. Bolea

Motion was made by Mrs. Tessaro, seconded by Mr. Flannery. A roll call vote was taken.

Council	Vote	Council	Vote
Mr. Cafarelli	Yes	Mrs. Miller	Yes
Mr. Dunn	Yes	Mrs. Tessaro	Yes
Mr. Flannery	Yes	Mr. Mikulich	Yes
Mr. Gill	No	Mayor Drewnowski	

Motion Carried.

- **Official Reports**

Public Safety – Mr. Flannery.

Meeting will be next Tuesday – 9am – we will take under advisement two items concerning the police.

Mayor’s Report – Mr. Drewnowski

One month ago we heard PNC bank was closing and he contacted them to see if they would reconsider because we lost Citizen’s Bank – He said they told him they do not take closing a branch lightly, it’s been in the works for a long time. All employees were furloughed or relocated, and safe deposit boxes are emptied. Mayor also commented that he was approached from Cora Pucci and the Quilt of Valor Foundation. They are an organization that gives quilts that were hand made by this group to Veterans as a gesture that they are always loved and it’s like a hug. They asked me to present two Veterans with these quilts. We will do this on June 16th at 5pm. The public is welcome. One is Mr. Terry Bonjour served on an aircraft carrier – the other is Leonard Gazda – tank driver.

Mr. Mikulich commented about Public Safety – the second year in a row the Fire Dept has come thru with Covid Grant money, last year they received \$24,000.00 and this year they received \$25,000.00 in grants. Chief Gottschalk commented that the volunteers received \$14,000.00 and the paid fire dept received \$95,000.00 for breathing apparatus that we haven’t heard anything yet, but it looks like we will receive word in July.

Code Dept.– Mrs. Tessaro

May 5th meeting – discussed Waste Management which we are all on the same page. We also talked about the abandoned properties that Public Works has to cut the grass. Code sent out 105 high grass letters. A letter or citation might have been already sent out. If you have a complaint or question call Code Enforcement because posting on Face Book does not solve the issue. Electronic Recycling will take place August 7th and Tire Recycling will be in October. Mr. Dunn asked if we could meet with the Magistrate and talk about the fines. Comment was made that our fines to have Public Works cut the grass is now \$500.00 per incident. Magistrate was in the audience and explained the procedure on these citations and/or arrests for not answering the citations. Because of Covid not much could be done, but now we can proceed and take the steps to impose fines. Mrs. Tessaro commented that Donnie Larrick stated in their code meeting that these people who receive citations seem to cut the grass the day before the hearing and bring pictures and what can you do at that point.

Public Works – Mr. Cafarelli

They discussed complaints about vehicles that hop curbs and parking partially on sidewalks, he was going to ask chief DeLuca if there is something that can be done.

They also discussed street sweeping all over town. Discussed seasonal part time for Public Works and challenges to find the right person – right now its hard to find anyone to work – the Sewickley Post Office is offering \$19 an hour and they aren’t getting any applications. Also grass cutting Borough properties as well as abandoned properties. He received a letter about the cracking on the asphalt in the new street scape. The letter stipulates that it is not the contractors’ fault, it’s the old concrete and brick pieces that are coming up from underneath. Mr. Cafarelli state he doesn’t know for sure, he is not an engineer. He stated that it needs to be looked into. Mr. Mikulich commented we have until October to state any issues as warranty. Mr. Mikulich posed the question to the Nira Engineers that were present. Mr. Norquist from Nira state that it is a possibility that is the reason, and it would have been expensive to dig down deeper to remove all the old paving. He recommends sealing up the cracks the asphalt as soon as possible before winter.

Motion to advertise for a full-time position for Public Works Dept. made by Mr. Cafarelli, seconded by Mr. Gill. A roll call vote was taken.

Council	VOTE	Council	Vote
Mr. Cafarelli	Yes	Mrs. Miller	Yes
Mr. Dunn	Yes	Mrs. Tessaro	Yes
Mr. Flannery	Yes	Mr. Mikulich	Yes
Mr. Gill	Yes	Mayor Drewnowski	
Motion carried.			

Parks & Recreation – Mrs. Miller

No meeting this month but she and Mr. Leone have a few meetings coming up but we were waiting until we got a new engineer for Henning St. park – Mr. Leone is finishing up the grant for the park and if we get this grant it will exceed the amount of the prospective amount. It’s a LWCF grant. She wants to meet with a few places that have splash pads already to get the pros and cons so we know what to expect.

Mr. Mikulich thanked Mrs. Miller for working with Mr. Kauer and getting grant money in the past for our parks.

Mr. Mikulich commented that the Borough Engineer Chis Suehr has retired, and we will continue to use Nira as our engineering firm. Mr. Mikulich asked Mr. Norquist to introduced himself. Mr. Norquist states will be taking over Mr. Suehr’s duties until his associate Mr. Brunner takes over. Mr. Brunner is not a P.E. yet, he will be testing next spring.

Motion to accept the Official Reports

Motion was made by Mr. Flannery, seconded by Mrs. Mrs. Miller; a roll call vote was taken:

Council	VOTE	Council	Vote
Mr. Cafarelli	Yes	Mrs. Miller	Yes
Mr. Dunn	Yes	Mrs. Tessaro	Yes
Mr. Flannery	Yes	Mr. Mikulich	Yes
Mr. Gill	Yes	Mayor Drewnowski	
Motion carried.			

Other Unfinished Business:

- Yellow Line on 10th St. between Kennedy Dr and Ohioview Ave. Mr. Cafarelli suggested that it should be installed because of access to the alley. Now that the gate is being installed it should still be painted. If there is a vehicle on both sides of the street – you still could not drive anything thru there or make the turn. Mr. Mikulich states that the yellow line is illegal because we do not have an ordinance, or we put up 2-hour parking signs or we make an ordinance to make the yellow line legal. Mr. Flannery stated that we are in violation because our ordinance states there is no yellow line. Mr. Cafarelli suggested that we take it back to committee. Chief Gottschalk spoke about there are other streets that need to be addressed as well. This item was tabled.
- Plaque for Romutis and place it in Council Chambers here at the Ambridge Borough Building Motion made by Mr. Gill, seconded by Mr. Cafarelli.

Council	VOTE	Council	Vote
Mr. Cafarelli	Yes	Mrs. Miller	Yes
Mr. Dunn	Yes	Mrs. Tessaro	Yes
Mr. Flannery	Yes	Mr. Mikulich	Yes
Mr. Gill	Yes	Mayor Drewnowski	
Motion carried.			

- Mr. Gill suggested the Borough start to make proclamations to recognize the older businesses still in business in Ambridge. We made some in the past but there are more businesses that we haven't recognized yet: Action Tire, Bohn funeral Home, City Heating & Plumbing, Michael Harris Dental, Kasper/Hahn Funeral Home (new name Hahn/Alvarez), Karnavas Vending, Orbit Inn, John Pournaras Tax Agency, Valley Realty. Mr. Mikulich stated it did not need a motion, just ask the Borough Manger to start giving the proclamations.
- Mr. Cafarelli suggested that the Borough make a proclamation to recognize Sophia Chickos – 53 yrs. employee of the Water Authority.
- **Adjournment** –
Motion to adjourn was made by Mrs. Miller seconded by Mr. Cafarelli; motion carried unanimously – meeting was adjourned at 8:05 PM.