**Borough of Ambridge**

**MINUTES**

**Council Meeting: August 10, 2021**

**Live Meeting – Council Chambers**

* **Executive Session** – Personnel matters and employment.
* **Roll Call:**

Present: Mr. Cafarelli

Mr. Dunn

Mr. Flannery

Mr. Gill

Mrs. Tessaro

Mr. Mikulich

Mayor Drewnowski

Also Present: Borough Manager Leone, Chief DeLuca, Chief Gottschalk and Solicitor Start via phone call

Absent: Mrs. Miller

* **Invocation** – the invocation was conducted by Mrs. Barbara Costa, Trinity School for Ministry,
* **Pledge of Allegiance**
* **Presentations**
* **Citizen’s Participation On/Off Agenda Items (5 minutes per speaker)**

Anne Bacher – 956 Beaver Rd – She asked about Zoning on fences. There are statements in the Zoning ordinance that states how large, where fences can be installed and so forth. But I couldn’t find anything about hedges. She talked to Code and they told her to go a Council meeting because there was nothing they could do. She has a situation near her. Mr. Cafarelli comments about size of fences. Mr. Drewnowski said there is an ordinance on height, he thinks it’s 6 ft. – that’s what he was told by Code when he had a situation up the street near him. Mr. Mikulich suggested that her committee look at it and bring suggestions to the Borough Manager.

Dennis Lapic – 1427 Church St. – He requested that the Historic District Economic Development Corp. sent recommendations of the review of Historic to upgrade ordinances. He wanted to know if the Boro has a review committee. He has stated that the historic house on 14th St – is putting new siding up – which should have went to the historic board but didn’t – and they are putting up vinyl.

John Ven -715 -19th St – He commented about defunded the Fire Dept. He suggested Council consider to put that off for both the fire and police dept. We pay taxes so that we have a fire dept. He doesn’t feel that a volunteer fire dept would be useful. Issue number 2, he addressed Mr. Mikulich – he sent Mario a Facebook message and did not get an answer. His neighbor called and left a message and never received a call back. Mr. Leone commented that he spoke to Mr. Ven several times, but he doesn’t recall his neighbor calling. Mr. Mikulich commented on the fire dept response time to the call today and the on duty full time and part time fire fighters responded withing 1 minute and 30 seconds. Saved 2 lives today. If we would have an all-volunteer dept we would have lost those two lives. Aliquippa’s paid fire dept is on our mutual aid call and they were here within 3 minutes. He vowed that he will keep the paid department.

Jo Ellen Rudolph 1026 Melrose Ave – She commented about the movie making and she came in from a long trip and could not park anywhere her house. She would like to be notified more in advance, she is probably the youngest on her block and she is close to 70. There is a rumor that some people get paid for their inconvenience and she didn’t get anything. She said if they pay one – everyone should get it – it should be equitable. She asked if the Borough is paid. Mr. Mikulich commented that the Borough does not unless they use our property like our park or our resources – like police or public works – we get paid. Ms. Rudolph commented that we should look into the Borough getting compensated. Mr. Leone commented we had two at the same time – Rust and A League of their Own. Ms. Rudolph also commented on the Heart and Soul Project. A neighboring community is paying a little over $21.00 per hour and works 10 hrs a week, she doesn’t understand why their community would be worth more. Mr. Mikulich commented that Ambridge has to follow the budget they were given. Mr. Mikulich suggested we will look into it.

Lorianne Burgess. – 570 Merchant St. - She thanked the Borough for all the cooperation for National Night Out. – The police and fire dept did a great job. She is working with Mr. Leone another one October 7th. She feels it would be exciting. She also commented that ever since she was a little kid – there were always rumors about getting rid of the fire dept and it scared her to death. She commented about the house on Melrose that has the F word all over it – she is not opposed to the first amendment, but we should enact an ordinance to keep it PG. Mr. Mikulich states that a letter was sent out asking them to remove it but as far as making an ordinance he doesn’t know if we can.

* **Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes**

July 13th meeting

Motion made by Mr. Dunn, seconded Mr. Flannery. Mr. Gill asked for a correction – he would like if all the businesses could be listed individually. Mrs. Tesssaro commented about the minutes – page 5 -show the police officer being hired as Lisa O’Brien Jones and it’s actually Tina O’Brien Jones – Mr. Mikulich commented that we will have to corrected it too.

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| **Council** | **Vote** |  | **Council** | **Vote** |
| **Mr. Cafarelli** | **Yes** |  | **Mrs. Miller** | **Absent** |
| **Mr. Dunn** | **Yes** |  | **Mrs. Tessaro** | **Yes** |
| **Mr. Flannery** | **Yes** |  | **Mr. Mikulich** | **Yes** |
| **Mr. Gill** | **Yes** |  | **Mayor Drewnowski** |  |
| **Motion Carried.** | |  |  |  |

* **Borough Bills and Expenses**

**Approval to ratify and pay the Bills and Expenses:(*For the month of August*)**

* + - * General Fund Unpaid: $109,878.69 Paid: $37,437.04
      * Grants / Special Project Fund Unpaid: $3,213.00
      * Recreation Fund Unpaid: $0.00 Paid: $0.00
      * Escrow Fund Unpaid: $0.00
      * Police Pension Fund Unpaid: $0.00
      * Service Employees Pension Fund Unpaid: $0.00
      * Firemen’s Pension Fund Unpaid: $0.00
      * Drug Investigation Fund Unpaid: $0.00
      * Fire Apparatus Replacement Fund Unpaid: $0.00

Mr. Gill asked why some of the cell phone bills were$60.00 and some were $30.00. Mr. Leone states he will check into this. Mr. Gill asked about page 3 – the law firm invoice – Mr. Leone stated it was for the litigation with Harmony Twp.

Mr. Flannery made the motion to accept the bills and expenses, and Mr. Dunn seconded.

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| **Council** | **Vote** |  | **Council** | **Vote** |
| **Mr. Cafarelli** | **Yes** |  | **Mrs. Miller** | **Absent** |
| **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.*

**Motion to approve 1 Items listed on the Consent Agenda.**

1. Borough Financial Report **-** acknowledge receipt of the Borough Treasurer’s Report for July.
2. Approval to hang a Banner on 8th Street, and request of Street Closures on Maplewood from 8th Street to the CVS Drive Thru as well as 7th Street from Maplewood to Glenwood for the Good Samaritan Parish for 25th Annual Festival for the following dates and times:

Thursday September 2nd 6:00pm – 9:30pm

Friday September 3rd 6:00pm – 9:30pm

Saturday September 4th 2:00pm – 11:00pm

Sunday September 5th 1:00pm – 10:00pm

1. Approval to close Melrose St. between 11th & Federal St on October 7th from 5pm-10pm for Crime Watch Event.

Motion to accept Consent Agenda Items 1-3 made by Mr. Cafarelli, seconded by Mr. Gill.

All were in Favor. Motion Carried.

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| **Treasurer's Report** | | | | |
| **August 10, 2021** | | | | |
| Marilyn Sheleheda - Treasurer | | | | |
| **General Fund Analysis** | | | | |
| $1,080,090.60 | General Fund Bank Account Balance as of: -August 8, 2021 -3:00 pm | | | |
| $129,891.87 | All (including todays checks) Outstanding Checks as of: -August 8, 2021 -3:00 pm | | | |
| **$950,198.73** | **Available Balance as of: -August 8, 2021 -3:00 pm** | | | |
| **General Fund Bank Summary:** | ***Totals that cleared the bank are as follows:*** | | |  |
| ***Deposits:*** | **$471,067.11** | |  |
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| ***Debits:*** | **$740,423.25** | |  |
| **-which include the following:** | | |  |
| ***63 Checks*** | *$260,307.20* |  |  |
| ***2 Payroll (s)*** | *$180,116.05* |  |  |
| ***1 Transfer to Sinking*** | *$300,000.00* |  |  |
| **2 Pre-Auth ACH Debit** | *$3,046.86* |  |  |
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| **Other Fund Balances as of August 8, 2021 3:00 pm** | | | | |
| **$192.09** | **Ambridge Bicentennial 2024 Fund.** | | | |
| **$775.46** | **Ambridge Borough Drug Investigation Fund** | | |  |
| **$21,560.25** | **Ambridge Fire Apparatus Replacement Fund** | | | |
| **$23,677.46** | **Escrow Disbursement Account** | | | |
| **$17,010.72** | **Grants/Special Funds** | | | |
| **$195,854.90** | **Liquid Fuels Fund** | | | |
| **$35,883.96** | **Recreation Fund** | | | |
| **$327,770.98** | **Sinking Fund** | | | |
| ***$622,725.82*** | ***Total Other Funds Balances (Restricted Use)*** | | | |

* **Business - Items for Discussion:**

1. Consider action to enact ORDINANCE NO. **1321**, AUTHORIZING THE INCURRING OF NONELECTORAL DEBT FOR THE PURPOSE OF REFUNDING PRIOR DEBT, FUNDING A CAPITAL PROGRAM AND PAYING THE COSTS OF ISSUANCE, BY THE ISSUANCE OF ONE OR MORE SERIES OF TAXABLE AND/OR TAX-EXEMPT GENERAL OBLIGATION BONDS OR NOTES, IN AN AGGREGATE PRINCIPAL AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED $12,500,000.

Motion made by Mr. Flanner, seconded by Mr. Gill

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| **Council** | **Vote** |  | **Council** | **Vote** |
| **Mr. Cafarelli** | **Yes** |  | **Mrs. Miller** | **Absent** |
| **Mr. Dunn** | **Yes** |  | **Mrs. Tessaro** | **Yes** |
| **Mr. Flannery** | **Yes** |  | **Mr. Mikulich** | **Yes** |
| **Mr. Gill** | **Yes** |  | **Mayor Drewnowski** |  |
| **Motion Carried.** | |  |  |  |

1. Consider action to purchase the following equipment from U.S. Municipal at Costars pricing #25-019 includes installation:

1 - Western 2 CU Yard V Box Spreader $6,848.29

1 – Western 9 Ft. Pro Plus Electric Plow $6,241.06

1 – Western 9 Ft. Pro Plus Hydraulic Plow $4,936.68

Motion made by Mr. Cafarelli, second by Mr. Gill. Question by Mrs. Tessaro asking if we sold any equipment that this is replacing, Mr. Leone stated no we did not sell any items, it was budgeted for because they needed replaced.

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| **Council** | **Vote** |  | **Council** | **Vote** |
| **Mr. Cafarelli** | **Yes** |  | **Mrs. Miller** | **Absent** |
| **Mr. Dunn** | **Yes** |  | **Mrs. Tessaro** | **Yes** |
| **Mr. Flannery** | **Yes** |  | **Mr. Mikulich** | **Yes** |
| **Mr. Gill** | **Yes** |  | **Mayor Drewnowski** |  |
| **Motion Carried.** | |  |  |  |
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1. Consider action to approve the Agreement between the Ambridge Area School District and the Borough of Ambridge for the School Resource Officer Program.

Mr. Leone stated that this agreement needs corrections – we are changing the expiration date and we are eliminating the requirement that the Resource officer be an employee of the Ambridge Police Dept for one year.

Motion made by Mr. Gill, seconded by Mr. Cafarelli

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| **Council** | **Vote** |  | **Council** | **Vote** |
| **Mr. Cafarelli** | **Yes** |  | **Mrs. Miller** | **Absent** |
| **Mr. Dunn** | **Yes** |  | **Mrs. Tessaro** | **Yes** |
| **Mr. Flannery** | **Yes** |  | **Mr. Mikulich** | **Yes** |
| **Mr. Gill** | **Yes** |  | **Mayor Drewnowski** |  |
| **Motion Carried.** | |  |  |  |

1. Consider action to approve the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the Ambridge Area School District and the Ambridge Borough Police Department.

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| **Council** | **Vote** |  | **Council** | **Vote** |
| **Mr. Cafarelli** | **Yes** |  | **Mrs. Miller** | **Absent** |
| **Mr. Dunn** | **Yes** |  | **Mrs. Tessaro** | **Yes** |
| **Mr. Flannery** | **Yes** |  | **Mr. Mikulich** | **Yes** |
| **Mr. Gill** | **Yes** |  | **Mayor Drewnowski** |  |
| **Motion Carried.** | |  |  |  |

Motion made by Mr. Gill, seconded by Mr. Dunn.

1. Consider action to advertise for Council Workshop meetings on Tuesday, August 31st and Tuesday, October 26th at 9:00 am – Mr. Mikulich commented that they are changing the time to 4:30pm -if everyone is in agreement.

Motion made by Mrs. Tessaro and seconded by Mr. Dunn.

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| **Council** | **Vote** |  | **Council** | **Vote** |
| **Mr. Cafarelli** | **Yes** |  | **Mrs. Miller** | **Absent** |
| **Mr. Dunn** | **Yes** |  | **Mrs. Tessaro** | **Yes** |
| **Mr. Flannery** | **Yes** |  | **Mr. Mikulich** | **Yes** |
| **Mr. Gill** | **Yes** |  | **Mayor Drewnowski** |  |
| **Motion Carried.** | |  |  |  |

1. Consider action to advertise for the Executive Assistant position with resumes/application due by Monday, August 30th at 4:00pm

Motion made by Mr. Flannery, seconded by Mr. Dunn. Mr. Mikulich asked if Council would permit Mrs. Tessaro, Mr. Dunn, himself and Mr. Leone to be on the committee to interview candidates. Mr. Cafarelli asked a question if all of Council would vote on the final person. Mr. Mikulich stated yes. Mr. Leone stated that the new person would have to shadow Marilyn for a couple of months because the job is extensive and would also have to shadow Kristen as well because we have a limited staff.

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| **Council** | **Vote** |  | **Council** | **Vote** |
| **Mr. Cafarelli** | **Yes** |  | **Mrs. Miller** | **Absent** |
| **Mr. Dunn** | **Yes** |  | **Mrs. Tessaro** | **Yes** |
| **Mr. Flannery** | **Yes** |  | **Mr. Mikulich** | **Yes** |
| **Mr. Gill** | **Yes** |  | **Mayor Drewnowski** |  |
| **Motion Carried.** | |  |  |  |

1. Consider action to hire Alyssa Roppa as Heart & Soul Project Coordinator as a sub- contracted employee at $16.00 per hour, and not to exceed 20 hours per week as recommended by the Heart & Soul Committee.

Motion made by Mrs. Tessaro, seconded by Mr. Flannery.

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| **Council** | **Vote** |  | **Council** | **Vote** |
| **Mr. Cafarelli** | **Yes** |  | **Mrs. Miller** | **Absent** |
| **Mr. Dunn** | **Yes** |  | **Mrs. Tessaro** | **Yes** |
| **Mr. Flannery** | **Yes** |  | **Mr. Mikulich** | **Yes** |
| **Mr. Gill** | **Yes** |  | **Mayor Drewnowski** |  |
| **Motion Carried.** | |  |  |  |

1. Consider action to retain expert witness Dr. Coruso in the amount of $2,500.00

Motion made by Mr. Gill, seconded by Mr. Cafarelli.

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| **Council** | **Vote** |  | **Council** | **Vote** |
| **Mr. Cafarelli** | **Yes** |  | **Mrs. Miller** | **Absent** |
| **Mr. Dunn** | **Yes** |  | **Mrs. Tessaro** | **Yes** |
| **Mr. Flannery** | **Yes** |  | **Mr. Mikulich** | **Yes** |
| **Mr. Gill** | **Yes** |  | **Mayor Drewnowski** |  |
| **Motion Carried.** | |  |  |  |

***Committee Reports***

1. **Public Safety Committee – Mr. Flannery**

Mr. Flannery states no report at this time. Chief Gottschalk stated about the fire that happened today and he commended all the firemen both Ambridge and mutual aid. No damages on the two neighboring homes. He also commented on the event that happened at the Ice Cream Therapy last night and he thanked the Dunn Insurance Agency for provided all the material that they gave away – plastic helmets, coloring books and smoke detectors. He thanked all involved. Mr. Mikulich commented that Felicia Mycyk also participated and passed out bookbags.

Chief DeLuca commented that the National Night Out was a great turn out and he thanked Mrs. Tessaro and Officer Seng and all his guys that showed up on their own time.

1. **Mayor’s Report – Mr. Drewnowski**

Mayor asked Chief DeLuca to comment about a $10,0000.00 grant which he applied. Chief DeLuca commented it’s called a JAG Justice Assistance Grant. We did get notification that we were awarded the grant. Mayor commented it’s on going that a developer wants to purchase Anthony Wayne School – like a mini St. Barnabas (for 62 and older) without the golf course – it would benefit Ambridge by being on the tax rolls. He and Mr. Leone went to see a similar unit at an open house even 5 hours away. Mr. Leone explained further, and he did reach out to Representative Matzie and Senator Vogel. They met the Pennsylvania Secretary of Housing which showed our seriousness to bring this to Ambridge. Mr. Cafarelli asked if they would use the existing building – Mayor commented that they would tear down the old building and build a new building.

1. **Code Committee – Mrs. Tessaro**

Mrs. Tessaro commented they had a meeting and they talked about adding a ticketing system to our current violation system, they discussed the health inspection and then

there was a fire and it ended.

1. **Public Works Committee – Mr. Cafarelli**

They had a meeting and discussed the infrastructure with Ambridge Water Authority and Public Works. Mr. Leone stated they are trying to collaborate with the Municipal Authority and Water Authority so that they can look ahead when we are going to pave a road they can do any work that needs done so the newly paved road isn’t dug up and patched and then the community pays twice. Mr. Cafarelli states we will also contact utility companies as well.

1. **Parks and Recreation Committee – Mrs. Miller (absent)**

Mrs. Miller absent- no report.

1. Engineer’s Report – Submitted by James Brunner E.I.T.

* **Official Reports**

Motion made to accept all official reports made by Mr. Flannery, seconded by Mr. Gill.

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| **Council** | **Vote** |  | **Council** | **Vote** |
| **Mr. Cafarelli** | **Yes** |  | **Mrs. Miller** | **Absent** |
| **Mr. Dunn** | **Yes** |  | **Mrs. Tessaro** | **Yes** |
| **Mr. Flannery** | **Yes** |  | **Mr. Mikulich** | **Yes** |
| **Mr. Gill** | **Yes** |  | **Mayor Drewnowski** |  |
| **Motion Carried.** | |  |  |  |

* **Other Unfinished Business:**

Mr. Gill commented about the anti-nuisance ordinance vs right to freedom of speech. Motion to authorize the solicitor to look into an anti-nuisance ordinance made by Mr. Gill, seconded by Mr. Flannery.

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| **Council** | **Vote** |  | **Council** | **Vote** |
| **Mr. Cafarelli** | **Yes** |  | **Mrs. Miller** | **Absent** |
| **Mr. Dunn** | **Yes** |  | **Mrs. Tessaro** | **Yes** |
| **Mr. Flannery** | **Yes** |  | **Mr. Mikulich** | **Yes** |
| **Mr. Gill** | **Yes** |  | **Mayor Drewnowski** |  |
| **Motion Carried.** | |  |  |  |

Mr. Gill also discussed a tax for movie companies coming into town, it being an inconvenience – it prevented our public works from doing some work.

Motion to authorize solicitor and Borough Manager to institute a movie tax made by Mr. Gill and seconded by Mr. Cafarelli.

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| **Council** | **Vote** |  | **Council** | **Vote** |
| **Mr. Cafarelli** | **Yes** |  | **Mrs. Miller** | **Absent** |
| **Mr. Dunn** | **Yes** |  | **Mrs. Tessaro** | **Yes** |
| **Mr. Flannery** | **Yes** |  | **Mr. Mikulich** | **Yes** |
| **Mr. Gill** | **Yes** |  | **Mayor Drewnowski** |  |
| **Motion Carried.** | |  |  |  |

Mrs. Tessaro commented on an event at the Library on 8/28/2021 at 11:30am, an Ambridge Native Dr. Anthony Todd Carlise will be discussing his book Souls of Clayhatchee. You must pre-register at the Library. Also 8/21/2021 to 8/28/201 they will be giving out comic books.

* **Adjournment –**

Motion to adjourn made by Mr. Cafarelli, seconded by Mr. Gill

All were in favor – motion carried.