**Borough of Ambridge**

**MINUTES**

**Council Meeting: December 8, 2020**

**Live Meeting – Council Chambers**

1. **Executive Session -** personnel and legal matters 5:45 Fire Training Room

# Call to Order / Roll Call

* **Roll Call:**

Present: Mr. Cafarelli

Mr. Dunn

Mr. Flannery

Mr. Gill

Mrs. Miller

Mr. Mikulich

Mrs. Tessaro

Mayor Drewnowski

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

Absent: None.

1. **Invocation –** Mrs. Barb Costa, Trinity School for Ministry

# Pledge of Allegiance

# Announcements.

Mr. Mikulich announce it was Barb Costa’s birthday and wished her happy birthday. Mr. Mikulich also announced that beginning on January 4th, 2021 all the trash will be picked up by the new company on Mondays.

1. **Public Comment on/off *Agenda Items* (5 minutes per speaker)**

No one wished to speak.

# Approval of Previous Meeting’s Minutes

* + November 10th, 2020

Motion made the motion to accept the minutes by Mr. Flannery, seconded by Mr. Cafarelli. Question or corrections: Mrs. Tessaro mentioned that she did not see the Code Report. Mr. Mikulich commented that it can be added to the minutes as a correction.



* + November 23rd, 2020

Motion made by Mr. Cafarelli, seconded by Mr. Gill. No questions or corrections.



# Approval to ratify and pay the Bills and Expenses:

1. General Fund Unpaid: $117,340.91 Paid: $62,605.07

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| --- | --- | --- |
| 2. Grants / Special Project Fund | Unpaid: | $0.00 |
| 3. Recreation Fund | Unpaid: | $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 |

Paid: $0.00

Motion made by Mr. Flannery, seconded by Mrs. Miller. Question by Mrs. Tessaro check detail, #37632 - $10,000.00 Network Adjustors – Mr. Leone commented it was to settle the lawsuit. Mrs. Tessaro asked about checks to Public Works, one said “salaries” and one said communications. Mr. Mikulich commented it might be for vacation or something, and Mr. Leone stated the communications is usually for cell phone. Mrs. Tessaro asked about no detail on the unpaid bills. Mr. Leone asked Ms. Farrell to detail them more and hopefully in January we will have that done.



# 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 Item 1 listed on the Consent Agenda, All were in Favor.

* 1. Borough Financial Report **-** acknowledge receipt of the Borough Treasurer’s Report:



**IX: New Business**

1. Consider Action to adopt the 2021 Municipal Budget.

Mr. Flannery made the motion, Mr. Cafarelli seconded. No other questions or comments. Mr. Mikulich stated that there will be no tax increase which makes it 17 yrs. in a row that there has not been a tax increase.



1. Consider action to adopt Ordinance **No. 1318**, an Ordinance of the Borough of Ambridge, County of Beaver and Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, levying a tax for the year of 2021 of Thirty Four and one-half mills on each dollar of the assessed valuation of taxable property, setting discounts and penalties on collections.

Motion made by Mrs. Miller, seconded by Mr. Flannery. No questions.



1. Consider action to adopt Ordinance **No 1319,** an Ordinance of the Borough of Ambridge, County of Beaver and Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, providing for the collections of taxes by the local tax collector between the period of January 15, 2021 and April 15, 2021 in accordance with the provisions of Act 169 of 1998 and its amendments.

Motion made by Mr. Flannery, seconded Mrs. Miller. No questions.



1. Consider action to Resolution **No. 2020-12**, a Resolution of the Borough of Ambridge providing for install payments of the tax levy for the year 2021 on each dollar of the assessed valuation of tax able property.

Motion made by Mr. Cafarelli, seconded by Mrs. Miller. No questions



1. Consider action to adopt Resolution **No.2020-13**, a Resolution of the Borough of Ambridge fixing the salaries and wages to be paid to the non-union personnel for the calendar year 2021.

Motion made by Mrs. Miller, seconded by Mr. Flannery. No questions.



1. Consider action to accept the resignation of Part-Time Firefighter/Code Enforcement Officer Eric M. Shrum Dunmyer.

Motion made with regret by Mrs. Miller, seconded by Mr. Cafarelli. No questions.



1. Consider Action to Re-Appoint Vince Pisano to the Water Authority Board for a 5-year term to expire on December 31st, 2025.

Motion made by Mrs. Cafarelli, seconded by Mrs. Miller, No questions.



1. Consider action to Re-Appoint Michael Jackson to the Shade Tree Commission for a 5-year term to expire on December 31st, 2025.

Motion made by Mrs. Miller, seconded by Mr. Flannery. A question was raised about the absence of the re-appointment applications. Mr. Mikulich stated Mr. Jackson was contacted by the Borough Manager and he would like to be re-appointed. Mr. Mikulich explained the difference the situation concerning why we don’t wait until January meeting to re-appoint the terms that expire December 31 and the re-appointments during the every other year Re-Organization meetings in January. Mr. Leone explained the re-appointment process, but because the Council meetings this past year were not normal, we had to make some phone calls for re-appointment. Mr. Cafarelli commented that Council makes big decision with a 4-million-dollar budget, what qualification did we all have, 18 yrs. of age, live in the Borough and you pay taxes, those are your qualifications.

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| Council | Vote |  | Council | Vote |
| Mr. Cafarelli | Yes |  | Mrs. Miller | Yes |
| Mr. Dunn | No |  | Mrs. Tessaro | No |
| Mr. Flannery | Yes |  | Mr. Mikulich | Yes |
| Mr. Gill | Yes |  | Mayor Drewnowski |  |
| Motion Carried. 5-2 | |  |  |  |

1. Consider action to Re-Appoint Joe Pucci to the Civil Service Board for a 2-year term to expire on December 31st, 2022. (Mr. Mikulich stated Mr. Pucci was an alternate and is now being re-appointed to a regular position). Mr. Cafarelli asked if this reappointment needs a second. Question was posed to Solicitor and he responded with “it’s a motion and needs a second”. Motion made by Mr. Flannery, seconded by Mr. Cafarelli. No questions.

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| Council | Vote |  | Council | Vote |
| Mr. Cafarelli | Yes |  | Mrs. Miller | Yes |
| Mr. Dunn | No |  | Mrs. Tessaro | No |
| Mr. Flannery | Yes |  | Mr. Mikulich | Yes |
| Mr. Gill | No |  | Mayor Drewnowski |  |
| Motion Carried. 4-3 | |  |  |  |

1. Consider action to Appoint Janet Caldarelli to the Municipal Board for a 5- year term to expire on December 31st, 2025.

Motion made by Mrs. Miller, seconded by Mr. Cafarelli. A question was raised about the qualifications on applications. Mr. Mikulich commented on her years of experience.

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| Council | Vote |  | Council | Vote |
| Mr. Cafarelli | Yes |  | Mrs. Miller | Yes |
| Mr. Dunn | Yes |  | Mrs. Tessaro | No |
| Mr. Flannery | Yes |  | Mr. Mikulich | Yes |
| Mr. Gill | No |  | Mayor Drewnowski |  |
| Motion Carried. 5-2 | |  |  |  |

1. Consider action to Re-Appoint Ann Ridley Zoning Board of Adjustment for a 3-year term expire on December 31st, 2023.

Motion made by Mr. Cafarelli, seconded by Mrs. Miller. No questions.

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| 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. | |  |  |  |

1. Consider action to Appoint Marcus Gibson as an Alternate to the Zoning Board of Adjustment for a 3-year term to expire on December 31st, 2023.

Motion made by Mr. Dunn, seconded by Mr. Flannery. No questions.

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

1. Consider action to Re-appoint Nicholas Schroder to the Planning Commission for a 4-year term to expire on December 31st 2024.

Mr. Leone commented that Mr. Schroder did not respond to messages left for request for re-appointment nor did he submit an application. This Re-Appointment was tabled until next meeting. The Solicitor states that the seat will remain vacant until Council can fill it.

1. Consider action to Appoint Anne Bacher for a 2-year unexpired term of Matthew Green on the Planning Commission to expire on December 31st, 2022.

Motion made by Mr. Cafarelli and seconded by Mrs. Miller. Mr. Leone commented that he spoke to Matt Green and he did not want to be re-appointed.

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| 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. | |  |  |  |

1. Consider action to Appoint Susan Moreman for a 5-year term to the Historical Architectural Review Board to expire on December 31st, 2025.

Motion made by Mr. Flannery, seconded by Mr. Dunn. No questions.

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| Council | Vote |  | Council | Vote |
| Mr. Cafarelli | Yes |  | Mrs. Miller | Yes |
| Mr. Dunn | Yes |  | Mrs. Tessaro | No |
| Mr. Flannery | Yes |  | Mr. Mikulich | Yes |
| Mr. Gill | yes |  | Mayor Drewnowski |  |
| Motion Carried. 6-1 | |  |  |  |

1. Consider action to Appoint Robert Green for a 1 year unexpired term of Lewis LeCerf on Zoning Board of Adjustments to expire on December 31, 2021.

Motion made by Mr. Flannery, seconded by Mrs. Miller. No questions.

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| 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. 6-1 | |  |  |  |

1. Consider Action to advertise for 2021 Council Meetings and other Borough related Boards meetings.

Motion made by Mr. Cafarelli, seconded by Mr. Flannery. No questions.

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| 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. | |  |  |  |

# Committee Reports

* 1. **Public Safety Committee**

Mr. Flannery commented about the scheduled Public Safety meeting for 12/18/20- 11am.

He also asked Chief Gottschalk to inform Council on a few things. Chief Gottschalk the EMA trailer has not been used but maybe twice in 17 years. He would like to advertisement to sell it on Municibid.

Motion to permit Fire Chief to sell the EMA trailer made by Mr. Flannery and seconded by Mrs. Tessaro.

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| 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. | |  |  |  |

Chief Gottschalk also asked about permitting the purchase of a new squad that would be a multi-use 4door truck that would hold 5 fire fighters. The vehicle with all the incidentals would be capped at $185,000.00. Mr. Leone asked to place it on the agenda for January as they will have all the details by then, it will take about one year to take possession of the truck. It may not be delivered until January 2022. The lease may be financed with a payment of $12,000.00 to $15,000.00 for up to 15 years amortization. Chief Gottschalk said that the Fire Apparatus Fund would probably pay for most of that payment.

Mr. Leone asked about Fasmo Towing contract to be renewed until December 31, 2021. Motion made by Mr. Cafarelli, seconded by Mr. Flannery.

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| 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. | |  |  |  |

* 1. **Mayor’s Report**

Mayor stated they are continuing drug enforcement. The Police Chief gave an update on body cameras about the grant that needs final approval.

* 1. **Code Committee**

Mrs. Tessaro states they did not have a meeting this past month and the Code Department will not be conducting inspections during December because of Covid. She will be setting a meeting for January 2021.

Her concerns are because of no inspections we are losing money with Housing. She asked the Fire Chief if he knew when the inspections would begin. Chief commented depends on Covid numbers increasing. He was told late May, maybe June because Housing considers themselves in the yellow phase. Also, business owners say the same thing, they do not want inspections and strangers coming into their houses/businesses.

* 1. **Public Works Committee**

Mr. Cafarelli states he thought a great deal about the situation that the Engineer Mr. Suehr’s report from last month revealed. He would like to set up a meeting with contractor, Mr. Leone and Mr. Suehr. He feels the contractor is passing the buck and it’s not been a year and Merchant Street is sinking. Mr. Suehr will set up a meeting. Mr. Cafarelli realizes that nothing can be done until spring.

Mr. Cafarelli also commented his concerns about street sweeping.

Chief Gottschalk commented about the demolition on 400 block of Merchant St. – there is no cyclone fencing. Council was concerned about the new sidewalk being damaged. They asked if the chief could keep an eye on it and take before and after pictures in case the demo company damages it. It was on the Beaver County’s demo list and Chief was not sure if they were aware of our ordinances about the sidewalks. Mr. Leone commented that the County is usually pretty good about making sure the demo companies are aware of all the information.

* 1. **Parks and Recreation Committee**

Mrs. Miller commented that she does not have an official report, but she would like to thank the Chamber of Commerce for putting on good Christmas event despite the circumstances and to thank Mr. Dunn for brining so much Christmas joy to all the kids being Santa’s helper. So many people appreciate it. Council thanked Public Works for helping with putting up and taking down of the barricades. Comments also made on how nice the Borough’s Christmas decorations look.

* 1. **Engineer’s Report- Nira Engineer – Chris Suehr.**

Merchant Street (and Municipal Lots) Resurfacing:

Based on discussion at last Council meeting, I will be preparing a proposal for repair of the pavement defect (sinkage) on Merchant near 8th Street. Work to include excavation of sunken area, including concrete road base, supplementing, and compacting stone subbase, and replacement of reinforced concrete road base (with dowels) and asphalt paving. Work will also include milling and resurfacing of 1-1/2 wearing course from curb-to-curb from the repair site to the existing joint at 8th Street. I will provide a probable cost estimate for the work.

\*Comments about the sink hole was there prior to the resurfacing of Merchant St and the sink hole. The taxpayers should not have to foot the bill to fix it.

If proposed work meets Borough's satisfaction, I will contact prospective contractors for quotes on the work. It is expected that cost of work will NOT exceed the threshold that would require a public bid. If lowest responsible proposal DOES exceed bidding threshold, then amount of work may need to be re-evaluated, or a public bid could be advertised.

Provided Borough Manager with some information regarding the storm sewer system in response to a notice from the DEP requesting dye testing at the Sacco Fly Ash Retention Pond above Beaver and 24th St, after DEP received a complaint and field investigated a potential pollutant discharge that showed up in French Point Creek between the water and sewer treatment plants. Public Works will attempt to dye test at pond discharge and trace through the system to the creek.

Follow up with Manager and Public Work, regarding MS4 requirements. Specifically, regarding inlet filter bags and sediment reporting, etc….

Senior Housing project at old Anthony Wayne School – they will re-apply in January and would like the continued support from the Borough in way of support letters.

Also Mr. Leone had an announcement about the First Baptist Church – on December 22 they will give away 200 Farmers to Families Food Boxes.

1. **Official Reports -** Motion to accept Official Reports.

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

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| 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

# None.

1. **Adjournment.**

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

All were in Favor. Meeting adjourned 7:40pm.

Merry Christmas.

***NEXT MEETING OF BOROUGH COUNCIL:*** Regular Meeting: 1/12/2021 – 6:30PM