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# Borough of Ambridge - Meeting of Borough Council

Council Chambers – Live Meeting

Tuesday, July 13th, 2021 - 6:30 PM

# Call to Order / Roll Call

Present: Mr. Cafarelli

Mr. Dunn

Mr. Flannery

Mr. Gill

Mrs. Miller

Mrs. Tessaro

Mr. Mikulich

Mayor Drewnowski

Also Present: Borough Manager Leone, and Solicitor Start via phone call, Chief DeLuca & Asst. Fire Chief Larrick, Representatives from Nira

Absent: None.

The Council had an Executive Session concerning personnel matters.

Also Mr. Mikulich stated that Item G is being removed from the agenda.

He also has a question about the Consent Agenda Item #3.

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

# Pledge of Allegiance

# Presentations:

# Mr. Michael McCraig. Financing professionals on the bond issue. A great deal of work has been done since February when the refinance was approved at your meeting. We had to wait until 2016 bonds were callable in other words until they were able to be refinanced. Refi in 2016. Capital Project bond, borrowing 5 million. Payments would be the same as they are right now. Rates are good. Everything is outlined on the report. The savings is approximately on the refinancing is about $65,000.00 for a little over the 2 million that is outstanding. This has to be advertised as an ordinance. Once the ordinance is passed then we can move forward.

# Mr. John Salopek, Bond Counsel for the 2016 and for this Bond as well and the road finance in 2015. He stated he was solicitor back in 1978 to 1980. He wanted to bring to Council’s attention the proposed borrowing of 5 million dollars – under the IRS regulations all of it must be spend within 3 years time. Mr. Leone has been working with the engineers on projects that are needed and projects that Council wants to see and are these projects do-able within 3 years. There are projects like a Fire Truck, streetscape projects. Council has to commit to spending 5% - $250,000.00 in the first 6 months and the balance within 3 years. Bigger projects like streetscapes and paving plans will be able to be turned around within 3 years. That was Mr. Salopek’s purpose to reiterate to Council that the money has to be spent within 3 years.

# Mr. Cafarelli – asked if a contractor signs that he can get it done but the final payment won’t go out until the 4th year – is that going to be a problem. Mr. Salopek stated he would encourage Council to get it done and the money has to be substantially spent or committed within the 3 years. Mr. Cafarelli stated as long as we have a signed contract, we should be ok. Mr. Salopek stated yes.

# Mr. Leone asked if from an engineering standpoint – the life of a road is about 10-12 yrs and the bond will go for 20 yrs. – is that permitted use? Mr. Salopek stated that it’s a blended contract. The streetscape or hardscape 25 – 30 years or a new maintenance building would be a 50 year asset. A new Fire Truck – 30 – 40 years. Mr. Leone just wanted clarity on this. Mr. Salopek stated that under Pennsylvania law you cannot borrow money to make interest – it must be for a project. On the IRS side it’s a policy consideration from many years ago – you cannot dilute what would be available to other people that would be taxable for some other business. Mrs. Tessaro wanted to know how quick are interest rates changing. Mr. McCraig said right now rates are very good and there is no way to guess where rates will be in 2 – 3 weeks down the road. Rates are approx. ¼ and ½ percent of 1957. Mr. Salopek suggested to be ready to go at the August meeting. Mr. Mikulich asked about the ordinance. Mr. Salopek commented that it’s not a regular 7 day advertisement – it’s only a 3 day advertisement and everything would be ready to go at the August meeting. Mr. Mikulich commented that our wish list is probably doable within the 3 yrs. The only concern is that the last streetscape took the Boro 5 years. We have an idea that needs to be done and we can probably do it within 3 years. Mr. Mikulich commented that by the August meeting everyone on Council should have time to look at the wish list and be prepared to move forward.

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

Jody Gill – 909 -11th St. –

She comments the Borough has hired Fire personnel and now possibly 3 police officers and they are all male. We need more diversity hiring.

Dennis Lapic – 1427 Church St.

He commented that his is on the planning commission and he would like to see the meetings on the Borough calendar. He also stated that there is a 6th person who would like to be an alternate on the commission and he would like the Council to consider him as soon as possible. He also commented about the County wanting to build the Hazmat garage near the Emergency Services building on 14th St. – he stated that would be another piece of property that will be locked in at no tax money forever and that they would do a collection of hazardous materials and is that something that they want next to a residential area. If the County does bring plans to the Borough, he would like to see the Planning Commission be involved in that decision.

John Vein – 715 -19th St.

He spoke of the curb cut that he neighbor tried to put in but was stopped. He thanked the Borough Manager for investigating. He stated that his brother comes in from out of state to visit and said that Ambridge is getting worse. He also stated he is not in favor of the proposed Dollar General near him – the alley between his house and the proposed store will become a freeway. Mr. Leone stated that the Borough’s obligation is to make sure that it meets all zoning requirements, and it does – it’s a commercial business buying a commercial property. He rides up thru that area a great deal and he feels that the architectural looks of the new Dollar General Plus will be aesthetically pleasing – this isn’t the same developer that built the Dollar General on Merchant – this developer has built 800 of these Dollar General Plus store all over the county and just because you have a McDonalds on one corner doesn’t mean you can’t build another one across the street. Mr. Leone stated that this one will be the nicest one in Beaver County.

Elbie Yarworski – 551 Maplewood & PALM –

Had Grand Opening at the museum. He is collaborating with Old Economy on tourism – Sunday is a slow for them and with our Summer Concert series people can go right down to Old Economy for a tour. The reason for the street closure is because the design of the facility is a garage – and we designed it with carriage doors so we could open it up to the street and we designed it with the respect of the neighbors as well. We want them to have access to their property. The chief made some great suggestions that he thought was great. He gave explanation of museum and different rooms – the intent was to pay homage to all the great local musicians – the museum has made national press news and they mention “Ambridge” each time. The museum is a Non-Profit – 501C3. They plan on a Bed and Breakfast on the second floor. Mrs. Miller asked if he has discussed this new plan with the residents and Mr. Yarworski commented she is not interested in discussing. Mr. Yarworski comments that all the equipment is there and the bands only have to bring their guitars. He commented that he deals with his street is blocked off because of the movies and he has to deal with it and he has a handicapped wife.

Anne Bacher – 956 Beaver Rd.

She commented that the change in the street is not a permanent change – only temporary – is that correct?

Cathy Narkavic – 717 -19th St.

She commented about the Dollar General – she didn’t know it was being discussed and considered. She thinks that the Council should come to each property owner and tell them what’s going on. She said the minutes aren’t on line since March. No planning commission meeting either. The Dollar General will have 3 months of construction and it will be disturbing from her standpoint. The demolition of the warehouse might put a danger to the neighborhood. She also commented about the parking lights – Mr. Mikulich addressed the lighting being shut off or turned down at a certain time.

# Approval of Previous Meeting's Minutes

* + June 9th meeting

Motion to accept the minutes made by Mr. Flannery seconded by Mrs. Miller.

Correction – Mr. Gill states the last page – Mr. Gill made motion about more businesses have proclamations and Mr. Cafarelli seconded it.

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

Motion made to pay the bills by Mrs. Miller, seconded by Mr. Dunn.

1. General Fund Unpaid: $32,227.01 Paid: $211,664.39

1. Grants/ Special Project Fund Unpaid: $1,257.04
2. Recreation Fund Unpaid: $0.00 Paid: $0.00
3. Escrow Fund Unpaid: $0.00
4. Police Pension Fund Unpaid: $0.00
5. Service Employees Pension Fund Unpaid: $0.00
6. Firemen's Pension Fund Unpaid: $0.00
7. Drug Investigation Fund Unpaid: $0.00
8. Fire Apparatus Replacement Fund Unpaid: $0.00

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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.** | |  |  |  |

# 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.

Mrs. Miller asked if they could have a roll call vote on #3. Mr. Gill commented that if the Police Chief said it’s ok – he is ok with it. Chief DeLuca states that there will be cones out and that if there are complaints that the neighbors can’t get to her property or that people are going outside the coned area - we will have to close down the event. Mrs. Miller said she said she thinks it could be remedied. Can we approved the first one and wait until the next meeting before approve the second one – see if there are any issues. The chief said that the neighbor in question does not want to have to move her vehicle when the event happens. Discussions about how many people and if Council should or shouldn’t close a portion of the street.

Mr. Mikulich asked for a voice vote on items 1, 2, and 4.

All were in Favor

1. Borough Financial Report - acknowledge receipt of the Borough Treasurer's Report for July.
2. Approval of Street Closure on 19th Street (Between Duss Avenue and Oak

Alley) every Wednesday from July 2l5t thru October 20th between 6:00pm to 9:00pm.

1. Approval of Street Closure on Church Street (from Creese to 14th Street) on September I8th from Noon until 11:00PM

Motion made for Approval of a single 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 4 Sunday afternoons requested to be evaluated after each event - made by Mrs. Tessaro, 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.** | |  |  |  |

# X: New Business

1. Consider action to hire Part-Time Policer Officer Garret Kimmel retro-active to July 6th

,

2021 at a starting rate of $19.00 per hour.

Motion made by Mr. Flannery and 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.** | |  |  |  |

1. Consider action to hire Part-Time Police Officer Lisa Obrien-Jones at a starting rate of

$19.00 per hour.

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

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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.** | |  |  |  |
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1. Consider action to ratify and accept the Police Civil Service Testing results for Chief DeLuca certified by the Ambridge Borough Civil Service Board.

Motion made by Mrs. Miller, 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.** | |  |  |  |

1. Consider Action to approve the hiring of 3 Full Time Police Officers based upon the recommendation of the of Police Chief and Borough Manager.
   1. Nathan Swierkosz

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

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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. Phat (Anthony) Phan

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

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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. Donte Scarietta

Motion made by Mr. Cafarelli, 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.** | |  |  |  |

Chief of Police introduced each of the new officers.

1. Consider action to adopt the Ambridge Borough Police Body Worn Camera Policy which has been review and approved by the Department of Justice (DOJ).

Mr. Gill asked about the Right to Know Law and how does it apply to the BWC. Chief explained it’s a special regulations – it’s similar but different – its spelled out in regulations and has to go thru Chief of Police

Motion 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.** | |  |  |  |

1. Consider action to award payroll service contract to ADP in the annual amount of $5,434.50 (208.50 per pay period) with a promotional offering of the 1st 4 months FREE ($1,608.00 savings). *\*based upon a 50 employees per pay period*

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

Mr. Leone explained further the ADP process and how it would benefit the Boro. It streamlines the payroll process, currently the paper timesheets have to be turned in on Mondays and the payroll clerk has to put everything in and we are all human and mistakes happen. This will alleviate all those issues.

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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.** | |  |  |  |

Removed Item G.

1. ~~Consider action to advertise for a Special Meeting on Wednesday July 21, 2021 for the purpose to adopting a Resolution for Refinancing Ambridge Borough Bond Debt.~~
2. Consider action to accept the retirement letter from Nicholas M. Sheleheda the Local Health Officer effective December 31, 2021.

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

Mrs. Tessaro asked how long before we have to find a replacement – Mr. Leone said immediately because there has to be some training. There was a recommendation in his letter and we can take his suggestion and move it to next month’s agenda. Mr. Mikulich asked if we need to put it out to bid, Mrs. Tessaro asked since he is already on Code is that a help. Mr. Flannery asked if he would have to get certified? Mr. Leone stated yes, the Borough would have to pay for his training and testing. It was discussed that it would fall under Code Committee for discussion.

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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.

Discussed the 1100 block of Maplewood – changing the direction.

Discussion of 15th and Merchant – they left it to the Chief & Manager – review it after

each event.

Discussion of the Police getting the vests – approved today and the Chief will begin to put it into service.

Discussion on the speeding – Chief is trying to get the hires to do more detail and the committee will follow up each month.

Mr. Mikulich commented on the Fire Dept – how the reconditioned the offices – everyone should stop and take a look. Mr. Larrick commented on how everyone pitched in and took part in remodeling – at no cost to the Borough. He also commented that Fire Fighter Gorecki secured another grant.

* 1. Mayor's Report – Mr. Drewnowski

Commented that he married a couple at the 8th St park.

* 1. Code Committee – Mrs. Tessaro

Commented that the garbage situation seems to be getting more under control.

They have a meeting set up for the first part of August.

Mr. Mikulich commented that if you read the report that Mr. Larrick does every month you will see that we have turned this town around. Mr. Larrick stated that the residential and commercial programs and now have the pre-sale program we have a lot more revenue coming into the Borough.

* 1. Public Works Committee – Mr. Cafarelli

The last meeting the discussed the employment issues trying to make it work. He will let the others on the committee know when they can meet.

Mr. Mikulich commented that he would like to send a thank you to Alison Park Church. They mulched and weeded all the trees on Merchant.

Mrs. Miller commented that the trees in front of the stops signs on 15th and Merchant should be taken out. Mrs. Leone agreed and commented that the men from Public Works went to trim the trees on Monday and the movie people stopped them and said they want the full foliage for the movie. Discussion about trimming those trees on Merchant. Mr. Leone commented that the trees near the stop sign were trimmed this past Monday.

Mr. Mikulich asked if everyone agrees that the trees by the stop signs should be taken out.

* 1. Parks and Recreation Committee – Mrs. Miller.

Commented about the Fall Festival – Mrs. Miller did all children’s activities and $5,000.00 to sponsor all games – the Festival was delayed because of Covid. Discussion about the funding for the new Splash Pad.

* 1. Engineer's Report – Nira Engineering

Commented about the MS4 repairs needed near Walter Panek Park,

Commented about Henning Street Playground Project and updated the budget information.

Informed the developer’s engineer that a District-approved Erosion & Sediment Control Plan would not be required to the size of the project.

Commented on the preparing of the Consulting Engineers Certificate for Bond Counsel’s use.

*Recording tape ended.*

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

Motion to accept 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

# Thank you to the Ambridge Downtown Development Committee for the event that they had on Merchant Street.

# Discussion on the workshop meetings for September and October.

1. **Adjournment**

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

All were in favor. Motion passed. Meeting adjourned at 8:45pm

***NEXT MEETING OF BOROUGH COUNCIL:***

Regular Meeting: **August 10th, 2021-6:30 PM Announcements:**

## Movies in the Parks are being held on Thursday evening- check Website and Facebook for schedule.

***Filming of RUST and "A League of their Own" will be taking place the week of July 13th thru July 20th• There will be various road closures please visit the website/or updated times and schedule. We appreciate everyone's patience and understanding!!!***