**Borough of Ambridge**

**Council Meeting: Workshop Meeting August 31, 2021**

**Live Meeting – Council Chambers**

**The September meeting of Ambridge Borough Council was called to order at 4:30PM within Council Chambers of the Ambridge Borough Building, 600 11th Street. Mr. Mikulich announced that the Council met for an executive session prior to this meeting to discuss personnel and legal matters.**

**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, Chief Gottschalk, Chief DeLuca and Solicitor Start via phone.

Absent: None

**Invocation**

**Pledge of Allegiance**

***Committee Discussions***

1. **Public Safety Committee** – MJ Flannery did not have a meeting.

Discussion about painting certain streets with DO NOT ENTER, ONE WAY, SLOW.

Borough would have to purchase stencils.

* Fire – FEMA Grant update- Chief Gottschalk commented about the FEMA Grant being cut in half for SCBA – the F.D. has some in direr need of replacement. The three units that need replaced are endangering firefighters. We were awarded $41,261.90 – we requested $99,445.00 we are short about $58,000.00. He would like to have a meeting with Council to work out a plan B to purchase the remaining air packs. The grants are now being awarded by manpower and not by Fire Dept in general any longer.
* He also commented they are looking into a grant for a new engine. The life expectancy on an engine is 20 years and our engine is 23 years old.
* He has full and part time will be training for the hazmat in Butler Community College – there will be 6 that will be going.
* Unit 741 is out of service – the waterway at the top of the ladder is cracked. It’s up at Pierce Ladder being repair right now.
* Good Samaritan festival is going on and they are having a Fire Fighter Appreciation and they will have a Touch A Truck event that we will be taking our trucks to.
* Sept 18th they will attend a Mutal Aid training at Ryerson. Pit rescue, high angle rescue and a person pinned rescue.
* The fire department responded to fire alarm at Maplewood Care and when we arrived everyone were already evacuated and had on masks and gowns. When we asked why they had on masks and gowns the response was because they had an outbreak of Covid. The owner finally called the Chief back and they had 13 people tested with Covid. The owner did state that workers and staff were tested and came back negative, and the facility has been disinfected top to bottom. The PEMA were involved and knew about the situation.

The fire and fire departments will take necessary precautions whenever they go into all multi-units in Ambridge from now on. Question was asked why so many alarms. Chief responded with some of the alarms, which might be a malfunction with the alarm, in the facility are older and are being replaced one at a time. He stated he sent out a violation letter. Question asked if we have a policy on the masks – Mr. Mikulich stated no, not yet. More discussions about disinfecting the offices and what time the buildings close. Questions about whether or not to wear a mask to enter the buildings. The solicitor will be asked for advice.

* SRO – school issues with kids fighting every day. Question was asked if it was actual fist fighting. Chief DeLuca could not comment but the kids are not following the rules. It’s an everyday occurrence. Mr. Leone commented that last year the kids were remote that the chief could not comment on the year before last. Chief commented that he was going to attend the football game and if there are any fights we will not tolerate – the information will be taken back to the school and suspensions, or expulsions will be done. Question: what will the plan be with someone who violates the law – chief said profanity, running around in the hall, not listening or disrespecting the teachers they will get suspended and we will prosecute anyone who gets suspended. Last week a teacher asked the kids to leave the room and the response was “F.U. don’t talk to me –don’t touch me --I’m not leaving”- the police department will not tolerate this behavior. It will be zero tolerance.

No weapons will be tolerated – not even pepper spray – it’s an automatic 45 day suspension. More discussion about the football game – no backpack will be permitted, everyone is wanded as a safety precaution. It’s like a babysitting service for older kids – the parents drop them off and come back to pick them up at 9:30- 9:45 --- this is trouble waiting to happen. If the kids get suspended Thursday or Friday and he/she won’t be allowed to come to the game on Friday night. They have hearings coming up and now the body cams are going to back up our claims. Cameras are throughout the school too.

Chief will send “ride-a-long” information to the solicitor.

* Aggressive driving and DUI Task Force details will be run by the Hopewell, and they give us a heads-up how many guys they needs and we get reimbursed for our officers time. We do aggressive driving in Ambridge. It’s a task force assigned by the Beaver County Commissioners wanting to know if we can adopt this resolution. Mr. Mikulich asked the chief to run it by the solicitor and we can put it on the October agenda.
* Chief commented about the SRO contract having some errors and it will be corrected and they will pass it at their next meeting.
1. **Code Committee** – Tina Tessaro – nothing.
* Mr. Leone commented that he is looking into weed killer in certain places, spray it once in spring and let the grass die. 2nd and Park Rd – it’s terrible.

Most of the abandoned property owner is out of state and they don’t care. Examples were given such as Dollar General. Suggestions were made that maybe these abandoned properties should be given to the Borough since we cut it anyway. Not sure if we can do this legally, we will have to look into it.

Comment made that it is a tax write off for some people. The solicitor is the one who would have to file the lien at the County. Discussions about a property on Maplewood that we have been cutting for 5 or 6 years. Mr. Leone commented that there are quite a few that we could bundle and send letters out. Questions about the County Housing properties being inspections. Chief Gottschalk commented that they will begin next year.

1. **Public Works Committee** – Tony Cafarelli
* Discussion about the overgrown trees on Merchant St. – Mr. Leone commented that we received about $3,500.00 over and above the police department payments for use of Borough properties. The movie people would like to have the trees look the same in all the scenes. He has been in contact with the movie people to trim the trees. He will wait one week and if they don’t take care of it Public Works will cut them.
* Discuss purchasing New John Deere Tractor – for grass cutting and snow removal. Questions on how big is it and if it will be used for snow removal and grass cutting and yes it can do both – it’s about the side of a golf cart. Even though we have snow blowers – snow needs to be so high to use them, so we end up shoveling by hand. Our parking lots will be done, and we can run it down Merchant St. sidewalks once a day, Borough sidewalks. How long will it take to arrive, Mr. Leone commented that it is in stock and all accessories as well with the exception of the canopy. Question was if its could be covered by the Covid grant.
* Mayor asked about paving the alley (he thinks it called Green Alley) between 22nd and 23rd St – between Beaver Rd and Lenz Ave – the gravel runs down to Lenz Ave that Public Works has to clean up every storm. He commented that is doesn’t impact his property at all but it’s time consuming for Public Works, not to mention that big craters that it causes when it rains. Mr. Mikulich commented that we will look into it when we get the money. Mr. Leone stated that it will be addressed. Questions concerning storm drains issues. Repairs that need to be done on some of the storm drains and if people’s sanitary lines are still connected from some residential areas.
* Discussion and explanation about 4th and Rte 65 why it floods.
1. **Manager’s update**:
	1. *Well Built Sub-division* – Planning approved and will be on the next regular meeting agenda.
	2. *DG Plus Site Plan* – update – waiting for PennDot to approve and only one resident didn’t approve because of the alley. We asked the developer to make it an exit and not an entrance to the parking lot. Not hear back.
	3. *Warwood Tool* – This is a proposed business looking to expand on an existing building. They submitted for Zoning approval. The Borough engineers are involved in this because of water and sewer locations.
	4. *Borough Audit* – Mark Turnley scheduled to be at Sept. 14th meeting.
	5. *Bond Financing*. Being wrapped up and funds have not been deposited yet. He will advise. Mr. Mikulich commented that we have 3 yrs. to spend it. He suggested that we look into the street scape right away. We also want to build a Borough garage to fit all the equipment inside. Mr. Leone commented that Nira Engineering are doing the drawings now.  Mr. Mikulich explained the bid process. More discussion on how the streetscape process works. Discussion concerning the bricks on Merchant St.

*\*\*\* Tape ended\*\*\**

* 1. *ARPA Funding*- received 1st Installment $345,000.00

Need to discuss potential projects. They a looking for innovative opportunities that help communities handle future pandemics/emergencies, to restore & promote economic development and help small businesses impacted by COVID.

1. Street Sounds (*See attachment*) est. cost: $42,000.00
2. Soofa
3. Possible Small business grants?  Façade Grants
4. Water and Sewer Line improvements/upgrades

**OLD Business**

* 1. **Adjournment**

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

Regular Meeting: **September 14th, 2021 – 6:30 PM**