



MINUTES

Borough of Ambridge – Workshop Meeting of Borough Council

Tuesday, April 26th, 2022 – 6:30 PM

Executive Session 6:00 - Personnel

I. Call to Order / Roll Call

**Present: Mr. Cafarelli
Ms. DeVincent
Mr. Dunn
Mr. Gill
Ms. Jones-Gilliam
Mrs. Miller
Mrs. Tessaro
Mayor McCoy
Mr. Leone**

II. Invocation – Provided by Mayor McCoy

III. Pledge of Allegiance

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

Anne Bacher – Beaver Road on behalf of the Planning Committee requesting update. Review of zoning map and comprehensive plan. Would like to tie up some loose ends before proceeding. One piece is the proposed ordinance for the Historic District has it been sent to Code yet? Mrs. Tessaro stated it only opened the Comprehensive Plan; Anne Bacher will try to resend it in a different format. Mrs. Tessaro asked if this is the proposed ordinance takes original Historic District 2001/2018 provisions to make it more clear for code enforcement having design guidelines. Mr. Lopic had said people in HARB may want to present; it's not radically different but makes it more clear for residents and businesses. Mrs. Tessaro thought this was the Comprehensive Plan, will send to Ms. Gilliam and she can determine when to meet. Mr. Leone asked why this never passed; Ms. Bacher didn't know if it was ever taken up; last study in mid-2018. Action: Mrs. Tessaro will provide it to Ms. Gilliam to review.

V. New Business

1. Discuss/Motion the following Police/Public Safety Matters –
 - a. Housing Authority Contracted Services.
Mr. Leone provided update due to Chief DeLuca's absence due to illness. This has been discussed in depth in the past. No money out of the Borough pocket. Rate to the Housing Authority is \$60 per hour which pays for the officers' rate as well as the

administrative costs. Mr. Gill asked about the hourly rate. Mr. Leone states he will get the exact numbers to Mr. Gill. Housing authority is okay with the negotiated terms.

MOTION BY Mrs. Miller; second by Ms. Gilliam for Chief DeLuca to pursue finalizing contract with the Housing Authority of Beaver County to provide police patrols at Housing Authority properties in the Borough.

Name	Vote	Name	Vote
Mr. Cafareli	Yes	Ms. Gilliam	Yes
Ms. DeVincent	Yes	Mrs. Miller	Yes
Mr. Dunn	Yes	Mrs. Tessaro	Yes
Mr. Gill	No	Mayor McCoy	
		Motion Passes 6-1	

b. Part Time K-9 Dog/officer

Mr. Leone stated there no urgency to vote at this time, only the confidence from Council that Chief DeLuca can continue to pursue the program. Chief DeLuca is waiting to see about a possible grant. Need to review possibly converting an existing vehicle or acquiring a vehicle, but doesn't want there to be an adverse cost to the budget. They are looking at some fundraising. The dog has been certified. Mayor McCoy stated that a K9 officer would benefit the town and would help to keep our community drug free.

MOTION BY Mrs. Miller to authorize Chief DeLuca to continue to pursue the K9 dog position; second by Ms. DeVincent.

Mr. Gill asks when we will know how much it's going to cost. Mr. Leone stated Chief DeLuca is still aggregating that information. The Chief has a grant out for \$10,000 and may use that \$10,000 to cover most of the start-up costs and there is a fundraising letter going out which was distributed to Council. Councilwoman DeVincent has generously donated her monthly stipend to the Borough. Officer Sovich is looking at doing a boxing match promotion that could provide significant funds. If the boxing match promotion is able to move forward, they may request Council to use the Fire Station as the venue for it. Some of these ideas are premature, but the Police Department is excited to raise money to support the K9 officer. The boxing match fundraiser would be a joint fundraiser with the Fire Department. It would be a pretty sizeable fundraising event. They feel the Fire Department and the Police Department would make approximately \$5,000 each. Events like that would absorb the on-going costs and would be for dog food and a stipend for the officer for providing those duties. Mr. Gill thinks Council needs to know more about the costs, because the dog belongs to the officer who is only part-time;

will this cause a problem with the schedule? Mr. Leone stated that Chief DeLuca doesn't want to move forward if Council says no, he will just stop this effort; but if there is interest, let Chief DeLuca pursue it and if we get to the point for final commitment, then he will have all information available. Mr. Gill asked when there will be a definite commitment. Mr. Leone stated that following this particular motion, there would be a final motion in the future. Mrs. Tessaro confirmed this is for Chief DeLuca to continue getting everything figured out. Mrs. Miller stated that in the past the dog never cost the Borough much money. Mr. Leone stated right now we have a dog that cost the Borough nothing; the officer comes with the dog, so the Borough doesn't have the cost of the dog; that dedicating a vehicle would be the biggest concern for cost but that there are possibilities of using the oldest vehicle in the fleet or possibly Center Township is getting a new K9 vehicle and it's possible we might be able to acquire their used vehicle at a very discounted price and then we could use that. That would be our only hard cost right now. The officer is requesting we pay for the dog food and vet care and our insurance carrier said that would be a nominal cost. The officer is not requesting any additional stipend. If we get three years out of this dog (maybe five), then at that point Council will have the next decision of whether we want to continue this program. That is when the bigger decision will need to be made on whether to buy a new dog, and that's three to five years down the road. For the interim with fundraising, there are no additional costs to the taxpayers from the General Fund, Mr. Leone does not see a down-side to this program. Mr. Gill agreed to proceed. Mayor McCoy asked if there is a way to determine the costs from the previous dog we had. Mayor McCoy also stated that we can't put a price tag on our children's safety and that having a dog like that will help eliminate drugs in Ambridge and that will protect our children. Mr. Leone will look at the costs from the previous program. Motion carries 7-0.

Name	Vote	Name	Vote
Mr. Cafareli	Yes	Ms. Gilliam	Yes
Ms. DeVincent	Yes	Mrs. Miller	Yes
Mr. Dunn	Yes	Mrs. Tessaro	Yes
Mr. Gill	Yes	Mayor McCoy	
		Motion Passes 7-0	

2. Discuss Employee of the Month Recognition Program.
Out of 25 full-time employees, only six returned their questionnaire (only 25% responded). Discussion tabled until next meeting.
3. Manager updates:
 - a. Summer Concert Series – looking for business/corporate sponsorship \$2,000 - \$3,000. Mr. Leone received a call from Joe Sullivan who said these were done in the past in Ambridge and

there is some funding out there that would help defray the costs. Mr. Sullivan was proposing five to six concerts in the park. Each concert would cost the Borough about \$500. So would be \$3,000 from Borough and \$3,000 from a grant through the Beaver County Tourism. Check into business sponsorship, potentially one of the banks or other businesses. We can do as many as we want. Just wanted to see if the Borough is interested in pursuing this. Public Works may need to do some work to assist with the setup the day of the event. Mrs. Miller asked if the organization Mr. Sullivan represents makes money from these concerts. Mr. Leone stated that he doesn't know how much money they make. Mr. Sullivan is a retired music teacher from Monaca School District. Each band member makes \$50. Some of the bands are union bands. Mrs. Miller asked that if we do something like this, can we make it a bigger event by bringing in food trucks. Mr. Leone stated that Mr. Sullivan said that some of the other municipalities do that to make it a bigger draw. It used to be done at the Pavilion at PJ Caul Park. Mrs. Tessaro remembered there were summer concerts in the past. Basically the program is \$1,000 per concert; the Borough pays half and half is paid Beaver County Tourism. The Borough would either pay up front or could seek sponsors. Mrs. Miller stated she would hesitate to request sponsors when she will be asking sponsors for money down the road. Mr. Leone asked if this something the Borough would like to put on in the community and just pay the cost; we wouldn't need to do six concerts, we could do three and we would be looking at \$1,500 contribution. Mr. Leone is looking for guidance from Council. Mrs. Miller asked if these are well-attended and whether people go if there is food available to them. Mr. Gill stated that people enjoy the music. Mr. Leone stated that Mr. Sullivan is looking for a commitment from the Borough so that he can go to Beaver County Tourism for the funding. No need for a formal motion.

- b. Proposed Crosswalk Painting Project: Heart & Soul, Genesis Collective, Riverwise/New Sun Rising, and Allison Park Church. Last year, Allison Park Church did a streetscape project; this year they are looking to do a larger project and asked if the Borough had any projects in mind. They may be interested in painting our crosswalks parallel with Merchant; they wouldn't run across Merchant, they would be on the side streets and doing them in a type of mural-themed concept (one might be Love; another Peace), different pictures bringing some art into the community. There is an organization called the Genesis Collective that promotes arts and artists in Beaver County. Mr. Leone reached out to the Director of the Genesis Collective, Pamela Rossi Keen. They are also connected with Riverwise and New Sun Rising. They are two organizations promoting sustainability and connectivity to the river. New Sun Rising is offering a grant to help communities promote sustainability. Pamela Rossi Keen has tentatively submitted a grant for \$1000 to help pay for the artists and instruct volunteers in order to ensure a professional look. There is a similar program in

Millvale. Mr. Leone would like to reach out to the Art Teacher in Ambridge to get kids involved in the community. Allison Park Church has committed some significant dollars to help pay for this project as well. Mr. Leone requested additional recommendations from Council. Mrs. Miller questioned when the paint fades what happens then? Mr. Leone stated they get touched up or they get re-done as a continual program. Mr. Leone would have to ask Millvale about how long the last. Mrs. Tessaro asked about regulations for road requirements. Mr. Leone stated if it was on a PennDot road it would have restrictions (wouldn't be able to do this on 8th Street for example), but the municipality does not have a standard that needs to be met for crosswalks. Mr. Gill states people would like to get their streets fixed before seeing these crosswalks. Mr. Leone stated that it would not be done at a dilapidated intersection that is scheduled for repair. Mr. Leone suggested the area between 4th and 8th because the aprons there are all in pretty good condition. It could then be expanded in the future. Mr. Leone is looking for Council's approval to move forward with the concept with the Genesis Collective and Heart & Soul. Mr. Cafarelli stated that we have to have guidelines for when it starts to wear off and it will need to be maintained or repaired. Mr. Leone states he can't say how many crosswalks it would be total. Mr. Leone stated that the cost of paint is not high, but the main cost will be for the artists to supervise the project.

c. EV Charging Stations

Mr. Leone stated he met with a vendor the previous week and the only cost to the Borough would be the labor to install. Mr. Leone would have to meet with Tom Patrician to find sites in our municipal parking lots with access to electrical connectivity to minimize the labor cost. This may draw people into the community when they are looking for a place to charge their vehicle. They may then patronize a business while they are waiting for the vehicle to charge. Mr. Cafarelli asked if they are programmed into a satellite system to indicate where there are charging stations (like through Waze). Mr. Leone stated they could be provided for free or charging a fee. The Borough would get 80% and the vendor retains 20% of the fee. QRC codes on the machines. The person scans the QRC code and then pay via Google Pay or credit card on file. It's very easy and you don't need an app. Mr. Leone to get the installation fees and other information.

d. New Businesses:

- i. LaPoblinita's Mexican Grocery seems to be doing well; permanent awning is still a few weeks out. There have been a few calls about the current canopy impeding wheelchairs on the sidewalk. He intends to rectify those concerns tomorrow.
- ii. PNC Bank sold and the transaction closed last week. This will be a Latino market and will provide a different culinary experience than Mexican. There are no plans for hot food, but may be included down the road.

- iii. Hair Salon on 11th Street just opened.
- iv. Cosmetic Salon (former Old Economy Café) will provide esthetic services (eyelash enhancements, etc.).
- e. New Developments:
 - i. Bridger Building has been demolished at the corner of 6th and Melrose.
 - ii. New parking lot at 9th and Melrose for St. Marys Coptic Church.
 - iii. Sunbelt Rental (former Sukkup Property); received correspondence regarding building a 60,000 square foot building in addition to the existing building. Not a lot of details yet, but they are moving forward with submitting site plans for the Planning Commission. They are stating this is for trailer generators for distribution in the area. Mr. Cafarelli does not like the idea of it right on Duss Avenue if there is the potential for large JLG structures. If it's strictly fabricating generators on the inside with parking on the outside, that might be okay. Would like to see their plan before moving forward.
 - iv. Woodley Lofts being proposed across from 911 Center. It's a 51 unit for a 62+ facility. Mr. Leone was contacted last week.
 - v. The 911 Center Expansion plans submitted land development/lot consolidation plans for an expansion for a training center and garage.
 - vi. A restaurant is looking to potentially locate at the former Kiln property; may be looking to subdivide it. It is currently zoned industrial, so we may be able to work through that subdivision.
 - vii. Ms. DeVincent asked about another upcoming deli on Duss, George's Mediterranean Market. Mr. Leone confirmed that this is coming as well.
 - viii. Another item not on the agenda that just came up is Mr. Leone was contacted by Sippel Steel by email. Mr. Sippel's secretary indicated that the Port of Ambridge road is deplorable. Public Works patched a bunch of holes today. Mr. Sippel would like to pave that road and he received a cost from a contractor of \$80,000. Mr. Sippel is willing to pay 20% of the cost if the Borough would pick up the remaining. Mr. Leone advised Mr. Sippel's secretary that it doesn't work that way; that the Borough would have to put it out for bid. Once it is out to bid, then if Council was going to move forward and Mr. Sippel wanted to contribute 20%. It's bad and needs paved. Mr. Leone is meeting with Mr. Brunner to discuss items unrelated to this and will have him check it out to see what can be done and how we can negotiate. Mr. Cafarelli stated he would like to see them chip in more towards the repairs because it's their trucks doing the damage. Mr. Leone will check into this further.

VI. Other Unfinished Business

1. Mrs. Miller stated she got a call from Ms. Gilliam; the Ambridge Youth Football Association would like to utilize Walter Panek Park for camp and it would be no cost to them. Letter submitted. Ms. Gilliam states that new leadership has taken over the youth football program. Mr. Gill concerned with the cleanliness of the park after it is used. Mr. Cafarelli states we should have park rules posted. Mrs. Miller states that

accountability needs to be set. Mr. Leone states there will be discipline if not cleaned up.

2. Credit cards; no update at this time.
3. Upgrade to technology in Council Chamber; waiting for information from business on Duss Avenue; waiting for a representative to become available; haven't been able to make progress. Mrs. DeVincent will reach out to him for any news.
4. Mr. Gill asked previously about the SRO contract. Has this been updated? Mr. Leone advised that the contract has not been changed. The contract is up for renewal for 2023.
5. Laptops for Council; this has not moved forward. Mr. Leone was unclear about the direction Council wanted to go as far as sending packets electronically; some are adamantly against it, some might be favorable. If Council embraces those who want to move forward or not, it's Council's decision. Mrs. Tessaro requested it be added to the next agenda. Mr. Leone finalized the reporting for the ARPA funding for items to improve efficiency and operations should another pandemic arise. Enhancing the technology in Council Chambers for potential Zoom calls is permissible, so the expenditures for laptops and initiatives won't come directly out of the Borough General Fund budget, but will come from the \$345,000 ARPA funding and Council has to determine how the Borough wishes to do that. We will have another check in an equal amount (not sure when that will hit) for a total of \$690,000.
6. Sexual harassment training; still needs to be done (hopefully in the next two weeks will have something on that).
7. Upgrades to door locks; Mr. Leone met with the consultant and he is to get back to Mr. Leone. Anticipate a proposal maybe before the next meeting.
8. Crosswalks from 4th to 8th; regarding painting lines for parking spaces there need to be hooks to designate the last spot in the sequence. Waiting for weather/painting season.
9. Fire Department heating/air conditioning; haven't been able to get anyone else to bid the job. Attempted to stay local with Petroboni, but he hasn't responded. Have proposal from Alberts, but it exceeded \$10,000, so it had to go out for three bids. Mr. Leone called Economy, Alberts and Petroboni. Only proposal is from Alberts. Mr. Leone will circle back with Petroboni.
10. Mr. Gill stated that two wooden chairs in the council chambers are broken; the seats are cracked, Mr. Leone states that Mrs. Killian's husband is a woodworker and will try repairing the chairs.
11. Mr. Gill asked about receiving a report from the Health inspector. There has been no invoice yet. Mr. Leone states that there is a website and he will get the site for us to view.
12. Mrs. DeVincent asked if Mr. Leone has spoken with Mr. Holtz about the street sweeping incident on Duss. A client had parked not knowing about street sweeping; when he went out to move his car, there was a street sweeping ticket. He paid the ticket, but was irate. This was discussed, but there is nothing that can be done.
13. Mr. Cafarelli asked about the light on 8th and 65, Mr. Leone states he received a complaint about how long the light is. Mr. Leone will contact the traffic signal company to check the timing.
14. Mrs. Miller brought up there should be no turn on red at 4th and 65. It is very dangerous when making a right on red.
15. Mrs. Miller stated it is tough to see turning out of Rite Aid. Mr. Gill stated 6th and Merchant is hard to see also.

16. Mr. Gill stated a lot of street lights are out, Mr. Leone states he will get Chief DeLuca to send out an officer at night to mark poles so they can be reported by the office to Duquesne Light.

VII. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn by Mrs. Miller; second by Mr. Cafarelli

NEXT MEETING OF BOROUGH COUNCIL: Regular Meeting: 5/10/2022 – 6:30PM