



MINUTES

Borough of Ambridge – Regular Meeting of Borough Council Executive Session 6:00 Personnel

Tuesday, April 11th, 2023 – 6:30 PM

I. Call to Order / Roll Call

Present: Mr. Cafarelli
Ms. DeVincent
Mr. Dunn
Mr. Gill
Ms. Gilliam
Mrs. Miller
Ms. Tessaro

Also Present: Mario Leone, Fire Chief Larrick, Chief DeLuca, James Brunner/NIRA

Absent: Mayor McCoy, Solicitor Chesney

II. Invocation: Rick Thornhill, Senior Pastor at New Hope Community Church Ambridge

III. Pledge of Allegiance

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

Anne Bacher – 956 Beaver Road – Three questions: First I must have had a misunderstanding about the repaving of the brick streets. Mr. Brunner advised that the brick streets in this project are coming up and paved with asphalt (10th Street and Kerr and a small intersection at Olive Lane). Ms. Bacher's second one is do we have a plan for live-streaming and recording these public meetings. Mr. Leone advised that the meetings are recorded but are not live-streamed yet. The internet in this room is not really good for it. We are in the process of upgrading to Go Net Speed. The lines have been installed in the Borough but are not live with them yet. After the computer upgrade, we will have the capability to do that; it will be up to Council whether to live-stream the meetings. Ms. Tessaro advised that part of the upgrade was to upgrade the audio system. Mr. Leone also added that if we were to go back into some type of pandemic, we would have the ability. Ms. Bacher indicated that a lot of people would like to participate but have difficulty coming down here. Ms. Bacher also asked about the former Springer properties; what is going to go there. Mr. Leone advised that the company that bought it was GM Rentals. Ms. Bacher had heard something about a sports complex. Mr. Leone advised that the sports complex will be adjacent to that, across from the 911-Center. They are also looking to utilize some square footage in the former Centria Steel Mill site, so it would be a combination. The sports complex would take approximately 100,000 square feet of that building, that leaves the other 200,000 square feet for the indoor storage facility. Mr. Gill returned to the question of whether the existing system is adequate for Zoom meetings; Mr. Leone advised that the current bandwidth with Comcast is not really sufficient, but once we move to Go Net Speed, we should be able to resume Zoom meetings, potentially withing the next few months.

Patti Sposaro – 1008 Kristufek Avenue. I have a couple questions and a couple of complaints. My first question is I know it is early, but our roads up there have been torn apart because of the gas

lines. Everything will be replaced, I hope, the streets, the sidewalks, everything they've destroyed, the gas company will fix that. Mr. Cafarelli advised that yes, once they get enough concrete to pour, they will replace whatever was torn out in kind (brick/concrete/asphalt). Ms. Sposaro stated that they did not pick up her garbage today. I've literally had enough of the garbage company. They want our money. Last week they picked it up, the week before it was Wednesday before they picked it up. Something needs to be done about it. Then my neighbors put garbage out and it's strewn all over the place. Another question that I asked the Police Chief, people are putting garbage out on Fridays, Saturdays, couches, chairs, whatever. There is an ordinance in the Borough that says that garbage doesn't get put out before 6:00 on Sunday night. It's not happening. Is it possible for the Police to cite these people. I got a letter about a couch and carpet that I didn't put out because of rain. I have the nicest house on the block that I live on. There are houses everywhere with couches, a washer and dryer...and I get a letter about it. A couple of months ago I was parked over the yellow line and the lady copy cited me for it. There are cars parked all over on the sidewalks and I called about Fasmio's with tow trucks and cars parked on Duss Avenue. What good is the camera up there? This selective ticketing is ridiculous. I know the cops can't be everywhere, but in order to get our town back in order, we have to hire some people. Are we getting the water park coming this year? Yes. Mr. Leone brought to Mrs. Sposaro's attention that at the end of the Agenda under Other Unfinished Business regarding the Ordinances, we are aware of these situations, and we are trying to do something about it. Some of these things you have to have an ordinance. But the current process needs to change to enact the ability to ticket (instead of issue a warning). We're working with the Solicitor and unfortunately it takes time. My neighbors have quads and ride them on the streets at all times. Ms. Tessaro advised her to call the Police and that if you see trash out too soon, call the Fire Department.

Tom Fedorko – grew up at 5th and Pine. I want to purchase the property adjacent to my mother's. The house was knocked down there, it has become a dump site, it is overgrown with weeds. I would like to buy it and fix it up. I am here to ask for tax leniency like I was told to do, so I'm hoping you can see it my way and the County told me to come here to ask. Mr. Leone outlined the efforts by the Public Works to clean up the lot. If the adjacent property owner is willing to take responsibility for the property, waiving the taxes on this property would behoove us. Then moving forward, they would have the obligation to pay them, and we would have a responsible owner on the property. It is up to the Council to make the decision to waive the taxes. There is also a paper alley behind. Ms. Tessaro recommended we check with our Solicitor and maybe discuss it at the next Workshop. Mr. Leone suggested that Mr. Fedorko get on the agenda for the next school board meeting, make your presentation like you've done here, advise them that the Borough will provide you an answer on the 25th, and then we'll sign it if it is approved on the 25th and we will sign it on the 26th.

Shaun Duguay – 511 Wilson Avenue. This is my first time here. My mom is handicapped and on oxygen full time and we plan to get a scooter for her. Where we live on Wilson Avenue, there is only one handicap spot, further down on the end of the block. There is nowhere on Wilson to access the sidewalk with a wheelchair. Is that something we will be able to possibly get in place up there? Mr. Cafarelli suggested a curb cut; this was done elsewhere on Pine Street. It is not ADA compliant. Ms. Tessaro advised that we would give this information to our Engineer and give your information to Mr. Leone. Mr. Duguay had a second item regarding the nasty windstorms. We had a tree fall in our yard and I've cleaned a lot of it up, but we still have some branches and within the Borough we don't have anywhere we can dispose of that. I was also going to help clean up the next lot from me. I wanted to know if the Borough could send a truck to pick up some of the debris. Ms. Tessaro and Mr. Leone advised him to call the Borough office to schedule a time for Public Works to pick up the bundled branches. Another question...chickens...with the price of eggs, we would like to have some egg layers here. Can the ordinance be changed to allow chickens. Mr. Leone asked that Mr. Duguay obtain the ordinance from the community he referred to and the Borough will look at it. Also, is there an update on Mayor McCoy? Mr. Leone advised that he spoke with Mayor McCoy last week and I anticipate a letter of resignation.

V. Approval of Previous Meeting’s Minutes

March 14th - Regular Meeting

Motion by Mrs. Miller to approve Minutes from March 14, 2023, regular Council Meeting; seconded by Mr. Dunn.

Council	Vote		Council	Vote
Mr. Cafarelli	Yes		Ms. Gilliam	Yes
Ms. DeVincent	Yes		Mrs. Miller	Yes
Mr. Dunn	Yes		Ms. Tessaro	Yes
Mr. Gill	Yes			
Mayor McCoy			Motion Carried	7-0

March 28th - Workshop Meeting

Motion by Mrs. Miller to approve Minutes from March 28, 2023, Council Workshop meeting; seconded by Mr. Dunn. Correction requested by Mrs. Tessaro on the adjournment time to 7:50 p.m.

Council	Vote		Council	Vote
Mr. Cafarelli	Yes		Ms. Gilliam	Yes
Ms. DeVincent	Yes		Mrs. Miller	Yes
Mr. Dunn	Yes		Ms. Tessaro	Yes
Mr. Gill	Yes			
Mayor McCoy			Motion Carried	7-0

VI. Approval to ratify and pay the Bills and Expenses:(For the month of April)

- | | | |
|-------------------------------------|-----------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1. General Fund | Unpaid: \$ 63,922.13 | Paid: \$151,636.33 |
| 2. Grants / Special Project Fund | Unpaid: \$ 237.39 | Paid: |
| 3. Recreation Fund | Unpaid: \$0.00 | Paid: |
| 4. 2021 Capital Note | Unpaid: \$0.00 | Paid: |
| 5. American Rescue Plan Fund | Unpaid: \$0.00 | Paid: |
| 6. Escrow Fund | Unpaid: \$0.00 | |
| 7. Police Pension Fund | Unpaid: \$0.00 | |
| 8. Service Employees Pension Fund | Unpaid: \$0.00 | |
| 9. Firemen’s Pension Fund | Unpaid: \$0.00 | |
| 10. Drug Investigation Fund | Unpaid: \$0.00 | |
| 11. Fire Apparatus Replacement Fund | Unpaid: \$0.00 | |

Motion by Mr. Dunn to ratify and approve bills for April, 2023; seconded by Mrs. Miller.

Comments: Mr. Gill asked a question about unpaid bills on the first page from Cintas for \$397.39. Mr. Leone advised they provide cleaning for rugs and cleaning supplies. Mr. Gill asked about the payment to Country Fab of \$385.00. Mr. Leone advised that is for a street light pole that was damaged, and it was repaired by Country Fab. Mr. Gill asked about the invoice from General Highway Products for \$1,418.11. Mr. Leone advised it was for light fixtures that were broken.

Council	Vote		Council	Vote
Mr. Cafarelli	Yes		Ms. Gilliam	Yes
Ms. DeVincent	Yes		Mrs. Miller	Yes
Mr. Dunn	Yes		Ms. Tessaro	Yes
Mr. Gill	Yes			
Mayor McCoy			Motion Carried	7-0

VII. 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 3 Items listed on the Consent Agenda.**

1. Borough Financial Report - acknowledge receipt of the Borough Treasurer’s Report for **March** 2023.
2. Authorize the American Red Cross to partner with the Ambridge Borough Fire Department for the “Sound the Alarm Event” Installing free smoke alarms for Borough Residents on May 13.
3. Employee of the Month Recognition to Jordan Turner – Fire Department; in recognition of his effort to save a family dog from a fire in neighboring community, as well as participated a program at Highland School for Career Day.

Motion by Mr. Gill to approve 3 items listed on the Consent Agenda; seconded by Ms. DeVincent.

Council	Vote	Council	Vote
Mr. Cafarelli	Yes	Ms. Gilliam	Yes
Ms. DeVincent	Yes	Mrs. Miller	Yes
Mr. Dunn	Yes	Ms. Tessaro	Yes
Mr. Gill	Yes		
Mayor McCoy		Motion Carried	7-0

VIII. New Business

1. Consider Action to Approve Payment Request No. 3 to Jet Jack, Inc in the amount of \$67,964.44 for the 2022 Storm Sewer Improvement Project as recommend by Borough Engineer (*Funding from the ARPA, and partial reimbursement from County*)

Motion by Mr. Dunn to approve Payment Request No. 3 to Jet Jack, Inc., in the amount of \$67,964.44 for the 2022 Storm Sewer Improvement Project as recommended by Borough Engineer (funding from the ARPA fund, and partial reimbursement from the County); seconded by Mrs. Miller.

Comment: Mr. Gill asked if the property has been inspected. Mr. Brunner indicated that this payment request was for pavement restoration. A number still need asphalt restoration, as well as top soil and grass restoration.

Council	Vote	Council	Vote
Mr. Cafarelli	Yes	Ms. Gilliam	Yes
Ms. DeVincent	Yes	Mrs. Miller	Yes
Mr. Dunn	Yes	Ms. Tessaro	Yes
Mr. Gill	Yes		
Mayor McCoy		Motion Carried	7-0

2. Consider Action to Approve the Work Plan Amendment No.1 for the Merchant Street and Downtown Area Streetscape Project with Stromberg/Garrigan & Associates, Inc.

Motion by Mr. Cafarelli to approve Work Plan Amendment No. 1 for the Merchant Street and Downtown Area Streetscape Project with Stromberg/Garrigan & Associates, Inc.; seconded by Mr. Dunn.

Council	Vote	Council	Vote
Mr. Cafarelli	Yes	Ms. Gilliam	Yes
Ms. DeVincent	Yes	Mrs. Miller	Yes
Mr. Dunn	Yes	Ms. Tessaro	Yes
Mr. Gill	Yes		
Mayor McCoy		Motion Carried	7-0

3. Consider Action to Approve the purchase orders for the Henning Park: Pavilion - \$52,900.00, Bathroom - \$48,850.00, and Fencing- \$55,650.00 (*Waiting for the formal quotes Recreational Resource*).

Motion by Mrs. Miller to approve the purchase orders for the Henning Park: Pavilion - \$52,900.00, Bathroom - \$48,850.00, and Fencing - \$55,640.00 (waiting for the formal quotes Recreational Resource); seconded by Mr. Dunn.

Comment: Mr. Gill asked about the doors in the rear? Mr. Leone advised that the original drawing showed the door in the rear; the middle door (utility door) will be in the back, and where it shows the utility door will be the water fountain. The intent is to camera the entire park. There will be programmed locking mechanisms throughout the park. The Utility Door would only be accessed by the Public Works for retrieving supplies for the restrooms. Mr. Leone also advised that the only remaining items for Henning Park are for the concrete work; we are waiting for a bid on that. Also for the security system. Planning to start construction in early June. Mr. Brunner indicated there might be some preliminary work in May.

Council	Vote		Council	Vote
Mr. Cafarelli	Yes		Ms. Gilliam	Yes
Ms. DeVincent	Yes		Mrs. Miller	Yes
Mr. Dunn	Yes		Ms. Tessaro	Yes
Mr. Gill	Yes			
Mayor McCoy			Motion Carried	7-0

4. Consider Action to hire for the Road Department vacancies.

Comment: Mr. Leone advised that Marty Sova has agreed to step into the role of Lead of the Road Department. So, at this time we are going to hire for the position of full-time laborer and also consider hiring some part-time Road Employees.

Motion by Mr. Cafarelli to hire Nick Martin as full-time laborer at the starting rate of \$20.12/hour pending pre-employment background check, and physical and drug screening; seconded by Ms. DeVincent.

Council	Vote		Council	Vote
Mr. Cafarelli	Yes		Ms. Gilliam	Yes
Ms. DeVincent	Yes		Mrs. Miller	Yes
Mr. Dunn	Yes		Ms. Tessaro	Yes
Mr. Gill	Yes			
Mayor McCoy			Motion Carried	7-0

Motion by Mr. Cafarelli to hire Keenan Baker as part-time laborer at the starting rate of \$17.50/hour pending pre-employment background check, and physical and drug screening; seconded by Mr. Gill.

Council	Vote		Council	Vote
Mr. Cafarelli	Yes		Ms. Gilliam	Yes
Ms. DeVincent	Yes		Mrs. Miller	Yes
Mr. Dunn	Yes		Ms. Tessaro	Yes
Mr. Gill	Yes			
Mayor McCoy			Motion Carried	7-0

Motion by Mr. Cafarelli to hire George Kontoulis as part-time laborer at the starting rate of \$17.50/hour pending pre-employment background check, and physical and drug screening; seconded by Mr. Dunn.

Council	Vote		Council	Vote
Mr. Cafarelli	Yes		Ms. Gilliam	Yes
Ms. DeVincent	Yes		Mrs. Miller	Yes

Mr. Dunn	Yes		Ms. Tessaro	Yes
Mr. Gill	Yes			
Mayor McCoy			Motion Carried	7-0

IX. Committee Reports

1. Public Safety Committee – Mr. Dunn reported that the Public Safety Committee did not meet in March, but will be meeting on April 17 at 5:00 p.m. Ms. Tessaro asked Chief DeLuca about his desire to change the car wash company. Chief DeLuca requested that we move our car wash contract to Crown Clean Car Wash in Baden. Chief DeLuca said Crown provides unlimited drive through washes and free interior wipe downs.
2. Mayor’s Report
3. Code Committee – Ms. Gilliam outlined the statistics provided in the Code Enforcement Report.
4. Public Works Committee – Mr. Cafarelli reported there was no meeting in March, but discussions were held about the hiring of Public Works employees. Mr. Cafarelli reiterated that grass cutting season is here as stated by Ms. Gilliam. Ms. Tessaro asked Mr. Cafarelli about some comments she’s received about street sweeping for streets that are not currently on the list. Is it possible to maybe possibly twice during the season to see if some of those streets could be swept. Ms. Tessaro stated the interest was for the 600-800 block of Pine to Wilson. Mr. Cafarelli will discuss it within the Public Works Committee.
5. Parks and Recreation Committee – Mrs. Miller had nothing new to report.
6. Finance Committee
7. Engineer’s Report – Mr. Brunner reported that the Road Program got started last week on 10th Street, then moving to Kerr Street. The two Library projects will get started either next week or the following week. A couple of projects have been submitted for improving some parking lots within the Borough as well as ADA ramps.
8. Solicitor’s Report
9. Manager’s Report – Mr. Leone reported that in the past few weeks he’s been busy with some fallen trees. We’re pretty close to getting them cleaned up, but there are still some remnants. We plan to get them cleaned up in the next week or two. The Henning Park project are getting the last-minute items buttoned up. Mr. Leone thanked Mr. Brunner for his help and effort during all of that. The exciting part is the amount of money coming into Ambridge Borough. On March 16 we received notification from the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania that we are getting a \$400,000.00 grant for the Streetscape Project. On March 17, I submitted a \$2 million request respectfully to Senator Casey, Senator Fetterman, Congressman Deluzio. Councilwoman Gilliam and I attended Congressman Deluzio’s open house and reminded him of that \$2 million request that we put in and he promised Ms. Gilliam that we would get something, but we don’t know how much it will be. The request for Ambridge Community Center and Recreation Complex that we trying to get built by the 911 Center. We also received notification on March 17 that we received \$12,500.00 from the Pennsylvania Humanities for the Heart and Soul Program. We also received on March 27 notification that we’re getting \$6,500.00 from the Creative Communities Grant for a mural project on the 5th Street Park depicting the Bicentennial for Old Economy Village. On April 4 I submitted a DCNR Grant with the cooperation of KSA requesting \$600,000.00 which is a 50% matching grant, so the Borough would have to contribute \$300,000.00 and looking to get \$300,000.00 from DCNR. On April 6, we were notified we were awarded \$10,532.00 for the grant in putting the four EV Charging stations in front of the Borough Building. In addition, this cooperates with the \$15,000.00 grant that we got for the new Police vehicles; we got \$7,500.00 for each truck. In addition to the infrastructure project with the charging stations, Duquesne Light needs to put a new generator out front and they priced their contribution toward this project at about \$45,000.00. After everything gets installed another bonus where Duquesne Light will give the Borough a rebate for installing the EV Charging Stations and we are estimating that rebate will be approximately \$8,000.00. So collectively, this is a little

over \$500,000.00 in grants we've received in the last two-three months. We've submitted requests for \$2.3 million. There is still work that I need to do a bunch of reports due at the end of the month and they correlate to the Police grants, the \$250,000.00 Cops Grant, the \$11,685.00 Weapons Grant, and the \$37,994.00 Grant for updating the Police Policies. On the Fire Department side, I want to give accolades to Assistant Fire Chief Dave Gorecki for submitting a grant for six new AED's for the Borough. I've been talking to several prospective businesses looking to start up in Ambridge, so we have more new businesses in the pipeline. We have a new printing shop looking to occupy where Dancing With The Stars location. We may have a new tenant next to Fermata Brewing. Also had a conference call with KSA and Port of Pittsburgh. Port of Pittsburgh oversees the waterways and the Ohio River, and we may be able to secure some grant funding for them. They are working with a tenant in the Port of Pittsburgh to improve their dock facility. These funds can also be leveraged for infrastructures and roadways improvements so that if a dock were put in, we could upgrade the infrastructure around that. Another important filing that was due this month is the AG-385 Pension Report that we have to update, and I wanted to thank Chief Larrick in providing some data in putting that report together.

X. Official Reports - Motion to accept Official Reports.

Motion by Mrs. Miller to accept the Official Reports; seconded by Ms. DeVincent.

Council	Vote		Council	Vote
Mr. Cafarelli	Yes		Ms. Gilliam	Yes
Ms. DeVincent	Yes		Mrs. Miller	Yes
Mr. Dunn	Yes		Ms. Tessaro	Yes
Mr. Gill	Yes			
Mayor McCoy			Motion Carried	7-0

X. Other Unfinished Business

1. Glenwood Avenue fire damaged properties – need to finalize legal documentation for transfer of properties. Mr. Leone spoke with Solicitor Chesney today and we are strategizing on how to get this off the Unfinished Business list. Hopefully, next month it could go away.
2. Ordinances – Street Opening, Stops Signs, Storm Water, IPMC- Ticket for Zoning/Code Violations. Mr. Leone asked Mr. Brunner whether Solicitor Chesney emailed the last copy of that; it was emailed to Mr. Leone who will forward it to Mr. Brunner to ensure we've captured everything. The Stop Sign ordinance is very close; the Road Department provided some updates that will need to be revised. From the Solicitor's standpoint it is done and on Mr. Leone's lap for action. Stormwater, Solicitor Chesney has had conversations with Chief Larrick in regard to upgrading the IPMC and Ticket violations. Strides have been made on all of the items.
3. Walter Panek Rules and Regulations – signage update. On the Walter Panek Park Rules and Regulations in regard to metal detecting in the park, we need to see if those rules and regulations were adopted by Ordinance. If not, we'll have to amend that Ordinance. If not an ordinance, we'll need to determine if the Council wants to prohibit metal detecting in the Park, we'll need action to make modification to the sign and add that language. In addition, there is no language prohibiting quad riding in Walter Panek Park. We are looking for consideration to add those two items.
4. Mr. Cafarelli asked Mr. Brunner why they are taking the bricks out on 10th Street prior to paving. Mr. Brunner stated that the underlying subbase is so deteriorated that it was more cost effective to pull out the bricks.
5. Mr. Gill asked how the EV Police vehicles are being charged. Mr. Leone stated they are currently using the outlet in the Police Department garage, but two of the new charging stations at the Borough Building are dedicated to the EV Police vehicles. Mr. Gill also asked about the street lights out at 6th Street and Duss. Mr. Leone advised that these lights have been reported to Duquesne Light on numerous occasions in addition to the lights on the bridge. Mr. Gill also asked about the security

system in the building; he asked why the rear entrance door is still unlocked during the day. Ms. Tessaro described why it was decided certain doors are unlocked at certain times.

XI. Adjournment

Motion by Mr. Cafarelli to adjourn the meeting at 8:36 p.m.; seconded by Ms. Gilliam; all in favor.

NEXT MEETING OF BOROUGH COUNCIL: Workshop Meeting 4/25/2023 - 6:30PM
Regular Meeting: 5/9/2023 – 6:30PM

Road Paving Project started Wednesday April 5th Started on 10th Street between Duss Ave. to Beaver Ave. moving to Kerr St next.

Columbia Gas Line Restoration Project to begin in Late April between 15th Street to 19th Street and between Duss Avenue and Beaver Street. Construction Project will last until late Fall.