



MINUTES

Borough of Ambridge – Regular Meeting of Borough Council

Executive Session 6:00 Real Estate

Tuesday, May 9th, 2023 – 6:30 PM

I. Call to Order / Roll Call

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

Also Present: Mario Leone, Fire Chief Larrick, Lt. Chickos, James Brunner/NIRA

Absent: Mayor McCoy, Ms. DeVincent, Solicitor Chesney (available by phone)

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

III. Pledge of Allegiance

IV. Presentation/Recognition

Citizens: Shamar Underwood & Trez Everett. Mrs. Miller presented a Certificate of Bravery to Trez Everett for his actions on the evening of April 30, 2023, in rescuing two young children.

Fire Department: Fire Fighters Dan Caul, Larry Charlton, Brian Brown, Justin Miller, Lenny Maytic

Presentation of Letter of Commendation by Chief Donald Larrick to Firefighters Dan Caul, Larry Charlton, Volunteer Lt. Brian Brown, Volunteer Firefighter Justin Miller, and Volunteer Firefighter Lenny Maytic

Police Department: Officers Seng, Causer, and Anderson

Presentation of Letters of Commendation by Lt. Chickos to Police Officer Anderson, Officer Causer, and Officer Seng.

Mrs. Miller recognized the attendance by the family that was affected by the fire on April 30, who came to express their appreciation to the officers. Ms. Gilliam and Ms. Tessaro presented the family with personal donations they had received on behalf of the family. Mrs. Stanley expressed her extreme appreciation for all who responded and for all of the donations they've received. She then provided a recounting of the events of that evening.

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

Jodi Gill – 909 11th Street – First thanked Ms. Tessaro for coordinating efforts on behalf of the family. Secondly provided a shoutout to Will Fishinger in the Ambridge Borough office. Will took care of a miscommunication with Waste Management. Also, a shoutout to Waste Management because as soon as they were contacted by Will, they were at her house to resolve her issue. The miscommunication was the result of an incorrect contact number for Waste Management. Last thing was a comment by Ms. Gill about social media posts by Mr. Leone. Mr. Leone appreciated Ms. Gill's comments.

Anne Bacher – 956 Beaver Road – Following up from her time on Planning, can you provide an update on the 911 Center addition? Mr. Leone advised that nothing has moved forward, it is in their court. It is at the County level and may have to do with funding. Ms. Bacher also commented on the outdoor fitness court and National Fitness Campaign. Ms. Bacher feels this is a positive. Mr. Leone advised that he has a nice video he will show in a bit.

Raquel Branchik – 281 Wagner Avenue – Ms. Branchik spoke about the residents on Wagner Avenue, but there are renters who aren't as vested in taking care of their property. Ms. Branchik spent yesterday, after trash pickup, picking up six dirty diapers off of the street at the same location she had presented to Council last year. Even though the neighbors have tried to help the residents at this location by buying them garbage cans, they still put their bags out at the curb. Racoons get in the trash and Waste Management does not pick up individual pieces of garbage (which I do not blame them). This happens week after week. Also, there are several residences with high grass. At 269 Wagner is vacated. The grass is so high that a different neighbor has offered to pay ½ to get the grass cut. It broke the lawn mower. So only half of the lawn is cut. On the other side of the side at Church and Wagner, the owner only comes every other month. Just asking for the Borough's help. Chief Larrick reported that the owner of 269 Wagner Avenue has passed away and we have no other way to get hold of someone for that property. As an example, if Code sends a notice to an owner and then a neighbor cuts it, it appears that the owner has abated the notice. It is a long process starting with the notice letter, then a citation, then a hearing.

Shaun Duguay – 511 Wilson Avenue – I want to extend to Fire Department and Police Department on behalf of Fritzy's Bistro, each of the officers acknowledged tonight, we would like to provide them with a meal on us. I noticed on the agenda item 7, considering action to accept the resignation letter of the Mayor Duke McCoy. My question is how will they proceed now that the next election for Mayor is not until 2025, how will that be handled? Ms. Tessaro advised that the Council will vote on his resignation tonight and then I become the Acting Mayor, until we appoint a Mayor. Then in November there will be a special election and the person who is appointed Mayor will have to run. Mr. Duguay then asked how to be considered for that nomination? Ms. Tessaro is in touch with the Pennsylvania Association of Boroughs with these questions. Mr. Leone advised that in November each of the respective parties will be able to nominate a candidate from their respective party. Mr. Duguay asked about Independent candidates, but Mr. Leone is not able to speak about that with certainty. There is some probability that could occur, requiring so many signatures for that to occur. I would point you to the Bureau of Elections to ask how that is conducted.

VI. Approval of Previous Meeting's Minutes

April 11th - Regular Meeting

Motion by Mr. Dunn to approve minutes from April 11, 2023, regular meeting; seconded by Mr. Cafarelli.

Council	Vote	Council	Vote
Mr. Cafarelli	Yes	Ms. Gilliam	Yes
Ms. DeVincent		Mrs. Miller	Yes
Mr. Dunn	Yes	Ms. Tessaro	Yes
Mr. Gill	No		
Mayor McCoy		Motion Carried	5-1

April 25th - Workshop Meeting

Motion by Mr. Dunn to approve minutes from April 25, 2023, workshop meeting; seconded by Mr. Gill.

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

Mr. Dunn	Yes		Ms. Tessaro	Yes
Mr. Gill	Yes			
Mayor McCoy			Motion Carried	6-0

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

1. General Fund	Unpaid: \$176,618.49	Paid: \$ 44,603.50
2. Grants / Special Project Fund	Unpaid: \$ 170.46	Paid:
3. Recreation Fund	Unpaid: \$0.00	Paid:
4. 2021 Capital Note	Unpaid: \$ 0.00	Paid: \$ 80,773.44
5. American Rescue Plan Fund	Unpaid: \$ 0.00	Paid: \$225,683.22
6. Escrow Fund	Unpaid: \$0.00	Paid: \$ 8,120.00
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 May, 2023; seconded by Ms. Gilliam.

Council	Vote	Council	Vote
Mr. Cafarelli	Yes	Ms. Gilliam	Yes
Ms. DeVincent		Mrs. Miller	Yes
Mr. Dunn	Yes	Ms. Tessaro	Yes
Mr. Gill	Yes		
Mayor McCoy		Motion Carried	6-0

Mr. Gill asked to have it noted the reason he voted “No” is he asked if they could receive the Treasurer’s Report sooner than the day of the meeting. Mr. Leone stated that the Treasurer’s Report is always provided on the day of the meeting. He then changed his vote to “Yes”.

VIII. 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.**

1. Borough Financial Report - acknowledge receipt of the Borough Treasurer’s Report for **May** 2023.

Motion by Mrs. Miller to accept and approve the Borough Treasurer’s Report for May, 2023; seconded by Mr. Dunn.

Council	Vote	Council	Vote
Mr. Cafarelli	Yes	Ms. Gilliam	Yes
Ms. DeVincent		Mrs. Miller	Yes
Mr. Dunn	Yes	Ms. Tessaro	Yes
Mr. Gill	No		
Mayor McCoy		Motion Carried	5-1

Mr. Gill commented that Council should be getting the report sooner. Mr. Leone advised this has been the procedure since he became Borough Manager. If the Council prefers, the Report can be generated on the Thursday or Friday before the meeting. Mrs. Miller stated that the report is generated on the day of the meeting, so it is most current. Mr. Gill was under the impression that previously it was provided sooner, but Mr. Cafarelli and Mrs. Miller confirmed that it has always been provided on the day of the meeting.

IX. New Business

1. Consider Action to Approve Payment Request No. 4 to Jet Jack, Inc in the amount of **\$65,582.01** for the 2022 Storm Sewer Improvement Project as recommend by Borough Engineer (*Funding from the ARPA, and partial reimbursement from County*).

Motion by Mr. Cafarelli to approve Payment Request No. 4 to Jet Jack, Inc., in the amount of \$65,582.01 for the 2022 Storm Sewer Improvement Project as recommended by Borough Engineer; seconded by Mr. Dunn.

Council	Vote	Council	Vote
Mr. Cafarelli	Yes	Ms. Gilliam	Yes
Ms. DeVincent		Mrs. Miller	Yes
Mr. Dunn	Yes	Ms. Tessaro	Yes
Mr. Gill	Yes		
Mayor McCoy		Motion Carried	6-0

2. Consider Action to Approve Payment Request No. 1 to Independent Enterprises, Inc in the amount of **\$82,181.48** for the 2023 Road Program as recommend by Borough Engineer (*Funding from the Capital Notes*).

Motion by Mrs. Miller to approve Payment Request No. 1 to Independent Enterprises, Inc., in the amount of \$82,181.48 for the 2023 Road Program as recommended by Borough Engineer; seconded by Mr. Dunn.

Council	Vote	Council	Vote
Mr. Cafarelli	Yes	Ms. Gilliam	Yes
Ms. DeVincent		Mrs. Miller	Yes
Mr. Dunn	Yes	Ms. Tessaro	Yes
Mr. Gill	Yes		
Mayor McCoy		Motion Carried	6-0

3. Consider Action to approve the purchase of the Parcel 12-006-0101.011 in the amount of **\$120,000.00** for the purpose of expanding Henning Park - this property consists of 4.67 acres along Merchant Street located across the street it will be utilized for overflow parking and a fitness park (*County ARPA funding will be used, and the property appraised for \$150,000.00 and was listed at \$175,000.00*)

Motion by Mrs. Miller to approve the purchase of Parcel 120006-0101.011 in the amount of \$120,000.00 consisting of 4.67 acres along Merchant Street located across the street; it will be utilized for overflow parking and a fitness park; seconded by Ms. Gilliam.

Comment: Mrs. Miller provided more details about why Henning Street Park was located where it will be. Mr. Leone provided a video presentation on the Outdoor Fitness Court. Mrs. Miller advised that this will be for teenage kids as well. Mr. Leone advised that he has been investigating the NFC Program for some time. Although there were other potential developers looking at the property, some were not attractive to the community. The idea was presented to the Council to purchase the property for overflow parking and the Outdoor Fitness Court using ARPA money and develop it with ARPA money as well. We are the recipient of a \$30,000.00 NFC Grant.

Council	Vote	Council	Vote
Mr. Cafarelli	Yes	Ms. Gilliam	Yes
Ms. DeVincent		Mrs. Miller	Yes
Mr. Dunn	Yes	Ms. Tessaro	Yes
Mr. Gill	Yes		
Mayor McCoy		Motion Carried	6-0

4. Consider Action to approve Resolution 2023-2 Allocating Funds for an Outdoor Fitness Court as part of the 2023 National Fitness Campaign.

Motion by Mrs. Miller to approve Resolution 2023-2 Allocating Funds for an Outdoor Fitness Court as part of the 2023 National Fitness Campaign; seconded by Mr. Dunn.

Comment: Mr. Gill asked how much in funds are for the Outdoor Fitness Court? Mr. Leone provided details about the funding. It's \$155,000.00 for the Fitness Court; they provide us with the \$30,000.00 grant, which brings it down to \$125,000.00. We are responsible for installing the pad and the installation cost covered by ARPA Funds. There is a "Welcome" wall as you come into Ambridge. We would solicit corporate sponsors for each side of the wall (for example Heritage Valley Health System and/or UPMC) for annual contribution. Those funds would be used for the maintenance of the Splash Pad. We could leverage those costs through corporate sponsorships.

Council	Vote		Council	Vote
Mr. Cafarelli	Yes		Ms. Gilliam	Yes
Ms. DeVincent			Mrs. Miller	Yes
Mr. Dunn	Yes		Ms. Tessaro	Yes
Mr. Gill	Yes			
Mayor McCoy			Motion Carried	6-0

5. Consider Action to Approve new contract for Police car washing with Crown Car Wash.

Motion by Mr. Dunn to approve a new contract for Police Car washing with Crown Car Wash; seconded by Ms. Gilliam.

Council	Vote		Council	Vote
Mr. Cafarelli	Yes		Ms. Gilliam	Yes
Ms. DeVincent			Mrs. Miller	Yes
Mr. Dunn	Yes		Ms. Tessaro	Yes
Mr. Gill	Yes			
Mayor McCoy			Motion Carried	6-0

6. Consider Action to Approve the bid for Friend Surface Solutions to install water & sanitary sewer connections to the Splash Pad and Restroom Building for the amount of \$12,000.00 as recommended by the Borough Engineer.

Motion by Mrs. Miller to approve the bid for Friend Surface Solutions to install water and sanitary sewer connections to the Splash Pad and Restroom Building for the amount of \$12,000.00 as recommended by the Borough Engineer; seconded by Mr. Dunn.

Council	Vote		Council	Vote
Mr. Cafarelli	Yes		Ms. Gilliam	Yes
Ms. DeVincent			Mrs. Miller	Yes
Mr. Dunn	Yes		Ms. Tessaro	Yes
Mr. Gill	Yes			
Mayor McCoy			Motion Carried	6-0

7. Consider Action to accept the resignation letter from Mayor Gerald "Duke" McCoy to be effective May 15th 2023.

Motion (with regret) by Mr. Cafarelli to accept the resignation letter from Mayor Gerald "Duke" McCoy to be effective May 15th 2023; seconded (with regret) by Mrs. Miller.

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

Mr. Gill	Yes		
Mayor McCoy		Motion Carried	6-0

Per code, Ms. Tessaro is designated Acting Mayor. Ms. Tessaro elected to rescind that and hand it off to the Vice President, Mrs. Miller. Mrs. Miller expressed her desire to run for Mayor and requested the Council’s consideration to consider for the appointment and intends to run in the next election. Mr. Leone stated the Borough has 30 days to make an appointment. In the event they are unable to make an appointment, there is a Vacancy Board.

8. Consider Action to accept the resignation letter from Part Time Firefighter Dennis Baker effective May 27, 2023.

Motion by Mr. Cafarelli to accept the resignation letter from Part Time Firefighter Dennis Baker effective May 27, 2023; seconded by Mr. Gill.

Comment: Mr. Leone advised that Firefighter Baker resigned after receiving a full-time position with the City of McKeesport.

Council	Vote	Council	Vote
Mr. Cafarelli	Yes	Ms. Gilliam	Yes
Ms. DeVincent		Mrs. Miller	Yes
Mr. Dunn	Yes	Ms. Tessaro	Yes
Mr. Gill	Yes		
Mayor McCoy		Motion Carried	6-0

Committee Reports

1. Public Safety Committee – Mr. Dunn reported there was a Public Safety meeting. The meeting was with the Fire Department. Chief Larrick provided an outline of the items approved by the Council at the Workshop Meeting. Chief Larrick expressed his appreciation to the Council and Manager for the items approved. Mr. Dunn indicated that Chief DeLuca had no requests. Mr. Gill asked about the April Police Report. Lt. Chickos stated his next report will include April and May. Mrs. Miller thanked Lt. Chickos for the phenomenal job he is doing in Chief DeLuca’s absence.
2. Mayor’s Report
3. Code Committee – Ms. Gilliam provided an outline of the items in the Code Enforcement report.
4. Public Works Committee – Mr. Cafarelli advised there was no meeting last month but is meeting tomorrow to discuss a few things on the table. Mr. Cafarelli commented on the work done on 10th and Kerr Streets; they are doing a really good job. Still patching, doing a lot of grass cutting. Our new employee and part-time employee are doing well. Mr. Leone has told Mr. Cafarelli they are staying ahead of things. We are considering the other part-time position. Ms. Tessaro added that at the Tire Collection Event was last weekend and three Public Works employees came out on their day off; 240 tires were collected to be recycled.
5. Parks and Recreation Committee – Mrs. Miller advised that the Borough has asked the Water Authority and Municipal Authority to waive their tap in fees for the Splash Pad.
6. Finance Committee
7. Engineer’s Report – Mr. Brunner advised that the Road Program is underway; hopeful that 10th and Kerr will be complete in the next week or so. Mrs. Miller asked about Olive Lane. The Salt Shed should start in June. Library projects are underway. The roof project is almost complete; still need a ladder and hatch. The exterior cleaning project is well underway: think it will wrap up in the next couple of weeks.
8. Solicitor’s Report
9. Manager’s Report – Mr. Leone also expressed accolades to the Public Works Department. The two new employees are doing phenomenal. Hopeful to get the dog park back open after it’s been reseeded. After the winter, it was pretty torn up. They’ve also made other improvements; park benches have been refurbished. They will be addressing the bleachers next (ones that were not

addressed by the Eagle Scout project). Mr. Leone reported his meeting with the Beaver County Transit Authority Manager. They are looking at making some bus stop improvements in the Borough; possibly some kiosks to provide some up-to-date schedules. We are also looking at doing some electronic signage as well. At 4th and Park Road, BCTA will be installing a new bench there. Public Works has dug that area out and will pour concrete there. With these new employees, we have gained some new skills, so we're able to do some additional work. Today they provided some beautification along Merchant by digging out the tree pits and installing new mulch. Mr. Leone requested another resolution for PJ Caul Park. We've submitted a grant for \$600,000.00 to DCNR which requires a 50% match of \$300,000.00. This grant we are asking for \$250,000.00 and if we are successful in getting this grant, the \$250,000.00 can be allocated as part of the \$300,000.00. In essence, with both grants being awarded, we would have a \$600,000.00 grant project with only a \$50,000.00 Borough match. Still working with the Street Scape Consultants; meeting at the end of the month to finalize some of the items. Talking with Sports Complex people; we've submitted another \$2,000,000.00 appropriation request to Senator Casey, Senator Fetterman, and Congressman DeLuzio. Senator Fetterman is submitting it as one of his appropriation requests. Requested action on the Resolution for the P.J. Caul Park CFA Grant. Mrs. Miller and Ms. Tessaro expressed their appreciation for Mr. Leone's efforts.

Resolution 2023-3 PJ Caul Park – CFA Grant Authorization

Motion by Mrs. Miller to approve Resolution 2023-3 for the P.J. Caul Park – CFA Grant Authorization; seconded by Mr. Dunn.

Council	Vote		Council	Vote
Mr. Cafarelli	Yes		Ms. Gilliam	Yes
Ms. DeVincent			Mrs. Miller	Yes
Mr. Dunn	Yes		Ms. Tessaro	Yes
Mr. Gill	Yes			
Mayor McCoy			Motion Carried	6-0

X. Official Reports - Motion to accept Official Reports.

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

Council	Vote		Council	Vote
Mr. Cafarelli	Yes		Ms. Gilliam	Yes
Ms. DeVincent			Mrs. Miller	Yes
Mr. Dunn	Yes		Ms. Tessaro	Yes
Mr. Gill	Yes			
Mayor McCoy			Motion Carried	6-0

XI. Other Unfinished Business

- a. Glenwood Avenue fire damaged properties – need to finalize legal documentation for transfer of properties. Update provided during Executive Session.
- b. Ordinances – Street Opening, Stops Signs, Storm Water, IPMC- Ticket for Zoning/Code Violations. Mr. Leone advised that the Stop Sign Ordinance should be here shortly. Should be able to vote on it at the next regular meeting due to advertisement requirement. Still working on language on the other items.

XII. Adjournment

Motion by Mrs. Miller to adjourn the meeting at 8:07 p.m.; seconded by Ms. Gilliam; all in favor.

NEXT MEETING OF BOROUGH COUNCIL: Workshop Meeting 5/23/2023 - 6:30PM
Regular Meeting: 6/13/2023 – 6:30PM

Special Announcement: Clean & Beautify Ambridge: clean-up day is this Saturday May 13th
Chamber of Commerce Wine Walk – May 13th from 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.
Turtle Racing Event is May 20th 12pm – 3 pm @ PJ Caul Park