



## MINUTES

**Borough of Ambridge – Meeting of Borough Council**  
Executive Session  
Council Chambers  
**Tuesday, June 13th, 2023 – 6:30 PM**

**I. Call to Order / Roll Call**

**Present:** Ms. DeVincent  
Mr. Dunn  
Mr. Gill  
Ms. Gilliam  
Ms. Tessaro (by phone)  
Mayor Miller

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

**Absent:** Mr. Cafarelli

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

**III. Pledge of Allegiance**

**IV. Presentations** – Jordan Kohlmeyer – Certificate of Bravery – Mayor Miller read the Certificate of Bravery presented to Jordan Kohlmeyer

Shamar Underwood – Certificate of Bravery – Mr. Underwood was not in attendance.

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

**NOTE: Recording did not begin until Mr. Duguay was speaking)**

**D. Maximillion Elliott-Quinerly – 318 Park Road** – Asked about 308 demolition, it's bad! Later asked about Notes Capital Program in conjunction with the Treasurer's Report.

**Steve Roberts – 193 12<sup>th</sup> Street** – Spoke about the by-laws – appointment from HARB.

**Shaun Duguay – 511 Wilson Avenue** – There is a section of 6<sup>th</sup> Street that is concrete that has dropped 6 inches and angled. When standing on the street, you can see the ground is eroded underneath it. It's dangerous that the road is being used in case the road collapses. Mr. Gill asked exactly where. Mr. Duguay stated it's at 6<sup>th</sup> and Wilson. Mr. Leone stated that Engineer Brunner is working on that project. Mr. Brunner advised that they were out there today. This is elevated to emergency status. Mr. Leone also addressed the question regarding the Sinking Fund. Mrs. Tessaro addressed Mr. Duguay's question regarding the Council seat vacancy. Mr. Gill stated that at the last meeting there would be interviews conducted; Mr. Leone provided the applications of the three candidates to Council and there was no feedback as to whether interviews were needed.

**Anne Bacher – 956 Beaver Road** – Mrs. Bacher asked some financial questions to better understand the budget. On the Treasurer's Report, asked about the Notes Capital Program amount. Mr. Leone clarified the dollar amount shown in the Treasurer's Report, as well as how the funds will be used. Mrs. Bacher also asked about the ARPA monies. Mr. Leone explained how money came into and out of the ARPA fund.

**Mohammad Al Gharaibeh & Megan Irlbeck – 712 Schiller Drive, Baden, PA –** Mr. Al Gharaibeh came to ask about his request for tax exoneration on property he purchased from the Beaver County Repository. Mr. Leone explained that his request did not make the cut off time to make tonight’s Agenda. The request is for 649 Merchant Street which is to the right of the “old” theater. The property is in severe disrepair. The Borough has not established a formal process for tax exoneration, but we haven’t had good luck with the repository sales. The Borough is not very inclined to exonerate due to past experiences. Mr. Al Gharaibeh and Ms. Irlbeck were under the impression they were looking at the “old” theater property. Further discussion will occur once they have clarified which property they are interested in. Mr. Steve Roberts has offered to assist in investigating the properties.

**VI. Approval of Previous Meeting’s Minutes**

- **May 9<sup>th</sup>** - Regular Meeting

**Motion** by Ms. Gilliam to approve minutes from May 9, 2023, regular meeting; seconded by Ms. DeVincent.

**Comment** by Mr. Gill about Jodi Gill’s remarks in the Public Comment portion on May 9<sup>th</sup> that her remarks weren’t included verbatim relating to Mr. Leone’s social media posts. Mr. Leone advised that the minutes are not a transcript, but a summary of what transpired. Mrs. Killian reviews the recording and provides Meeting Minutes based on the recording. Ms. Tessaro advised Mr. Gill that anything that a Council Member wants verbatim in the Minutes should be provided in writing to Mrs. Killian. Mr. Gill voted No on the motion because he did not think that a public forum for a public official to make here using your position as Borough Manager to make a statement like that on Facebook.

Council	Vote	Council	Vote
Mr. Cafarelli		Ms. Gilliam	Yes
Ms. DeVincent	Yes		
Mr. Dunn	Yes	Ms. Tessaro	Yes
Mr. Gill	No		
Mayor Miller		<b>Motion Carried</b>	<b>4-1</b>

- **May 23<sup>rd</sup>** – Workshop Meeting
- **Motion** by Ms. DeVincent to approve minutes from May 23, 2023, workshop meeting; seconded by Mr. Dunn.

Council	Vote	Council	Vote
Mr. Cafarelli		Ms. Gilliam	Yes
Ms. DeVincent	Yes		
Mr. Dunn	Yes	Ms. Tessaro	Yes
Mr. Gill	Yes		
Mayor Miller		<b>Motion Carried</b>	<b>5-0</b>

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

1. General Fund	Unpaid: \$28,521.28	Paid: \$275,806.45
2. Grants / Special Project Fund	Unpaid: \$75.00	Paid: \$404.65
3. Recreation Fund	Unpaid: \$0.00	Paid: \$0.00
4. 2021 Capital Note	Unpaid: \$206,149.78	Paid: \$140,812.50
5. ARPA Fund	Unpaid: \$15,558.12	
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 pay the bills and expenses for the month of May; seconded by Ms. DeVincent.

Council	Vote	Council	Vote
Mr. Cafarelli		Ms. Gilliam	Yes
Ms. DeVincent	Yes		
Mr. Dunn	Yes	Ms. Tessaro	Yes
Mr. Gill	No		
Mayor Miller		<b>Motion Carried</b>	<b>4-1</b>

**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 **JUNE** 2023.

**Motion** by Mr. Dunn to approve the Borough Treasurer’s Report for June, 2023; seconded by Ms. DeVincent.

Council	Vote	Council	Vote
Mr. Cafarelli		Ms. Gilliam	Yes
Ms. DeVincent	Yes		
Mr. Dunn	Yes	Ms. Tessaro	Yes
Mr. Gill	Yes		
Mayor Miller		<b>Motion Carried</b>	<b>5-0</b>

**IX: New Business**

1. Consider Action to Approve Progress Payment No.2 from Independent Enterprises for work on the 2023 Road Program in the Amount of **\$470,265.07** (Capital Note Fund) as recommended by the Borough Engineer. *(90% of the Contract will be paid to date)*

**Motion** by Mr. Dunn to approve Progress Payment No. 2 from Independent Enterprises for work on the 2023 Road Program in the amount of \$470,265.07 (Capital Note Fund) as recommended by the Borough Engineer; seconded by Ms. Gilliam.

Council	Vote	Council	Vote
Mr. Cafarelli		Ms. Gilliam	Yes
Ms. DeVincent	Yes		
Mr. Dunn	Yes	Ms. Tessaro	Yes
Mr. Gill	Yes		
Mayor Miller		<b>Motion Carried</b>	<b>5-0</b>

2. Consider Action to Nominate for the vacancy due to the resignation of Council Woman Tina Iorfido-Miller with the unexpired term to end January 1<sup>st</sup> 2024.

**Motion** by Mr. Gill to nominate Anne Barcher to the Borough Council vacancy due to the resignation of Council Woman Tina Iorfido-Miller with the unexpired term to end January 1, 2024; no second so motion failed.

**Motion** by Ms. DeVincent to nominate Russell Basalyga to the Borough Council vacancy due to the resignation of Council Woman Tina Iorfido-Miller with the unexpired term to end January 1, 2024; seconded by Ms. Gilliam.

**Comment** by Mr. Gill that this should be illegal because all of the applicants were denied an interview which was said to be taken...at least most of them were. (some of Mr. Gill's enunciation was difficult to understand)

Council	Vote		Council	Vote
Mr. Cafarelli			Ms. Gilliam	Yes
Ms. DeVincent	Yes			
Mr. Dunn	Yes		Ms. Tessaro	Yes
Mr. Gill	No			
Mayor Miller			<b>Motion Carried</b>	<b>4-1</b>

3. Consider Action to Nominate for New Vice President.

**Motion** by Mr. Dunn to nominate Tony Cafarelli as Vice President of Council; seconded by Ms. DeVincent.

**Comment** by Mayor Miller that Mr. Cafarelli has some big shoes to fill.

Council	Vote		Council	Vote
Mr. Cafarelli			Ms. Gilliam	Yes
Ms. DeVincent	Yes			
Mr. Dunn	Yes		Ms. Tessaro	Yes
Mr. Gill	Yes			
Mayor Miller			<b>Motion Carried</b>	<b>5-0</b>

4. Consider Action to approve a \$500.00 Donation to the Ambridge Fire Work Committee.

Motion by Mr. Gill to approve a \$500.00 donation to the Ambridge Fire Work Committee; seconded by Ms. DeVincent.

Council	Vote		Council	Vote
Mr. Cafarelli			Ms. Gilliam	Yes
Ms. DeVincent	Yes			
Mr. Dunn	Yes		Ms. Tessaro	Yes
Mr. Gill	Yes			
Mayor Miller			<b>Motion Carried</b>	<b>5-0</b>

5. Consider action to set the date for the Festival of Churches (either September 23<sup>rd</sup> or 30<sup>th</sup>?)

**Comment** by Mayor Miller – I worked with Kim Villella on last year's Fall Festival of Churches, but as Mayor I can't do what I did before, but will help guide whoever becomes Recreation Chair. Discussed the issue with the date. Typically in the past, the event has been on the last Saturday in September. Jambridge is planned for September 23<sup>rd</sup>. The Churches liked having the Fall Festival on the same date as Jambridge. Ms. Tessaro likes both events on the same date and logistics should be able to be worked out. Mr. Leone stated that the Jambridge organizers stated they would prefer separate weekends because the parade disrupted their early activities and having the use of the church parking lot would help them to grow their event. There may be an additional conflict with Altered Genius' Oktoberfest and Old Economy's event. Another conflict is that Officer Swierkosz wedding date is September 23 which may pose staff shortages in the Police Department. Extensive discussion about dates, participation by churches, responsibilities, etc. Ms. Gilliam will reach out to Kim Villella regarding setting up a committee to include more Church participation.

### **Committee Reports**

1. Public Safety Committee – Mr. Dunn stated there was nothing to report at this time.
2. Mayor's Report – Mayor Miller has been working facilitating and implementing some new procedures and has been in talks with the Chief. When he gets back in a few weeks, we're going to facilitate some new programs including Lt. Chickos. Mayor Miller reported that the new phone number for the Mayor is 412-419-0954. Mayor Miller has joined the Pennsylvania State Mayor's

Association. Mayor Miller plans to be an active Mayor. Our Police Department is doing an excellent job!

3. Code Committee – Ms. Gilliam provided the Code Committee Report: 621 Inspections year to date; code sweeps and ordinance violations we have 610 letters to date and 21 citations; Merchant Street project, 14 citations issued; abandoned vehicles 40 abated and 4 citations; high grass 405 high grass letters sent this month and 30 citations.
4. Public Works Committee – Mr. Leone reported that Public Works is doing a superb job. They’ve upgraded Walter Panek Park, painted the wall that was all graffitied; they’ve replaced all the wood on the benches in the park and bleachers. Mr. Leone attended the Eagle Badge Pinning Ceremony for Toby Dowlin who painted the concession stand and some of the bleachers. Public Works has begun some landscaping repairs, upgrades, mulching, and other enhancements.
5. Parks and Recreation Committee – Mr. Leone provided an update on work at Henning Park; some concrete has been poured for the restrooms and splashpad. The installation of the splashpad will be a three-month process. Playground equipment delivery due in July. Mulch is being delivered for both playgrounds.
6. Finance Committee
7. Engineer’s Report – James Brunner advised we’ve covered the Park and that the Road Program is just about done with some minor restoration remaining. We’ve reviewed and improved the shop drawings for the Salt Shed Project. Just waiting for receipt of materials. Working through issues on 6<sup>th</sup> Street to develop a solution for that. Mayor Miller asked again about the Henning Park timeline. Mr. Leone will reach out to the contractor to see what, if anything, can be done to expedite the completion.
8. Manager’s Report – Mr. Leone did not have anything additional to add to his previous updates.
9. Solicitor’s Report – Solicitor Chesney had nothing to report. Mr. Dunn asked if we are going to close 6<sup>th</sup> Street. Mr. Leone stated that we would look at it tomorrow to assess the void under the road. Mr. Brunner stated that he had been there most of the afternoon and it doesn’t get a ton of traffic so closing it and allowing local traffic only should not present an issue. Mr. Dunn asked if we could make it one-lane only with more cones/barriers there. Resident Shaun Duguay added a comment that maybe to close it off at the top and add a sign at Pine for “No Through Traffic”.
10. President Tessaro thanked Borough employees in every department from Mr. Leone, who takes a lot of time from his personal time to go and do the things he does on behalf of the Borough. Ms. Tessaro is happy with the Minutes provided by Mrs. Killian. Ms. Tessaro is happy that Mr. Fishinger puts a good description on the bills, so it eliminates a lot of questions. She loves that the Fire Department is doing so much training and are coming together. She loves that the Fire Department is working with Tenaris and Waste Management to make sure those buildings are safe and up to date. The Police Department has been so busy that John Chickos is doing a great job standing in while the Chief DeLuca is off. Like Mr. Leone said, Public Works projects are getting done left and right every day. Thank you all. The Borough is really thriving right now with the people who are in place, as our Chiefs and our Leads and Manager...I want to thank you all! Mr. Leone wanted to shout out to the Fire Department, Police Department, and Public Works for participation at the Laughlin Library Touch-A-Truck event. Chief Larrick stated it was a good event in their parking lot. We were able to provide handouts and snacks to kids and adults for fire safety. Great event that worked out well in conjunction with the Turtle Racing in P.J. Caul Park.

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

**Motion** by Ms. DeVincent to accept the Official Reports; seconded by Mr. Dunn.

<b>Council</b>	<b>Vote</b>	<b>Council</b>	<b>Vote</b>
Mr. Cafarelli		Ms. Gilliam	Yes
Ms. DeVincent	Yes		
Mr. Dunn	Yes	Ms. Tessaro	Yes
Mr. Gill	Yes		
Mayor Miller		<b>Motion Carried</b>	<b>5-0</b>

**XI. Other Unfinished Business**

Glenwood Fire Properties – Solicitor Chesney stated he has been working with Mr. Leone to bring closure to this. We are probably at a point where we can move forward without any more issues legally.

Ordinances: Stop Signs, Street Openings, Storm Water – MS4, IPMC- ticketing for violations  
Walter Panek Park – Rules & Regs. Solicitor Chesney stated that the draft Ordinances are out and waiting for comments back. Mr. Leone added that the Stop Sign Ordinance advertisement should be on the agenda for the next meeting. Street Opening and Storm Water are out. Mr. Brunner advised he thought the Street Opening is pretty much ready after the two big issues language completed. Mr. Leone asked if Council is comfortable with the language so that can be put out for advertisement. Storm Water – MS4, nothing needs changed on this; it is simply a matter of adoption. On the IPMC Ticketing item, Chief Larrick advised he has been working on the amendments for dates and height for grass; also trying to review entire book going from 2009 to 2021 property maintenance to see what else is in there any other adjustments to amendments so they can be made all at one time. Mr. Leone advised that the Walter Panek Park Rules & Regulations signs have been ordered through Brown Dog Signs.

**XII. Adjournment**

**Motion** by Ms. DeVincent to adjourn; seconded by Mr. Dunn; all in favor.

**NEXT MEETING OF BOROUGH COUNCIL:**

Workshop Meeting: **Cancelled**

Regular Meeting: July 11th

**Announcements:**

**Firework July 1<sup>st</sup> – Walter Panek Park**