



MINUTES

Borough of Ambridge – Meeting of Borough Council

Executive Session 6:00

Council Chambers

Tuesday, August 8th, 2023 – 6:30 PM

I. Call to Order / Roll Call

Present: Mr. Basalyga
Mr. Cafarelli
Mr. Dunn
Mr. Gill
Ms. Gilliam
Ms. Tessaro (by phone)
Mayor Miller

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

Absent: Ms. DeVincent

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

III. Pledge of Allegiance

IV. Presentation

Proclamation to Daniel Harrah for Gold Medal Award & Accomplishments in Karate-do (postponed until September 12 Council Meeting)

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

Shaun Duguay – 511 Wilson Avenue – Thank the Council for allowing Hope 4 the Streets youth group at New Hope to utilize H&H Park and thank the Fire Department and Police Department their help for the water battle. This past week we had dodge ball and there was a lot of interest in doing it again. Mr. Duguay was wondering if they could use chalk to paint actual lines for two dodge ball fields in the grass. Mr. Cafarelli asked if anyone on Council have comments, Ms. Tessaro thinks it's a great idea. Mr. Cafarelli advised Mr. Duguay that they could move forward with chalk painting the grass. He also thanked Mr. Duguay for getting involved with helping our youth.

Kathy Taylor – 801 Beaver Road, Apartment 2 – Ms. Taylor presented her resignation as a school crossing guard in the Ambridge Area School District. Mr. Cafarelli acknowledged receipt and that it should be added to the agenda later in the meeting. The agenda will be amended.

Liberty Edgar – 815 16th Street – Ms. Edgar commented that the gas line work appears to be hopping around the Borough and it presents issues with going in and out of her driveway. Also, the street is being ripped up by Miller Pipe. Mr. Cafarelli will go to the area tomorrow. Ms. Edgar is attempting to start a CBD/Hemp business with her son. Other similar businesses suggested that she open her business in another community. Ms. Edgar also asked about whether has been any progress in identifying/apprehending the second person involved in the incident earlier this year. Chief DeLuca advised that the second person has not caught the second not been caught.

VI. Approval of Previous Meeting’s Minutes

- **July 11th-** Regular Meeting

Motion by Ms. Gilliam to approve minutes from the July 11, 2023, regular meeting; seconded by Mr. Dunn.

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

- **July 25th** – Workshop Meeting

Motion by Mr. Gill to approve minutes from the July 25, 2023, workshop meeting; seconded by Ms. Tessaro.

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

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

- | | | |
|-------------------------------------|----------------------|--------------------|
| 1. General Fund | Unpaid: \$ 44,994.25 | Paid: \$299,964.73 |
| 2. Grants / Special Project Fund | Unpaid: \$ 10,884.41 | Paid: \$ 3,120.00 |
| 3. Recreation Fund | Unpaid: \$0.00 | Paid: \$ 0.00 |
| 4. 2021 Capital Note | Unpaid: \$ 19,548.72 | Paid: \$ 0.00 |
| 5. ARPA Fund | Unpaid: \$0.00 | Paid: \$ 22,294.98 |
| 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 for the month of August; seconded by Ms. Gilliam.

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

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 2 Items listed on the Consent Agenda.**

1. Borough Financial Report - acknowledge receipt of the Borough Treasurer's Report for **August** 2023.

Motion by Mr. Dunn to approve the Treasurer's Report; seconded by Ms. Tessaro.

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

2. Street Closure for the 200 Block of Elm Street for a neighborhood Block Party.

Motion by Mr. Gill to approve the street closure request for the 200 block of Elm Street for a neighborhood Block Party; seconded by Ms. Gilliam.

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

IX: New Business

1. Consider Action to appoint new Pro-Tempore to fill current vacancy.

Motion by Ms. Tessaro to nominate Mary Jane Gilliam as Pro-Tempore; seconded by Mr. Dunn.

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

2. Consider Action to Approve Progress Payment No.1 from Avelli Construction for work on the New Salt Shed in the amount of \$51,300.00 as recommended by the Borough Engineer. (*Capital Note*)
Motion by Mr. Dunn to approve Progress Payment No.1 from Avelli Construction for work on the New Salt Shed in the Amount of \$51,300.00 as recommended by the Borough Engineer (from Notes Capital Program); seconded by Ms. Gilliam.

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

3. Consider Action to Approve payment to State Pipe Service, Inc. for preliminary CCTV on storm sewer and sanitary sewer on 6th Street in the amount of \$3,800.00.

Motion by Mr. Dunn to approve payment to State Pipe Service, Inc. for preliminary CCTV on storm sewer and sanitary sewer on 6th Street in the amount of \$3,800.00 (50% of this amount will be requested from the Municipal Authority); seconded by Mr. Basalyga.

Comment by Ms. Tessaro: Is this the item we were advised by Mr. Brunner was going to be split with the Municipal Authority. Mr. Brunner advised that this item was before the other was developed. This was to figure out what was needed done. We can try to work it out with the Municipal Authority to

pay for their portion. Mr. Brunner will write the Municipal Authority a letter asking for a 50% contribution.

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

4. Consider Action to Advertise for a Public Hearing for an Inter-Municipal Transfer of PLCB license: R-9821 for Dobrofox, LLC. (*Before our September 12th Meeting?*)

Motion by Mr. Gill to advertise for a Public Hearing for an Inter-Municipal Transfer for PLCB License R-9821 for Dobrofox, LLC (before our September 12th meeting); seconded by Mr. Basalyga.
Comment: Mr. Leone needs to confirm that date; recommending it be done before the September 12 meeting and whether an hour is adequate. The current license is in Conway Borough, transferring it to the former Mad Anthony’s license. Ms. Tessaro recommends the hearing be at 5:00 p.m. on September 12.

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

5. Consider Action to accept the resignation of Part-Time Police Officer Martin Zimmel effective Monday, August 7, 2023.

Motion by Mr. Basalyga to accept the resignation of Part-Time Police Officer Martin Zimmel effective Monday, August 7, 2023; seconded by Mr. Dunn.

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

6. Consider Action to Approve Resolution #2023-5 Purchase Property at 12-006-0101.010 a 4.67 – acres tract of land located along Merchant Street to be utilized for Recreation.

Motion by Mr. Basalyga to approve Resolution #2023-5 Purchase Property at 12-006-0101.010, a 4.67-acre tract of land located along Merchant Street to be utilized for Recreation; seconded by Ms. Gilliam.

Comment: Mr. Gill asked if there is any other purpose for this purchase. Mr. Leone advised that is the current intention.

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

7. Consider Action to Approve Resolution #2023-6 Purchase Property at 12-006-0101.002, an 8.07 – acres tract of land also referenced as 1401 New Economy to be utilized for Recreation.

Motion by Mr. Dunn to approve Resolution #2023-6 Purchase Property at 12-006-0101.002, an 8.07-acre tract of land also referenced as 1401 New Economy Drive to be utilized for Recreation; seconded by Mr. Basalyga.

Comment: Mr. Gill asked if they could spell out if anything else would be put there. Mr. Leone advised that it is proposed for the Senior Center Complex. There are currently no defined plans, but would accommodate parking for the facility as well, combination of indoor and outdoor.

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

8. Consider Action to advertise for the Part-Time Administration Office position.

Motion by Mr. Basalyga to advertise for Part-Time Administration Office position; seconded by Mr. Dunn.

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

9. **Motion** by Ms. Tessaro to amend Agenda for the resignation of Katherine Taylor as part-time crossing guard; seconded by Mr. Dunn.

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

10. Consider Action to accept the resignation of Katherine Taylor as part-time crossing guard.

Motion by Mr. Basalyga to accept the resignation of Katherine Taylor from part-time crossing guard; seconded by Mr. Dunn.

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

Committee Reports

- Public Safety Committee – Mr. Dunn reported there was a meeting on July 17, attended by Ms. Gilliam, Ms. DeVincent, Chief Larrick, and Chief DeLuca. Chief Larrick had advised there was a fire truck with a radiator problem and another that the ladder needs inspected. We discussed the part-time Fire Fighter vacancy.
- Mayor’s Report – Mayor Miller advised that her office is almost ready and thanked the Police Department, Public Works, and Fire Department for using this space. Mayor Miller also discussed the update to the Street Sweeping Schedule for ticketing purposes. Mr. Leone advised that 11th Street is signed from Duss to Lenz is ticketed, Lenz to Beaver is not to be ticketed, and Beaver to the

Borough border is ticketed. Not sure why Lenz to Beaver is not signed for street sweeping. If the Council wants to add Lenz to Beaver to be ticketed, the ordinance will have to be amended to add that section and signage would have to be added.

3. Code Committee – Mr. Basalyga reviewed the Code Report: Inspection Program - 79 inspections conducted in July; Code sweeps - 640 letters to date, 25 citations; Merchant Street Program – 73 letters to date, 17 citations; Abandoned vehicles – 70 letters to date, 4 citations; High Grass 500 to date, 40 citations.
4. Public Works Committee – Mr. Cafarelli said there was no meeting this month.
5. Parks and Recreation Committee – Ms. Gilliam advised that things are looking good in the parks in the community. They are really being utilized. Thanks to the folks in the Public Works taking care of the roads. The splash pad work is continuing. Meeting was held for Fall Festival of Churches on September 30. We’ve received a great response from the churches. Next meeting is August 15 at 5:45 p.m. Please feel free to come and learn what we are doing. Turtle Racing is happening this weekend and if you haven’t been there, come check it out. There is a bookbag giveaway at the Park Road Pavilion this weekend. The football field is looking good and they’re taking good care of it. Ms. Tessaro spoke with Mr. Galvan last week regarding the lease at Walter Panek Park. Will need to recap with him. There may not be an official signed lease. Ms. Gilliam brought up the previous request for a community-wide yard sale; spoke to the Library and they will help however they can, but they cannot facilitate it. Ms. Tessaro also spoke to Julie at the Library and they can provide flyers (waive the fee), etc. Nathan Parish and Chris Bendick were the people who originated this request.
6. Finance Committee
7. Engineer’s Report – Mr. Brunner advised of the issue of the parking lot at Henning Park. The contractor is insistent that the proposed inlet and storm sewer repair is adequate and will not do full reconstruction. We have an option in the contract to issue a letter. Need to give them seven days; after those seven days, we can pursue another contractor. We would take that amount off their payment per their contract. They will probably pursue remediation and potentially a lawsuit. Still a lot of unknowns in that path. Mr. Brunner’s recommendation would be to do the inlet (catch basin) at no cost with the current contractor. Mr. Leone asked if they followed the specs provided. Mr. Brunner’s response yes and no (described areas they complied with and those they did not comply). Mr. Cafarelli described the process they followed and described it as human error the contractor made. He feels we should pursue having contractors do it correctly. Mr. Leone/Mr. Brunner plan to prepare the letter tomorrow (Wednesday). 6th Street repairs are underway. Sink hole repair on 6th is underway. The inlet project resumed this week.
8. Manager’s Report – Mr. Leone provided the following updates:
 - Splash pad/playground equipment arrived this week. The concrete work in the bathroom is completed so the remainder of the bathroom work can proceed. Water lines to the splashpad were installed today. Playground equipment installation will begin next week.
 - 6th Street repairs are moving along well.
 - Electric charging stations at the Borough Building are getting tremendous amount use.
 - Nosy air quality monitors were installed in the Borough Building collecting data on temperature and particulates in the air. Run for about a month and analyze data collected. Also has room occupancy sensor. Will provide building operation data to optimize conditions throughout the building.
 - Mr. Leone gave a presentation on the Streetscape Project. Showed Gateway signs (color format to be determined), one to be installed Merchant & 8th and the other at 11th & Merchant. Colors will probably be green and yellow with a representation of bridges. Design is still being worked on.

X. Official Reports - Motion to accept Official Reports.

Motion by Mr. Basalyga to accept Official Reports; seconded by Mr. Dunn.

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

XI. Other Unfinished Business

- Mr. Gill asked whether a decision had been made regarding the school crossing guards. Mr. Leone advised that there has not been a final salary adjustment beyond what was decided earlier this year. We are still waiting for a response from the Ambridge School District Superintendent. There is potentially another crossing guard who might resign. Further discussion ensued.
- Mr. Gill also asked about the situation where the child was struck on Duss Avenue. Mayor Miller advised that she requested that Mr. Leone set up a meeting with PennDOT regarding multiple issues on Duss Avenue safety concerns.
- Mr. Gill asked about posting the property for sale at 11th and Duss. Mr. Leone advised that it has not yet been advertised.
- Glenwood Fire Properties -
- Ordinances: Stop Signs, Street Openings, Storm Water – MS4, IPMC- ticketing for violations – Mr. Leone advised these will be on the September Agenda.
- Mr. Leone advised that Pittsburgh Business Times has named Ambridge one of five up-and-coming municipalities in the Pittsburgh region. Quite the accolade on the job we are doing in the Borough. There appears to be a Facebook group taking a hostile attack on the job I am doing. I don't manage the Borough based on Facebook, but based on Council's satisfaction of the job I am doing. Mayor Miller added that she appreciates the work Mr. Leone does on behalf of the Borough. Solicitor Chesney reminded Council to use caution when using social media. Mr. Cafarelli commented that the article is every elected official's dream to get coverage like this. Ambridge is the only one in Beaver County!

XII. Adjournment

Motion by Mr. Basalyga to adjourn at 8:14 p.m.; seconded by Mr. Dunn; all in favor.

NEXT MEETING OF BOROUGH COUNCIL:

Workshop Meeting: August 22nd

Regular Meeting: September 12th

Announcements: