



# MINUTES

## Borough of Ambridge – Workshop Meeting of Borough Council Tuesday, November 28th, 2023 – 6:30 PM

### I. Call to Order / Roll Call

**Present:** Mr. Basalyga  
Mr. Cafarelli  
Mr. Dunn  
Mr. Gill  
Ms. Gilliam  
Ms. Tessaro

**Also Present:** Mario Leone, Fire Chief Larrick, Police Lt. Chickos

**Absent:** Mayor Miller

### II. Pledge of Allegiance

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

### IV. New Business

1. Consider/Discuss Action to accept the resignation of Beth DeVincent effective November 14<sup>th</sup>, 2023.

**Motion** by Mr. Basalyga to accept the resignation of Beth DeVincent effective November 14<sup>th</sup>, 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  |      | <b>Motion Carried</b> | <b>6-0</b> |

2. Consider/Discuss Action to approve Sargent Glen Sovich’s request to enter the Retirement DROP program.

**Motion** by Mr. Cafarelli to approve Sargent Glen Sovich’s request to enter the Retirement DROP program; seconded by Mr. Dunn.

**Comment:** Mr. Gill asked how this will affect the Police Department. Mr. Leone stated that currently they won’t be affected at all. Sgt. Sovich will still be employed and will begin to draw down on his pension. Their contract provides the ability to do this. His pension gets “banked”, then once he terminates his employment with the Borough he gets whatever money is in the DROP as a lump sum and collects his regular retirement benefit. Mr. Gill asked if we know how long he will stay. Mr. Leone stated he is able to stay in it for three years, but he doesn’t have to stay for the entire three years.

| 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  |     |  | <b>Motion Carried</b> | <b>6-0</b> |

3. Consider/Discuss Action to hire Part-Time Police Officer Eric McPilmny as recommended by the Police Chief.

**Motion** by Mr. Basalyga to hire Part-Time Police Officer Eric McPilmny as recommended by Police Chief DeLuca; 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  |      |  | <b>Motion Carried</b> | <b>6-0</b> |

4. Consider/Discuss Action to approve the advertising for Civil Service Testing to establish a new list of candidates for Full-Time Police Officers.

**Motion** by Mr. Cafarelli to approve the advertising for Civil Service Testing to establish a new list of candidates for Full-Time Police Officers; 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  |      |  | <b>Motion Carried</b> | <b>6-0</b> |

5. Consider/Discuss Action to approve Resolution 2023-10 Establishing the initial Tax Rate for the year 2024.

**Motion** by Mr. Basalyga to approve Resolution 2023-10 Establishing the Initial Tax Rate for the year 2024; seconded by Mr. Dunn.

**Comment:** Mr. Gill asked how we established the rate; do we have a guideline. Mr. Leone advised that there is a formula used to calculate the new baseline that they established for our assessment. Resolution 2023-10 provides an outline of that formula.

| 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  |      |  | <b>Motion Carried</b> | <b>6-0</b> |

6. Consider/Discuss Action to approve Resolution 2023-11 Authorizing the submittal for Statewide Local Share Assessment Grant Funding for Equipment.

**Motion** by Mr. Basalyga to approve Resolution 2023-11 Authorizing the Submittal for Statewide Local Share Assessment Grant Funding for Equipment; seconded by Ms. Gilliam.

**Comment:** Mr. Gill asked if we don't get this grant, what are we going to do to get the equipment. Mr. Leone stated that we would have to buy it using a different strategy. Trying to get it without taxpayer funds. The revenues for this grant come from the casino revenues. This is the first time we have applied for this grant. Representative Matzie will have some voice on the distribution of the funds. Discussion ensued on how it was determined what was needed (input from the various department heads).

| 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  |      |  | <b>Motion Carried</b> | <b>6-0</b> |

7. Consider/Discuss Action to approve Resolution 2023-12 Authorizing the submittal for Statewide Local Share Assessment Grant Funding for Paving.

**Motion** by Mr. Cafarelli to approve Resolution 2023-12 Authorizing the Submittal for Statewide Local Share Assessment Grant Funding for Paving; seconded by Mr. Basalyga.

| 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  |      |  | <b>Motion Carried</b> | <b>6-0</b> |

8. Consider/Discuss Action to advertise date change for Workshop meeting to Thursday, December 28<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 pm, and Reorganization Meeting for Tuesday January 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2024, at 6:30 pm.

**Motion** by Mr. Cafarelli to advertise date change for December Workshop meeting to Thursday, December 28<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m. and Reorganization Meeting for Tuesday January 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2024, at 6:30 p.m.; seconded by Mr. Basalyga.

**Comment:** Mr. Leone advised that the moving of the Workshop Meeting to the 28<sup>th</sup> to allow for the period the budget is available for review to allow the vote to pass the budget. The Reorganization Meeting is always the first Tuesday after the first Monday.

| 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  |      |  | <b>Motion Carried</b> | <b>6-0</b> |

Ms. Tessaro asked about when we will address filling the Council vacancy. Mr. Leone will put it on the website for people to apply. Determine how long this should be posted in order to make the December 12 meeting agenda. Cutoff established as December 8, 2023.

Can a notation be made about potholes in Lower Alley between 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> Streets.

## V. Other Unfinished Business

1. IPMC- Ticket for Zoning/Code Violations – Chief Larrick advised there is still some work to be done with Solicitor Chesney.
2. Mr. Gill asked about a letter regarding taxes on fuel for vehicles, alternate fuel tax? Mr. Leone has not received the letter Mr. Gill referenced but will investigate.
3. Mr. Gill asked about the estimate for the security cameras at Henning Park. Mr. Leone is waiting for a bid on that as well as cameras at 8<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> Streets.
4. Mr. Gill asked if there were any adjustments to the budget. Mr. Leone advised that this would be discussed at the next budget meeting on December 5<sup>th</sup>. There are some fees that we are proposing to increase. The budget meeting is scheduled for 6:00 p.m.

5. Mr. Gill asked if there was any response on the Executive Assistant position. Mr. Leone advised not with the most recent advertisement. There are a couple of candidates that may be qualified from the previous advertisement.
6. Mr. Gill asked about the repository properties closing on the 5<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Leone advised that the bids are due on December 20<sup>th</sup>. Bids will be opened during the day.
7. Mr. Leone advised he is submitting a Community Art Grant tomorrow; eligible for \$100,000.00 over a four-year period (\$25,000.00 per year). Similar to the crosswalk initiative. This is the same funding source for the \$6,500.00 for the Bicentennial Mural at 5<sup>th</sup> Street. We are looking to do a mural at the day care center at Henning Park and expand some of our crosswalk murals. With the upcoming Streetscape Project, there are some areas of screening/fencing with the potential to display artwork there. In talking with the consultants, they should have something ready for the Council to consider putting out for bid at the December 12<sup>th</sup> meeting. Looking at early spring construction.
8. Mr. Gill asked about KSA grant applications. Mr. Leone stated they submitted the PJ Caul Park grant for \$87,000.00 in October. They also assisted with the two submitted here. They also submitted for the 8<sup>th</sup> Street Gateway Multimodal Grant.
9. Mr. Cafarelli asked about the Chamber of Commerce Christmas Parade. Ms. Tessaro stated that Mayor Miller would like to have a float.

**VI. Adjournment – Motion** to adjourn at 7:03 p.m. by Mr. Basalyga; seconded by Mr. Gill; all in favor.

**NEXT MEETING OF BOROUGH COUNCIL:**

Budget Meeting: 12/5/2023 - 6:00 PM  
Regular Meeting: 12/12/2023 – 6:30 PM  
Workshop Meeting: 12/28//2023 - 6:30 PM