



MINUTES

Borough of Ambridge – Meeting of Borough Council

Executive Session 6:00

Council Chambers

Tuesday, October 10th, 2023 – 6:30 PM

I. Call to Order / Roll Call

Present: Mr. Basalyga
Mr. Dunn
Mr. Gill
Ms. Gilliam
Mayor Miller

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

Absent: Mr. Cafarelli, Ms. DeVincent, Ms. Tessaro

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 – Question about item 8 regarding the K-9 officer. Would we be looking for another K-9? If not, what will be doing with the equipment. Mayor Miller responded that we are evaluating the situation now; it will be discussed in more detail with the Chief.

Bishop Kenneth Crumb – Greater Dominion Church of the Millennium – 415 Melrose Avenue – Expressed some concerns. He has a concern regarding a situation in the projects where a woman who was called the “n” word by a neighbor who came into her apartment and then the neighbor punched her young cousin in the jaw. When the Police arrived, they told her that her apartment was dirty; never addressed the neighbor. The Police went to the Housing Authority to have her evicted from the property. He also brought up how they were treated at their Church when the young man showed up at the Church with a loaded gun and they did not happen to be at the Church when he got there. His concern is that they weren’t informed about what was happening and how they felt. No one reached out from the Police Department or Mayor’s office. Ms. Gilliam did reach out. Also, questioned the Police Chief’s media statement that the incident was not racially driven and not a hate crime. Ms. Gilliam responded that she came to their Church that morning. There were officers on the street. Ms. Gilliam stated she did not feel it was racially motivated. The Chief addressed the issue that the FBI is handling the situation.

Bryan Keys – Executive Pastor at Greater Miracle Ministries – I stand here in solidarity with the Bishop. There are issues in Ambridge, the same as across the country. There needs to be more communication and more collaboration and more accountability on both sides. Mr. Basalyga commented that Chief DeLuca explained the situation in detail at the last Council Meeting. Neither Bishop Crumb nor Pastor Keys was in attendance. Pastor Keys doesn’t want this to happen again. Wants to work with the Chief of Police and his staff.

Tarier Carry – 113 Crestview Village – Joe West spoke first on behalf of his niece. Feels that the Police Department isn't doing its job. There were incidents relating to harassment. There seems to be a communication gap between the Police Department and people living in public housing. When the police department arrived, he told her the apartment was a mess. Chief DeLuca stated he had never received a communication from her, but he will review the videos she had and will act accordingly.

V. Approval of Previous Meeting's Minutes

- **September 12th** - Public Hearing – Liquor License transfer
- **September 12th** - Regular Meeting

Motion by Mr. Dunn to approve the September 12th Public Hearing and Regular Meeting Minutes; seconded by Mr. Gill.

Council	Vote	Council	Vote
Mr. Basalyga	Yes	Mr. Gill	Yes
Mr. Cafarelli		Ms. Gilliam	Yes
Ms. DeVincent		Ms. Tessaro	
Mr. Dunn	Yes		
Mayor Miller		Motion Carried	4-0

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

1. General Fund	Unpaid: \$204,916.03	Paid: \$127,110.32
2. Grants / Special Project Fund	Unpaid: \$ 10,884.41	Paid: \$ 1,215.75
3. Recreation Fund	Unpaid: \$ 430.00	Paid: \$ 7,838.03
4. 2021 Capital Note	Unpaid: \$ 9,164.08	Paid: \$228,528.30
5. ARPA Fund	Unpaid: \$ 0.00	Paid: \$ 14,300.00
6. Escrow Fund	Unpaid: \$ 0.00	Paid: \$ 4,000.00
7. Drug Investigation Fund	Unpaid: \$ 0.00	Paid: \$ 0.00
8. Police Dept. Grants	Unpaid: \$ 550.00	Paid: \$ 0.00
9. Fire Apparatus Replacement Fund	Unpaid: \$ 7,168.00	Paid: \$ 2,450.62
10. Bicentennial Fund	Unpaid: \$ 0.00	Paid: \$ 290.00

Motion by Mr. Dunn to ratify and pay the bills and expenses for the month of October 2023; seconded by Mr. Basalyga.

Council	Vote	Council	Vote
Mr. Basalyga	Yes	Mr. Gill	Yes
Mr. Cafarelli		Ms. Gilliam	Yes
Ms. DeVincent		Ms. Tessaro	
Mr. Dunn	Yes		
Mayor Miller		Motion Carried	4-0

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 1 Items listed on the Consent Agenda.**

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

Motion by Mr. Basalyga to acknowledge receipt of the Borough Treasurer's for October 2023; seconded by Mr. Dunn.

Council	Vote		Council	Vote
Mr. Basalyga	Yes		Mr. Gill	Yes
Mr. Cafarelli			Ms. Gilliam	Yes
Ms. DeVincent			Ms. Tessaro	
Mr. Dunn	Yes			
Mayor Miller			Motion Carried	4-0

IX: New Business

1. Consider/Discuss Action to approve new Toshiba copier Lease for Borough office; 63 months at \$275.82 per month (*approximately \$12.00 more than current lease*)

Motion by Mr. Basalyga to approve new Toshiba copier Lease for Borough office (63 months at \$275.82 per month; seconded by Mr. Dunn.

Council	Vote		Council	Vote
Mr. Basalyga	Yes		Mr. Gill	Yes
Mr. Cafarelli			Ms. Gilliam	Yes
Ms. DeVincent			Ms. Tessaro	
Mr. Dunn	Yes			
Mayor Miller			Motion Carried	4-0

2. Consider/Discuss Action to appoint Maximillion Elliot as the new Heart & Soul Director as private contractor (1099) at a rate of \$16.00 per hour.

Motion by Mr. Basalyga to appoint Maximillion Elliot as the new Heart & Soul Director as private contractor (1099) at a rate of \$16.00 per hour; seconded by Mr. Dunn.

Council	Vote		Council	Vote
Mr. Basalyga	Yes		Mr. Gill	Yes
Mr. Cafarelli			Ms. Gilliam	Yes
Ms. DeVincent			Ms. Tessaro	
Mr. Dunn	Yes			
Mayor Miller			Motion Carried	4-0

3. Consider/Discuss Action to approve the transferring of the PA Volunteer Fire Relief Funds in the amount of \$24,163.36 to the Ambridge Borough Volunteer Fire Department.

Motion by Mr. Basalyga to approve the transfer of the PA Volunteer Fire Relief Funds in the amount of \$24,163.36 to the Ambridge Borough Volunteer Fire Department; seconded by Mr. Dunn.

Council	Vote		Council	Vote
Mr. Basalyga	Yes		Mr. Gill	Yes
Mr. Cafarelli			Ms. Gilliam	Yes
Ms. DeVincent			Ms. Tessaro	
Mr. Dunn	Yes			
Mayor Miller			Motion Carried	4-0

4. Consider/Discuss Action to approve participation in the 2023-2024 PA CoStars Sodium Chloride (Road Salt) Contract from Cargill at the price of \$81.36 per ton.

Motion by Mr. Basalyga to approve participation in the 2023-2024 PA CoStars Sodium Chloride (Road Salt) Contract from Cargill at the price of \$81.36 per ton; seconded by Ms. Gilliam.

Comment by Mr. Leone that the cost for 2022-2023 year was \$79.28 and previous year to that was \$68.52, so there was a slight increase due to inflation.

Council	Vote		Council	Vote
Mr. Basalyga	Yes		Mr. Gill	Yes
Mr. Cafarelli			Ms. Gilliam	Yes

Ms. DeVincent		Ms. Tessaro	
Mr. Dunn	Yes		
Mayor Miller		Motion Carried	4-0

5. Consider/Discuss Action to accept the resignation of Raquel Branchik from the Civil Service Board. **Motion** by Mr. Basalyga to accept the resignation of Raquel Branchik from the Civil Service Board; seconded by Mr. Dunn.

Council	Vote	Council	Vote
Mr. Basalyga	Yes	Mr. Gill	Yes
Mr. Cafarelli		Ms. Gilliam	Yes
Ms. DeVincent		Ms. Tessaro	
Mr. Dunn	Yes		
Mayor Miller		Motion Carried	4-0

6. Consider/Discuss Action to Appoint Carole Dingfelder from the Civil Service Board – Alternate position to fulfill the remainder of the unexpired term of Raquel Branchik scheduled to expire on December 31, 2026, as recommended by the Civil Service Board. **Motion** to appoint Carole Dingfelder to the Civil Service Board to fulfill the remainder of the unexpired term of Raquel Branchik scheduled to expire on December 31, 2026, as recommended by the Civil Service Board; seconded by Ms. Gilliam.

Council	Vote	Council	Vote
Mr. Basalyga	Yes	Mr. Gill	Yes
Mr. Cafarelli		Ms. Gilliam	Yes
Ms. DeVincent		Ms. Tessaro	
Mr. Dunn	Yes		
Mayor Miller		Motion Carried	4-0

7. Consider/Discuss Action to Advertise for the Civil Service – Alternate Position vacancy with a term to expire December 31, 2024. **Motion** by Mr. Basalyga to advertise for the Civil Service – Alternate Position vacancy with a term to expire December 31, 2024; seconded by Ms. Gilliam.

Council	Vote	Council	Vote
Mr. Basalyga	Yes	Mr. Gill	Yes
Mr. Cafarelli		Ms. Gilliam	Yes
Ms. DeVincent		Ms. Tessaro	
Mr. Dunn	Yes		
Mayor Miller		Motion Carried	4-0

8. Consider/Discuss Action to accept the resignation of Part-Time K-9 Officer Garrett Kimmel effective September 26th, 2023. (*resignation letter is included in Police Department report*). **Motion** by Mr. Basalyga to accept the resignation of Part-Time K-9 Officer Garrett Kimmel effective September 26th, 2023; seconded by Mr. Dunn.

Council	Vote	Council	Vote
Mr. Basalyga	Yes	Mr. Gill	Yes
Mr. Cafarelli		Ms. Gilliam	Yes
Ms. DeVincent		Ms. Tessaro	
Mr. Dunn	Yes		
Mayor Miller		Motion Carried	4-0

9. Consider/Discuss Authorizing the Solicitor to prepare the necessary revisions to Civil Service Ordinance as being proposed by the Police Chief and recommended by Civil Service Board.

Motion by Mr. Dunn authorizing the Solicitor to prepare the necessary revisions to Civil Service Ordinance as proposed by the Police Chief and recommended by the Civil Service Board; seconded by Mr. Basalyga.

Comment by Mr. Gill asking if the Council will have the chance to review the revisions. Solicitor Chesney explained that some time ago this was passed as an ordinance, but it shouldn't have been done that way. This amendment will repeal the ordinance; Civil Service rules should be presented to Council and put to a vote to accept the rules.

Council	Vote	Council	Vote
Mr. Basalyga	Yes	Mr. Gill	Yes
Mr. Cafarelli		Ms. Gilliam	Yes
Ms. DeVincent		Ms. Tessaro	
Mr. Dunn	Yes		
Mayor Miller		Motion Carried	4-0

10. Consider/Discuss Approving Resolution 2023-8 Authorizing the submission of a DCED Keystone Community Grant in the amount of \$50,000.00 for a Merchant Street Façade Revitalization Project. **Motion** by Mr. Basalyga to approve Resolution 2023-8 authorizing the submission of a DCED Keystone Community Grant in the amount of \$50,000.00 for a Merchant Street Façade Revitalization Project; seconded by Ms. Gilliam.

Comment by Mr. Gill asking if there is a specific project. Mr. Leone responded that the grant states it is for façade improvements. We will collaborate with the Downtown Development Corporation. Business owners will submit an application for the eligible \$5,000.00 that they have to match with \$5,000.00. It will leverage \$100,000.00 in façade improvements throughout the Borough. The minimum we will do is \$2,500.00.

Council	Vote	Council	Vote
Mr. Basalyga	Yes	Mr. Gill	Yes
Mr. Cafarelli		Ms. Gilliam	Yes
Ms. DeVincent		Ms. Tessaro	
Mr. Dunn	Yes		
Mayor Miller		Motion Carried	4-0

11. Consider/Discuss Approving Columbia Gas restoration proposal for Rice Ave. (*Pine St. to Harmony Twp line*) & a portion of Pine Street (*8th St to Rice Ave*) with an asphalt overlay as recommended by the Borough Engineer and Borough Manager.

Motion by Mr. Basalyga to approve the Columbia Gas restoration proposal for Rice Avenue (Pine Street to Harmony Township line) and a portion of Pine Street (8th Street to Rice Avenue) with an asphalt overlay as recommended by the Borough Engineer and Borough Manager; seconded by Mr. Dunn.

Comment by Mr. Dunn asking if they are going to mill the street prior to the asphalt. Mr. Brunner said he didn't believe so. It will be more like Olive Lane. Mr. Gill asked when this will be done. Mr. Leone indicated it wouldn't happen until spring. They will tidy up the areas they have excavated to make the roads passable, but full restoration won't happen until spring. This will result in better restorage for the entire areas identified.

Council	Vote	Council	Vote
Mr. Basalyga	Yes	Mr. Gill	No
Mr. Cafarelli		Ms. Gilliam	Yes
Ms. DeVincent		Ms. Tessaro	
Mr. Dunn	Yes		
Mayor Miller		Motion Carried	3-1

12. **Motion** by Mr. Basalyga to Amend the Agenda to add two items: Claude Alley Catch Basin and Handicap Parking spot at 515 Pine Street; seconded by Mr. Dunn.

Council	Vote		Council	Vote
Mr. Basalyga	Yes		Mr. Gill	No
Mr. Cafarelli			Ms. Gilliam	Yes
Ms. DeVincent			Ms. Tessaro	
Mr. Dunn	Yes			
Mayor Miller			Motion Carried	3-1

13. **Motion** by Mr. Basalyga to accept remedy for Claude Alley by Contractor install a catch basin and to complete the work as soon as possible; seconded by Mr. Dunn.

Council	Vote		Council	Vote
Mr. Basalyga	Yes		Mr. Gill	No
Mr. Cafarelli			Ms. Gilliam	Yes
Ms. DeVincent			Ms. Tessaro	
Mr. Dunn	Yes			
Mayor Miller			Motion Carried	3-1

14. **Motion** by Mr. Gill to approve handicap parking space at 515 Pine Street as approved by the Police Department; seconded by Mr. Basalyga.

Council	Vote		Council	Vote
Mr. Basalyga	Yes		Mr. Gill	Yes
Mr. Cafarelli			Ms. Gilliam	Yes
Ms. DeVincent			Ms. Tessaro	
Mr. Dunn	Yes			
Mayor Miller			Motion Carried	4-0

Committee Reports

1. Public Safety Committee – Mr. Dunn reported they did not meet last month. Chief DeLuca spoke to Mr. Leone about the Halloween Parade. Felicia Mycyk met Chief DeLuca regarding what they want to do the Halloween Parade. She has submitted the required paperwork. Mr. Leone stated Ms. Mycyk submitted the parade route. The parade route will need reviewed by both Police and Fire to confirm they are good with the route. Mr. Dunn then asked the Chiefs if they want to meet on Monday, October 16, 2023, at 9:30 a.m.
2. Mayor’s Report – Mayor Miller did a lot of grand openings in the month. As Mayor I am beginning a youth outreach program and had the first meeting. The President of the Pittsburgh Urban League, Carlos Carter, attended. Many great ideas were presented. Still in the beginning stages. Mayor Miller and Chief DeLuca will sit down soon to discuss the new Crime Watch Program.
3. Code Committee – Mr. Basalyga presented the Code Enforcement report. Inspection Program conducted 65 inspections this month. Codes Sweeps sent 723 letters year-to-date. Merchant Street Project sent 83 letters year-to-date. Abandoned Vehicles sent 68 letters year-to-date. High Grass sent 725 High Grass Letters year-to-date.
4. Public Works Committee – No report.
5. Parks and Recreation Committee – Ms. Gilliam reported that the Fall Festival of the Churches was an awesome experience. Thanked the community for coming out and the Churches did an excellent job of working together to make the Fall Festival a success. Thanked the Borough Manager, Mr. Leone, for his support. Looking forward to bigger and better things for next year. We will be meeting on October 17 to do a wrap up meeting to things in place for next year. Mayor Miller complemented Ms. Gilliam on the great job. She also thanked Public Works, Police Department, Fire Department, and office workers. Mr. Leone provided an update on Henning Park. Finally progressing, testing of the splashpad occurred last week with a couple little tweaks that need done. Unfortunately, now the splashpad will be winterized and the community won’t have an opportunity to use it. It will be a tremendous asset to the community. The kids will have a blast. Mayor Miller

asked Mr. Brunner about the alley work that needs done. Mr. Brunner needs Council to make a decision. A full re-pave would not occur until spring. The alternative solution, for a catch basin installation, window is closing quickly. Fencing is scheduled to go in on October 23, 2023. Mr. Dunn asked if this can be added to the Agenda for action. Mr. Leone also has a handicap parking request that would require addition to the Agenda. Extensive discussion ensued regarding which option to pursue and the scheduling of all of the work needed.

6. Finance Committee
7. Engineer’s Report – Mr. Brunner advised that they have prepared the annual MS4 Status Report for DEP. We completed an investigation at the new fitness park to abandon sanitary sewer facility to allow for the construction of the new concrete pad.
8. Manager’s Report – Mr. Leone announced that there was a press release that the Borough is the recipient of a DCED Grant for \$280,400.00 for the P.J. Caul Park renovations and primarily to make the gazebo handicap accessible and upgrade the sidewalks. Mr. Leone has been busy with the splashpad and kiosks. There are a couple other grants and the casino monies. Looking to secure some funds for the street paving program. Equipment upgrades for Fire Department, Police Department and a dump truck for Public Works. Money in this grant is pretty diverse for what it can be used for. Mayor Miller advised she has been invited to the grand opening of Game Time Sports Bar & Grill on Saturday at 11:00 a.m. and they asked her to extend an invitation to Council as well. Mr. Leone reminded Council there is a groundbreaking ceremony at Brady’s Run Park in Brighton Township for the Education Discovery Center on October 20, 2023, at 10:00 a.m.

X. Official Reports - Motion to accept Official Reports.

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

Council	Vote	Council	Vote
Mr. Basalyga	Yes	Mr. Gill	Yes
Mr. Cafarelli		Ms. Gilliam	Yes
Ms. DeVincent		Ms. Tessaro	
Mr. Dunn	Yes		
Mayor Miller		Motion Carried	4-0

XI. Other Unfinished Business

Glenwood Fire Properties – Solicitor Chesney advised they are moving forward.
 Ordinances: IPMC- ticketing for violations – Solicitor Chesney will request Council to publish the advertisement. He also asked for authorization to update the Fire Code.

XII. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn at 8:00 p.m.; all in favor.

NEXT MEETING OF BOROUGH COUNCIL:

Workshop Meeting: October 24th
 Regular Meeting: November 12th

Announcements: Halloween Parade Saturday October 21 at 6:00 p.m.
 Halloween Trick or Treat will be Tuesday, October 31st 6 p.m. – 8 p.m.