



MINUTES

Borough of Ambridge – Meeting of Borough Council

Council Chambers

Tuesday, December 12th, 2023 – 6:30 PM

I. Call to Order / Roll Call

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

Also Present: Mario Leone, Fire Chief Larrick, Lt. Chickos, Solicitor Chesney (via phone), James Brunner/NIRA

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

III. Pledge of Allegiance

IV. Presentation:

Certificate of Appreciation to Annie Lee's Kitchen – Lethera Harrison & Terry Stenhouse

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

Jodi Gill – 909 11th Street – We had the Coffee with a Cop at Old Crow and was great success. Tony, Jerome and John (Chief DeLuca) were there. Thanks to everyone involved. Want to do more events in the future. Chief spoke about what he wants to do with Crime Watch. It was a great event.

VI. Approval of Previous Meeting's Minutes

October 10th - Regular Meeting – previously tabled.

Motion by Mr. Basalyga to approve the October 10th Regular Meeting minutes; seconded by Mr. Cafarelli.

Comment by Mr. Leone that confirmation of October 10 comments were made.

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

November 14th – Regular Meeting

Motion by Ms. Gilliam to approve the November 14th Regular Meeting minutes; seconded by Mr. Basalyga.

Council	Vote		Council	Vote
Mr. Basalyga	Yes		Mr. Gill	Yes

Mr. Cafarelli	Yes		Ms. Gilliam	Yes
Mr. Dunn	Yes		Ms. Tessaro	Yes
Mayor Miller			Motion Carried	6-0

November 28th - Workshop Meeting

Motion by Mr. Dunn to approve the November 28th Workshop Meeting minutes; seconded by Mr. Cafarelli.

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

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

1. General Fund	Unpaid: \$95,633.92	Paid: \$1,010,378.10
2. Grants / Special Project Fund	Unpaid: \$0.00	Paid: \$0.00
3. Recreation Fund	Unpaid: \$0.00	Paid: \$0.00
4. 2021 Capital Note	Unpaid: \$318,022.50	Paid: \$ 59,733.19
5. ARPA Fund	Unpaid: \$0.00	Paid: \$0.00
6. Escrow Fund	Unpaid: \$0.00	Paid: \$0.00
7. Drug Investigation Fund	Unpaid: \$0.00	Paid: \$0.00
8. Police Grant Fund	Unpaid: \$0.00	Paid: \$0.00
9. Fire Apparatus Replacement Fund	Unpaid: \$0.00	Paid: \$0.00
10. Bicentennial Fund	Unpaid: \$1,300.00	Paid: \$0.00

Motion by Mr. Dunn to ratify and pay the Bills and Expenses for the month of December; seconded by Mr. Basalyga.

Council	Vote		Council	Vote
Mr. Basalyga	Yes		Mr. Gill	Yes
Mr. Cafarelli	Yes		Ms. Gilliam	Yes
Mr. Dunn	Yes		Ms. Tessaro	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 **December** 2023.
2. Consider the request for installing a sign in the area of 600 Block of Glenwood Avenue "Slow Down - Special Needs/Autism Child Area"

Motion by Mr. Gill to approve two items listed on the Consent Agenda; seconded by Mr. Dunn.

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

IX: New Business

1. Consider Action to Approve the advertising of Bids for the Merchant Street Streetscape Project as recommended by our consultants from SGA.

Motion by Mr. Basalyga to approve the advertising of bids for the Merchant Street Streetscape Project as recommended by our consultants from SGA; seconded by Ms. Gilliam.

Comment: Mr. Leone advised that Sean Garrigan of SGA is here to present an update on where we are and what's to be expected. There are also some drawings on the front table. Mr. Garrigan outlined that the construction documents are complete; advised of accommodation for handicap entrances; replacing the curbs; screening for some of the parking lots. Blend of materials for concrete areas. Perennial plantings. Light poles will match 4th-8th with an updated fixture. Proposing to bid the project as base bid with everything and created flexibility on some of the elements due to bidding is unpredictability. Pre-bid meeting after the first of the year and have the bids due by end of January. May be able to award bid in February. Estimate 12-month timeline for end of construction. Lead times for some of the components are questionable. Mr. Leone provided additional comments about the "deducts" included in the package. Multimodal Grant for 11th Street traffic signal project. Will need coordination with PennDOT. Mr. Cafarelli asked about street storm drains and sewer lines being camera-ed prior to work beginning to ensure there aren't issues. Mr. Leone said all entities have been advised. Mr. Garrigan advised all catch basins are being replaced. There was some discussion about the contract with SGA amending the scope of their work.

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

2. Consider Action to Advertise Ordinance 1327 Repealing Ordinance 1272 amending the Civil Service Rules.

Motion by Mr. Dunn to advertise Ordinance 1327 Repealing Ordinance 1272 amending the Civil Service Rules; seconded by Mr. Basalyga.

Comment: Mr. Leone explained the change requested to the Civil Service rules. This was recommended by Chief DeLuca.

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

3. Consider Action to authorize the final payment #3 to Independent Enterprises, Inc. in the amount of \$68,467.95 to close out the 2023 Road Paving Contract.

Motion by Mr. Basalyga to authorize the final payment #3 to Independent Enterprises, Inc., in the amount of \$68,467.95 to close out the 2023 Road Paving Contract; seconded by Mr. Dunn.

Comment: Mr. Cafarelli asked if this was the final payment regarding Henning Park.

Council	Vote		Council	Vote
Mr. Basalyga	Yes		Mr. Gill	No
Mr. Cafarelli	No		Ms. Gilliam	Yes
Mr. Dunn	Yes		Ms. Tessaro	Yes
Mayor Miller			Motion Carried	4-2

4. Consider Action to Appoint the vacated Council seat of Beth DeVincent for an unexpired term that ends on December 31st, 2025.

Motion by Mr. Basalyga to appoint Scott Prentice to the vacated Council seat of Beth DeVincent for an unexpired term that ends on December 31st, 2025; seconded by Mr. Cafarelli.

Comment: Mr. Leone asked if the swearing in could take place at the December 28, 2023, meeting. Mr. Leone will confirm with Magistrate Korol his availability for that date.

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

5. Consider Action to hire a Part-Time Executive Assistant.

Motion by Mr. Basalyga to hire Richard Dobrosielski, Jr., as Part-Time Executive Assistant; seconded by Mr. Cafarelli.

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

6. Insurance Renewal - we may need to wait until the 28th if quotes are not in. This item was tabled due to unavailability of quotes.

Committee Reports

1. Public Safety Committee – Mr. Dunn stated that the Public Safety Committee did not meet. There was not much from the last meeting. The ladder truck will be worked on. The Police Department will discuss the guns buy-back. There will not be a meeting this week.
2. Mayor's Report – Mayor Miller met with PennDOT with Ms. Gilliam, Ms. Tessaro, and Mr. Dunn. One of the recommendations is to ask Council to request letter to PennDOT regarding safety study can be done. If a safety study is requested and PennDOT makes recommendations, Council has to be prepared to follow through on their recommendations.
3. Code Committee – Mr. Basalyga expressed his pleasure in working with Chief Larrick on some ideas for Code Enforcement and progress on their contract. They are doing a fabulous job. Mr. Dunn suggested a meeting with Magistrate Korol.
4. Public Works Committee – Mr. Cafarelli there was not a meeting, but there will be a meeting before the holidays. Mr. Leone advised that we need to make a decision on the skid steer once quotes are finalized.
5. Parks and Recreation Committee – Ms. Gilliam does not have anything to report. Discussion continues regarding rules and regulations for the parks. Mayor Miller asked Mr. Dunn about his goal for fundraising for St. Jude's Children Hospital. His goal for 2023 is \$13,000.00.
6. Engineer's Report – Mr. Brunner did not have anything else to report.
7. Solicitor's Report - Solicitor Chesney stated we have been dealing with more code violations and summary appeals. Solicitor Chesney relies on Code Enforcement in prosecuting those. Commended Chief Larrick and Assistant Chief Gorecki because their records have been clear, concise and up to date that makes prosecuting those claims easier.
8. Manager's Report – Mr. Leone provided updates on renegotiation of our health care to provide savings to the Borough and provide the same coverage to the employees. Also been shopping the property liability and workers' compensation policies. This has not been done in the last two budget years. The competitive process should provide some savings. The process is tedious and is a lot of work. Mayor Miller asked if he is also shopping the short-term disability policy due to an issue

within the Police Department. Mr. Leone will work on eye, dental, and short-term disability next year. Mr. Leone stated he has submitted two LSA Grants. LSA is Local Share Account from the casino revenues. Mr. Brunner assisted with the Road grant for \$407,901 for roads on last year's list, but we didn't have sufficient funds for it. The Equipment Grant is for \$451,982 to help fund new Police cars, a squad vehicle for the Fire Department, and dump truck and mini-excavator for the Road Department. Also working on a CLG (Certified Local Government) grant. This pertains to the Historic District grant in the amount of \$25,000.00 to help develop better guidelines for HARB. This grant deadline is February 4, 2024. Also submitted a Creative Community Arts Grant for \$100,000.00 (\$25,000.00 over four years). Mr. Leone announced the County Economic Development Corporation has a new initiative for a mini-grant of \$10,000.00 to any new business that opens in downtown districts. Currently our district is defined as Merchant Street from 4th to 8th Street. Received guidelines this week and in communication with the Director of CEDC to see if we can have that district extended further down Merchant Street. It is a three-year program and will lobby to expand the district. \$600,000.00 allocated across the nine downtown districts in Beaver County. Also working on solar initiative for the Borough on putting solar panels on the Borough Building. On December 13, Mr. Leone will attend a meeting/workshop at Raccoon State Park called Community Matters. Ms. Tessaro asked about the port-a-pots at the parks. Mr. Leone stated they should have been removed December 1. Parks have been winterized. Mr. Gill asked Mr. Leone about the EV charging stations at the Borough building. They were serviced, but according to Lt. Chickos they are still not working. It appears that the public stations are working, but the two police stations are not. Mr. Leone will follow up again.

X. Official Reports - Motion to accept Official Reports.

Motion by Mr. Basalyga to approve the Committee Reports; seconded by Ms. Gilliam.

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

XI. Other Unfinished Business

XII. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn by Mr. Cafarelli at 7:56 p.m.; seconded by Mr. Dunn; all in favor.

NEXT MEETING OF BOROUGH COUNCIL:

Workshop Meeting: **Thursday, December 28th, 2023, at 6:30 PM**

Reorganization Meeting: **Tuesday, January 2, 2024, at 6:30 PM**

Announcements:

Borough Office will be closed December 25th & 26th and January 1st.