



## **MINUTES**

### **Borough of Ambridge – Regular Meeting of Borough Council Council Chambers**

**Tuesday, February 13th, 2024 – 6:30 PM**

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

Present: Mr. Basalyga  
Mr. Cafarelli  
Mr. Dunn  
Ms. Gilliam  
Mr. Prentice  
Mrs. Tessaro  
Mayor Miller (6:35pm)

Also Present: Borough Manager Leone, Chief DeLuca, Chief Larrick, Borough Engineer Daniel Slagle, and Solicitor Joseph Askar.

Absent: Mr. Gill

President Ms. Tessaro introduced the new Borough Engineer Dan Slagle from Nicholson Slagle Engineering.

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

#### **III. Pledge of Allegiance**

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

Dave Bell – 800 15<sup>th</sup> St Ambridge, Pa

Mr. Bell made comment on what a great job the Council, the Mayor and Mr. Leone is doing getting new businesses into the Borough and how well the new Streetscape extension is coming along.

He also commented on his tenure on the Ambridge Water Authority Board. He was surprised to see that the application date was extended, and he was the only one to get his re-appointment application in for the original closing date. He was concerned why he heard from people around town that he would not get reappointed. He was told that it was the AWA union was not happy with him because he was on the board that terminated and employee, and disciplined an employee because of improperly using equipment, which would have amounted to a reprimand in his folder. For 24 yrs. the union was happy about their pay and benefits.

Pastor Rick Thornhill – New Hope Church 592 Beaver Rd – Ambridge, Pa

He made a comment on a situation he had at the church. He reached out to the Police Chief and the chief was very responsive and sent an officer right away. The chief catches a lot of flak and is doing a great job and is always willing to listen and help.

Mr. Leone responded to Mr. Bell. He stated that he could see Mr. Bell's point that there might have been some impropriety on extending the time for applications but as you can see on tonight's agenda, we are appointing two spots that were not previously filled on other committees. He suggested that if Mr. Bell wanted to serve the community there are still Board positions open. Mr. Bell stated that he will continue his concerns at the next meeting – he did not want to take up more of the time allotted.

**V. Approval of Previous Meeting's Minutes**

- December 5<sup>th</sup>** - Budget Meeting
- December 12<sup>th</sup>** - Regular Meeting
- December 28<sup>th</sup>** - Workshop Meeting
- January 2<sup>nd</sup>** - Reorganization Meeting
- January 23<sup>rd</sup>** - Workshop Meeting

Motion made by Mr. Cafarelli to approve the minutes from Dec. 5, Dec. 12, Dec. 28, Jan. 2, and Jan. 23, seconded by Mr. Basalyga.

No questions or concerns.

Council	Vote		Council	Vote
Mr. Basalyga	Y		Ms. Gilliam	Y
Mr. Cafarelli	Y		Mr. Prentice	Y
Mr. Dunn	Y		Ms. Tessaro	Y
Mr. Gill	Absent		Mayor Miller	

Motion Carried 6 -0

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

1. General Fund	Unpaid: \$168,047.59	Paid: \$ 137,715.06
2. Grants / Special Project Fund	Unpaid: \$ 85.00	Paid: \$ 686.58
3. Recreation Fund	Unpaid: \$0.00	Paid: \$0.00
4. 2021 Capital Note	Unpaid: \$ 2,760.00	Paid: \$ 137,997.24
5. ARPA Fund	Unpaid: \$0.00	Paid: \$0.00
6. Escrow Fund	Unpaid: \$0.00	Paid: \$ 38,000.00
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: \$0.00	Paid: \$0.00

Motion made by Mr. Basalyga, seconded by Mr. Dunn.

Ms. Tessaro had a question for Mr. Leone about the ADP charge. He said he would look into it. She also asked about the Civil Service charge, and Mr. Leone explained that it was a charge for the Civil Service Solicitor. Ms. Tessaro had a question about the riding mower getting repaired, Mr. Leone commented that was for the new push mower and the repair. Ms. Tessaro commented that the holiday pay was over budget already, Mr. Leone commented that there are codifications that was coded incorrectly. He'll make sure it's corrected; he didn't have a chance

to review it himself prior to the packets being sent out. She asked about the tax collector's bond being paid – is it a one-time charge? Mr. Leone states it is for Stacey Krol and for the Borough Treasurer as well. She asked Mr. Larrick about Engineering for Code Consultations – Mr. Larrick wasn't sure, but Mr. Leone will ask the bookkeeper to pull the invoice. Ms. Tessaro asked about the Health Dept billing, Mr. Leone said it's a one time bill for all the restaurant inspections.

Council	Vote		Council	Vote
Mr. Basalyga	Y		Ms. Gilliam	Y
Mr. Cafarelli	Y		Mr. Prentice	Y
Mr. Dunn	Y		Ms. Tessaro	Y
Mr. Gill	Absent		Mayor Miller	

Motion Carried 6-0

Ms. Tessaro introduced the new Solicitor, Mr. Joseph Askar. He thanked the board for making him a part of the community and he hopes that Ambridge will continue to move forward as it has been doing.

## 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 2 Items listed on the Consent Agenda.**

1. Borough Financial Report - acknowledge receipt of the Borough Treasurer's Report for February 2024.
2. Consider granting approval for Youth Football League/Thomas Cephas to use the big Football field at Walter Panek Park Feb 13<sup>th</sup> thru May 31<sup>st</sup> from 5:30 PM to 8:00 PM

Motion made by Mr. Dunn, seconded by Ms. Gilliam.

Council	Vote		Council	Vote
Mr. Basalyga	Y		Ms. Gilliam	Y
Mr. Cafarelli	Y		Mr. Prentice	Y
Mr. Dunn	Y		Ms. Tessaro	Y
Mr. Gill	Absent		Mayor Miller	

Motion Carried 6-0

## IY: New Business

\*Ms. Tessaro stated that there will be a change on item #7, it will not be an Ordinance, it will be reclassified as a Resolution.

1. **Consider Action to Appoint Councilwoman Mary Jane Gilliam to the Civil Service Board as an Alternate member for a 2-year term to expire December 31<sup>st</sup> 2025.**

Motion made by Mr. Cafarelli, seconded by Mr. Dunn.

Council	Vote		Council	Vote
Mr. Basalyga	Y		Ms. Gilliam	Y
Mr. Cafarelli	Y		Mr. Prentice	Y
Mr. Dunn	Y		Ms. Tessaro	Y
Mr. Gill	Absent		Mayor Miller	

Motion Carried 6-0

2. **Consider Action to Appoint John Ivancik as member to Zoning Board of Adjustment for an unexpired term set to expire on December 31<sup>st</sup> 2025.**

Motion made by Mr. Dunn, seconded by Ms. Gilliam.

A question was raised about Mr. Ivancik being on the Planning Commission, Mr. Leone stated that he is on that board as well and should there be a conflict – Mr. Ivancik would have to abstain from a vote and there is an alternate as well.

Council	Vote		Council	Vote
Mr. Basalyga	Y		Ms. Gilliam	Y
Mr. Cafarelli	Y		Mr. Prentice	Y
Mr. Dunn	Y		Ms. Tessaro	Y
Mr. Gill	Absent		Mayor Miller	

Motion Carried 6-0

3. **Consider Action to Appoint Geraldine G. Miller as a volunteer Ambridge Fire Police Officer.**

Motion made by Mr. Cafarelli, seconded by Mr. Basalyga.

Council	Vote		Council	Vote
Mr. Basalyga	Y		Ms. Gilliam	Y
Mr. Cafarelli	Y		Mr. Prentice	Y
Mr. Dunn	Y		Ms. Tessaro	Y
Mr. Gill	Absent		Mayor Miller	

Motion Carried 6-0

4. **Consider Action to Approve the Low Bid for the Merchant Street Streetscape Project as recommended by our consultants from SGA to Bronder Technical Services, Inc. in the amount of \$3,785,168.74**

*(Base bid: \$4,973,902.01 minus Deduct Alternatives D, F, and G applied = \$3,785,168.94)*

Motion made by Mr. Basalyga, seconded by Mr. Dunn.

Mr. Cafarelli asked Mr. Leone to explain this action. Mr. Leone states that they had 3 bids from contractors – 2 were over 6 million and 1 was over 4 million. We originally budgeted and took out bonds for 3 million plus some ARPA money we had 4 million to spend. We will be eliminating some crosswalk markings and some planters to bring it down to the 4million dollar budget – the new streetscape will be going from 8<sup>th</sup> to 11<sup>th</sup> Street. We are working on separate funding for the extra block. There is also a grant for \$450,000.00 for work on 11<sup>th</sup> Street which will be added. Mayor Miller commented that we are looking for the funding for the following year. Mr. Cafarelli commented that if funding arrives while we are working on block #1, we can continue the work to 12<sup>th</sup> St. – it seems logical to keep them working here while their equipment is here.

Comment from the audience on how beautiful it is going to be.

Council	Vote		Council	Vote
Mr. Basalyga	Y		Ms. Gilliam	Y
Mr. Cafarelli	Y		Mr. Prentice	Y
Mr. Dunn	Y		Ms. Tessaro	Y
Mr. Gill	Absent		Mayor Miller	

Motion Carried 6-0

**5. Consider Action to purchase 6 park benches and 6 picnic tables for Henning Park at a cost of \$8,000.00 plus shipping from Barco Products.**

Question was raised about the quality of the benches and tables. Mr. Leone commented that we should get 10 yrs. out of them, they are powder coated.

Motion made by Mr. Basalyga, seconded by Ms. Gilliam.

Council	Vote		Council	Vote
Mr. Basalyga	Y		Ms. Gilliam	Y
Mr. Cafarelli	Y		Mr. Prentice	Y
Mr. Dunn	Y		Ms. Tessaro	Y
Mr. Gill	Absent		Mayor Miller	

Motion Carried 6-0

**6. Consider Action to Sign the Pennsylvania Municipal Health Insurance Cooperative Agreement (PMHIC).**

Mr. Leone commented that this is a new health care insurance for the Borough and the decision to make this change to save the Borough almost \$4,000.00 per month, maybe \$40,000.00 a year. Same health insurance but better prices.

Motion made by Mr. Basalyga, seconded by Mr. Cafarelli.

Council	Vote		Council	Vote
Mr. Basalyga	Y		Ms. Gilliam	Y
Mr. Cafarelli	Y		Mr. Prentice	Y
Mr. Dunn	Y		Ms. Tessaro	Y
Mr. Gill	Absent		Mayor Miller	

**7. Consider Action to Advertise for the Advertising of an Resolution 2024-1 entering into an Intergovernmental Agreement to participate as a member joining (PMHIC)**

Motion made by Mr. Basalyga, seconded by Mr. Dunn.

Motion made by Mr. Basalyga, seconded by Mr. Dunn.

Council	Vote		Council	Vote
Mr. Basalyga	Y		Ms. Gilliam	Y
Mr. Cafarelli	Y		Mr. Prentice	Y
Mr. Dunn	Y		Ms. Tessaro	Y
Mr. Gill	Absent		Mayor Miller	

Motion Carried 6-0

**8. Consider Action to discuss signing Key Code Agreement/Contract with Beaver County Humane Society.**

A question was raised about the action by the Chief of Police. He explained the difference between the “ala-cart” fees and regular contract. Mr. Leone states that if we take this contract, we will get a key code to drop the dog off during the off hours, weekends and holidays – this \$600.00 is for the keycode – plus other fees---otherwise we are stuck. Otherwise, we have to wait for them to come pick it up from our kennel and we don’t want to keep them in the kennel. This is an annual contract. The Chief recommended both Key Code & Ala-Cart. Mr. Leone agreed.

Motion made by Mr. Dunn, seconded by Mr. Basalyga.

Council	Vote		Council	Vote
Mr. Basalyga	Y		Ms. Gilliam	Y
Mr. Cafarelli	Y		Mr. Prentice	Y
Mr. Dunn	Y		Ms. Tessaro	Y
Mr. Gill	Absent		Mayor Miller	

Motion Carried 6-0

***Committee Reports***

**1. Public Safety Committee – Mr. Prentice**

Meeting was Monday morning, both fire and police chiefs were in attendance. Mr. Leone and Mr. Dunn were also there. They talked about parking permits and municipal parking lots. Mr. Dunn stated that they talked about removing the parking meters and make the permits annual since there is no money being put into the meters anyway. They are hoping to generate funds with the permits. The police chief comments that they would possibly do the municipal lots in the afternoon, he can’t commit to a certain time. There will be more discussion concerning this issue about illegal parking in the municipal lots without permits and how to handle those vehicles.

**2. Mayor’s Report – Mrs. Miller**

Discussion about the police department locking and unlocking park gates. Mrs. Miller states that the police are very busy, and maybe there is another option, for another department to open the gates. Mayor asked about the walkway – dumpster on 600 block of Merchant Street – discussion about how long it’s going to take to finish and barricades so traffic can go around, and pedestrians will have to walk on the other side of the street until it’s finished. Mr. Cafarelli commented about the protection for the new sidewalk and street – should be covered when bricks are dropping. Chief Larrick commented that he has a bond to cover damages. Mr. Cafarelli said we should have taken pictures first so he can’t say he didn’t do the damage.

3. Code Committee – Mr. Basalyga

He has nothing to report, they will set up a meeting. Mayor asked if they could schedule a meeting around her schedule – she would like to attend.

4. Public Works Committee – Mr. Cafarelli

Meeting set for next week. No overtime for Public Works – good news for taxpayers. Comment made that the one snow we did have the streets were cleaned at 5am.

5. Parks and Recreation Committee – Ms. Gilliam

They had a meeting in January, all committee members and Mr. Leone was present, and they discussed the conditions of the parks. They discussed Henning Park and what has to be finished and creating a sub-committee for events in the parks. They talked about putting benches in Park Rd park. They have another meeting scheduled to discuss splash pad opening and safety, rules and regulations. It may be open and operational maybe April.

6. Engineer’s Report – Mr. Slagle

Thanked the board for appointing him as Engineer.

7. Solicitor’s Report – Mr. Askar

He spoke of hearings that were rescheduled. Mr. Leone commented on the item that was changed from an ordinance to a resolution was the suggestion of Mr. Askar. If they kept it as an ordinance – it would have to be advertised which the cost is approximately \$500.00 and it’s a longer process – so right off the bat the new solicitor saved the Borough \$500.00.

8. Manager’s Report – Mr. Leone

He doesn’t have a formal report since the last meeting. He discussed the new streetscape, the Henning Park grass planting and grant writing wellness center and senior center. We submitted requests for funds from Senator Casey and Fetterman. A new business in the historic district has reached out to him and he will be contacting the HARB. He discussed some code issues on buildings on Merchant that are being addressed. He also stated that a distillery is possibly interested in a building on Merchant. He also states that a dermatologist’s office in the 500 block of Merchant and possibly another doctor’s office in the old WMBA building in the 700 block of Merchant. The mural on the 5<sup>th</sup> Street Park being completed.

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

Motion made by Mr. Basalyga, seconded by Mr. Prentice.

Council	Vote		Council	Vote
Mr. Basalyga	Y		Ms. Gilliam	Y
Mr. Cafarelli	Y		Mr. Prentice	Y

Mr. Dunn	Y		Ms. Tessaro	Y
Mr. Gill	Absent		Mayor Miller	

Motion Carried 6-0

**XI. Other Unfinished Business**

Ms. Tessaro asked if Council is using their Borough email, if not being used we should delete them. When is the deadline for the properties – it was March 7<sup>th</sup>.

Mr. Cafarelli commented that we will be notifying all utilities – including AWA and AMA to check their lines ahead of time. Mr. Leone said the gas company said their lines are good.

Mr. Leone suggested that might be a good idea if we camera our own catch basins. Suggestions just so the utilities don't have to tear up the street right after the streetscape is finished.

Mr. Cafarelli thanked Mr. Slagle and Mr. Askar for joining our board.

Mr. Prentice thanked Chief Larrick for showing him around the fire dept.

**XII. Adjournment**

Motion to adjourn made by Mr. Cafarelli, seconded by Mr. Dunn –

All in Favor

**NEYT MEETING OF BOROUGH COUNCIL:**

Workshop Meeting: **Tuesday, February 27<sup>th</sup>, 2024 at 6:30 PM**

Regular Meeting: **Tuesday, March 12<sup>th</sup>, 2024 at 6:30 PM**

**Announcements:**

Zoning Board of Adjustment Hearing on Monday, February, 26<sup>th</sup> at 6:00PM