



# **MINUTES**

## **Borough of Ambridge – Workshop Meeting of Borough Council**

Executive Session – 5:30

Tuesday, November 26<sup>th</sup>, 2024 – 6:30 PM

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

Present: Ms. Tessaro, Mr. Gill, Mr. Prentice, Mr. Basalyga, Mr. Dunn, Ms. Gilliam, Borough Manager Mr. Leone.

Absent: Mr. Cafarelli.

### **II. Pledge of Allegiance**

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

### **IV. New Business**

1. Discuss/Consider Approval of Civil Service Scoring for Ambridge Borough Police Department Full-Time list, and the Sargent testing as certified by the Civil Service Board.

Motion by Mr. Basalyga. Second by Mr. Gill.

Mr. Gill asked how many applicants took the test. Two officers took the test for the full time position and three officers took the test for the Sargent position.

Mr. Basalyga	Y		Ms. Gilliam	Y
Mr. Cafarelli	NA		Mr. Prentice	Y
Mr. Dunn	Y		Ms. Tessaro	Y
Mr. Gill	Y		Mayor Miller	

Motion carried 6-0.

2. Discuss/Consider Approval for Creese Street Road Closure request from St. John's Lutheran Church for their live nativity on December 1<sup>st</sup> from 1 pm – 8 pm.

Motion by Ms. Gilliam. Second by Mr. Dunn.

Mr. Basalyga	Y		Ms. Gilliam	Y
Mr. Cafarelli	NA		Mr. Prentice	Y
Mr. Dunn	Y		Ms. Tessaro	Y
Mr. Gill	Y		Mayor Miller	

Motion carried 6-0.

- Discuss/Consider Approval for Church Street Closure between Boyleston St and 14<sup>th</sup> Street on Saturday, December 7<sup>th</sup> & Sunday, December 8<sup>th</sup> for the OEV - Christmas in the Village event

Motion by Mr. Dunn. Second by Mr. Prentice

Mr. Basalyga	Y		Ms. Gilliam	Y
Mr. Cafarelli	NA		Mr. Prentice	Y
Mr. Dunn	Y		Ms. Tessaro	Y
Mr. Gill	Y		Mayor Miller	

Motion carried 6-0.

- Discuss/Consider approval for Chamber of Commerce Christmas Parade for Saturday, December 14<sup>th</sup>

Motion by Mr. Basalyga. Second by Mr. Dunn.

Mr. Gill asked if the sidewalks will be completed by the parade. Mr. Leone stated most of it should be completed. There may be a small section by the post office and by the gas station at 8<sup>th</sup> Street to be completed. It is all weather permitting. Some discussion in regard to Ambridge Wholesale Driveway continued. Mr. Leone stated he was amazed by how busy they are right now. He said they have been great at working with the Borough throughout the project.

Mr. Basalyga	Y		Ms. Gilliam	Y
Mr. Cafarelli	NA		Mr. Prentice	Y
Mr. Dunn	Y		Ms. Tessaro	Y
Mr. Gill	Y		Mayor Miller	

Motion passed 6-0.

- Discuss Consider Approval of Resolution 2024-5 for the LSA Grant in the amount of \$407,901 for Paving streets

Motion by Mr. Basalyga. Second by Mr. Prentice.

Mr. Basalyga	Y		Ms. Gilliam	Y
Mr. Cafarelli	NA		Mr. Prentice	Y
Mr. Dunn	Y		Ms. Tessaro	Y
Mr. Gill	Y		Mayor Miller	

Motion carried 6-0.

6. Discuss Consider Approval of Resolution 2024-6 for the LSA Grant in the amount of \$451,982.08 for purchase of critical equipment

Motion by Mr. Basalyga. Second by Mr. Gill.

Mr. Basalyga	Y		Ms. Gilliam	Y
Mr. Cafarelli	NA		Mr. Prentice	Y
Mr. Dunn	Y		Ms. Tessaro	Y
Mr. Gill	Y		Mayor Miller	

Motion carried 6-0.

7. Discuss/Consider Advertising Ordinance for Tax Increase.

Motion by Mr. Basalyga. Second by Ms. Dunn.

Mr. Basalyga	Y		Ms. Gilliam	Y
Mr. Cafarelli	NA		Mr. Prentice	Y
Mr. Dunn	Y		Ms. Tessaro	Y
Mr. Gill	N		Mayor Miller	

Motion carried 5-1.

8. Discuss/Consider Advertising for the proposed 2025 Budget.

Motion by Mr. Basalyga. Second by Ms. Gilliam.

Mr. Leone stated the Borough received the total property assessment figures from Beaver County. Based off that figure, a 1 mill increase in the Borough taxes is recommended. A number of issues dictate the recommended increase. An increase in refuse charges is expected. Mr. Gill questioned that parking tickets for street sweeping revenue was down. Some of this was caused by manpower issues with the police department; and residents being more aware of the street sweeping dates and moving their cars timely.

Mr. Gill continued with questions on parking permits, computer software licenses, the police vehicle lease. Ms. Tessaro asked about the health insurance premiums. Discussions continued in regard to the condition of the public works equipment.

Mr. Gill added we should not give out raises to non-contract personnel. Mr. Leone and Ms. Tessaro stated this affects three individuals: two full-time and one part-time. Mr. Gill added that he believes all the employees are overpaid. Mr. Leone explained in regards to the contract employees, this is what council agreed to when the contracts were signed. As far as the three non contract employees, he feels they are grossly underpaid. Ms. Tessaro agreed, adding that the cost of living has gone up drastically. If you don't reward your employees, they will be forced to seek employment elsewhere. Previous

council did a disservice by not paying salaries commensurate with their job description and rising costs. Mr. Leone stated asking three employees to take a pay freeze isn't going to make a significant difference in the budget.

Mr. Gill then asked if Mr. Leone would take a pay cut. Mr. Leone stated he returns a lot of wages to the borough by supporting the local businesses daily and donating to various causes through his personal business. He accepted the job and the salary because of the challenge and his belief in making a difference for the borough. It was never about the salary; he took a decrease in pay to accept the position in Ambridge. In addition to working five, sometimes six and seven days a week. He stated if it was across the board amongst all departments, or if hours of work were adjusted, then he would be willing to consider a pay cut.

Mr. Basalyga	Y		Ms. Gilliam	Y
Mr. Cafarelli	NA		Mr. Prentice	Y
Mr. Dunn	Y		Ms. Tessaro	Y
Mr. Gill	N		Mayor Miller	

Motion carried 5-1.

9. Discuss/Consider Advertising for changing the December Workshop Meeting 23rd????

Motion by Mr. Prentice. Second by Mr. Dunn.

Mr. Leone stated we must advertise the budget meeting for ten days prior to the meeting. Upon discussing the available dates, the council agreed to cancel the December 24<sup>th</sup> workshop. There will be a Special Budget Session on December 19, 2024 at 5:30pm in Council Chambers to vote on the Proposed Budget.

Mr. Basalyga	Y		Ms. Gilliam	Y
Mr. Cafarelli	NA		Mr. Prentice	Y
Mr. Dunn	Y		Ms. Tessaro	Y
Mr. Gill	Y		Mayor Miller	

Motion carried 6-0

**V. Other Unfinished Business**

**VI. Adjournment**

Motion by Mr. Dunn. Second by Mr. Basalyga.

All in favor.

**NEXT MEETING OF BOROUGH COUNCIL:**

Regular Meeting: Tuesday, December 10<sup>th</sup>, 2024

Special Budget Meeting: Tuesday, December 19<sup>th</sup>, 2024

