

MINUTES
Borough of Ambridge – Workshop Meeting
Ambridge Municipal Complex
April 8, 2008 – 7:00 pm

I. Call to order

President McCoy called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

II. Roll Call

Present: Tony Cafarelli; Bob Dunn, Orlando Gagliardi, Ms. Miller, Joe Pucci and Gerald C. McCoy

Absent: Mike Mikulich –work obligations.

Administration and Staff Present: Mayor Carl Notarianni, Borough Manager/Secretary Kristen Denne, Borough Solicitor Rick Start, Borough Engineer Frank Lemmon, Police Chief Mark Romutis, Fire Chief David Drewnowski and Zoning/Code Enforcement Officer James Ivancik.

III. Invocation

Ms. Peg Bowman, Trinity Episcopal School of Ministry

IV. Pledge of Allegiance

V. Treasurer’s Report – Respectively submitted by Marilyn Sheleheda

Mr. Cafarelli read the following report:

\$818,531.81 General Fund Bank Account Balance 4/08/2008 4:00 pm.
\$11,394.03 2006-2007 Outstanding Checks 4/08/2008 4:00 p.m.
\$807,137.78 Available Balance 4/08/2008 4:00 p.m.

Totals are as follows:

Deposits: 250,494.86

Debits: 101,488.54

-which include the following:

 2 Returned checks 933.57

 48 Checks 44,597.01

 1 Payroll (s) 55,957.96

(continued)

Other Fund Balances as of 4/08/2008

\$75,176.72	Grants /Special Fund (Insurance Proceeds-Garage Damage)
\$10,095.99	Liquid Fuels Fund
\$5,961.75	Escrow Disbursement Account
\$38,982.43	Recreation Fund
\$331,293.62	Sinking Fund (FEMA Grant)
\$461,510.51	Total Other Funds Balances (Restricted Use)

VI. Boroughs Bills and Expenses

Ms. Denne remarked that there is one correction, it's for the street sweeper which arrived, the invoice is not on the sheet, but you have a copy of the invoice that needs paid- it's a \$40,000.00 payment due upon delivery. Motion to accept the bills and expenses made by Mr. Pucci, Ms. Miller 2nd.

Council	Vote	Council	Vote
Mr. Cafarelli	Y	Mr. Mikulich	Absent
Mr. Dunn	Y	Mr. Pucci	Y
Mr. Gagliardi	Y	President McCoy	Y
Ms. Miller	Y	Mayor Notarianni	

The motion to approve the boroughs bills and expenses passed 6-0.

VII. Items for Discussion

1. Participation in the Beaver Valley Regional Council of Governments. (COG)

Mr. McCoy stated that the previous COG went defunct, but he strongly suggests that we join this new COG. Mr. Gagliardi asked about how it is calculated, and Ms. Denne replied on the U.S. Census basis. Mr. Cafarelli made the motion to accept participation, Ms. Pucci 2nd. Mr. Gagliardi asked who would be the representative. Mr. McCoy remarked that he previously stated he would volunteer. Some discussion about having an alternate representative in case Mr. McCoy could not attend because of other obligations. Ms. Denne states that she would check into having a back up. Mr. McCoy stated again that he would volunteer unless someone else on council wanted to take the position –he would have not objection.

Council	Vote	Council	Vote
Mr. Cafarelli	Y	Mr. Mikulich	Absent
Mr. Dunn	Y	Mr. Pucci	Y
Mr. Gagliardi	Y	President McCoy	Y
Ms. Miller	Y	Mayor Notarianni	

Motion Passes 6 – 0.

2. Street Sweeping Schedule.

Ms. Denne commented that they wanted to reiterate that the street sweeping will begin and she wanted to remind the residents that it will follow the recycling schedules for your streets. Mr. McCoy asked that council permit Ms. Denne to put another advertisement in the newspaper to make sure the residents follow the signs on their streets for sweeping in conjunction with the recycling schedule. Ms. Denne agreed to put the ad in the paper.

3. Part Time Fire Fighter

Chief Drewnowski explained that one of the Borough’s full time fire fighters was hurt and he is short handed. His employees are putting on 40 hours for the on call time plus our regular time. It’s going to be a big burden on these employees. He picked Don Larrick Jr. because of his training and certificates and his experience on the fire department. He is asking the council to approve this fire fighter to relieve some of their over time on as need basis until the full time fire fighter Gottschalk comes back in 6 – 8 weeks. Mr. McCoy asked how it would affect his hours on the Public Works Dept. Mr. Drewnowski said that it would not affect his regular job unless there was a fire, he would put in more time on the weekends for the fire dept. Motion to accept Donnie Larrick Jr. as a part time fire fighter made by Mr. Gagliardi, 2nd by Mr. Pucci.

Council	Vote	Council	Vote
Mr. Cafarelli	Y	Mr. Mikulich	Absent
Mr. Dunn	Y	Mr. Pucci	Y
Mr. Gagliardi	Y	President McCoy	Y
Ms. Miller	Y	Mayor Notarianni	

Passed 6 – 0.

3. Part Time Police Officers

Chief Romutis explained that he would like to hire some part time officers because they have vacation time coming up and he would like to have these gentlemen available in a pool of officers when needed they will be available. Mr. McCoy asked that each of the three gentlemen come to the podium and introduce themselves to the audience. The gentlemen came and introduced & gave a little background of themselves. Scott Patton: Benjamin Regney: timothy Depenhart. Motion to hire these 3 gentlemen as part time officers made by Mr. Gagliardi, 2nd by Mr. Dunn. Mayor and Police chief will go to swear the officers in and return

Council	Vote	Council	Vote
Mr. Cafarelli	Y	Mr. Mikulich	Absent
Mr. Dunn	Y	Mr. Pucci	Y
Mr. Gagliardi	Y	President McCoy	Y
Ms. Miller	Y	Mayor Notarianni	

Passed 6 – 0.

4. Water Feature at PJ Caul Park.

Mr. Ray Fedorko spoke concerning what their volunteer group does each week. He also spoke of where the fountain will be located and how it will look. He commented on where they got the funding for this fountain and how it will be maintained. Mr. McCoy asked about the growing Greener and Cleaner project. Mr. Fedorko stated some facts about the project such as the meeting dates and what they do. Mr. Gagliardi made the motion to accept the group proposal for the fountain, Mr. Cafarelli 2nd. Mr. Gagliardi asked if they had a picture of the fountain, Ms. Denne had a picture and gave it to Mr. Fedorko to pass around in audience, and announced that it's available to see on the website also.

Council	Vote	Council	Vote
Mr. Cafarelli	Y	Mr. Mikulich	Absent
Mr. Dunn	Y	Mr. Pucci	Y
Mr. Gagliardi	Y	President McCoy	Y
Ms. Miller	Y	Mayor Notarianni	

Passed 6 – 0.

5. Traffic Study at 3rd & Pine.

Mr. McCoy asked for a motion because years ago there was a stop sign at 3rd & Pine and it was an illegal sign, and it was taken down, now the people want it back up, so we would like this study to be done so that we could legally put it back up. Motion made by Mr. Cafarelli, 2nd by Mr. Dunn.

Council	Vote	Council	Vote
Mr. Cafarelli	Y	Mr. Mikulich	Absent
Mr. Dunn	Y	Mr. Pucci	Y
Mr. Gagliardi	Y	President McCoy	Y
Ms. Miller	Y	Mayor Notarianni	

Passed 6 – 0.

VIII. Citizen Participation (limited to 5 minutes per speaker)

Barb Costa -699 Melrose Ave.- Ambridge.

Trinity School, beginning next Sunday there will be prayer walks each night from 6 to 7pm from Sunday thru Saturday to pray for Ambridge. There are flyers here. Each church has been notified and is asked to encourage their parishioners/members to join them. Mr. McCoy asked where they are meeting – each night will be a different meeting place – it's listed on the flyer. Mr. McCoy asked the Borough Manager to make some copies and put them in the Borough's lobby.

Jack Firich – 804 -24th St. Ambridge

He spoke of a tractor trailer being on 4 hundred block of Merchant Street for over a week parked on the wrong side of the street facing the wrong way. The Mayor replied that we do not have an ordinance against this situation so we can't do anything about it. Chief Romutis said

(Continued)

that Lieut. Kuzma is writing an ordinance for this situation, but it hasn't passed yet. Mr. Firich also spoke of abandoned vehicles that were down around 8th – 6th Street that had orange stickers for car tow and now these vehicles are moved to 23rd Street. Police Chief replied he can only enforce it if it's a law. Mr. McCoy stated that he and Ms. Orłowski went thru the alleys between 24th St and 19th Street and she tagged vehicles. Mayor stated the police department gave the guy a few extra days to move his furniture and get it out of there. Mr. McCoy commented that there are plenty of times that truck on 4th & Merchant has not even opened the doors. Mayor commented we can only ticket \$5.00 per day. Mr. McCoy asked if we were even doing that, Mayor replied yes.

No other speakers.

IX. Official Reports

Mr. Gagliardi – Public Safety

He just wanted to commend Detective Rick Bufalini on his retirement April 5, and he did an excellent job for Ambridge for 30 years. He also stated that you will see his name in the paper quite often and wanted to make sure council sends him something for his retirement. Ms. Denne remarked that we will be presenting him something at his retirement party. Mr. McCoy also spoke of detective position and is it very essential to the town. He commented how we need better protection and he would suggest to the Mayor and the Chief that they keep the position. The Chief commented that the Mayor wanted to eliminate the position, but they had a discussion about that position. The outcome of the conversation between the mayor and the chief was that they would keep that position, but not just one officer will have that position –we can make it 5 officers. They are in the beginning stages with assigning investigations, areas and crimes. Mr. McCoy commented to the Mayor and Chief that is why they assigned the detective job to one officer so that it would free up all the other officers. Mayor made an example and quoted a study. Mr. McCoy stated that if we had a very effective procedure for 2 years why would we want to eliminate it. Mayor suggested that we have some officers that only make copies of police reports for insurance companies. Some of these officers need to polish up on their investigative procedures. Mr. Gagliardi wanted to know if these officers would be doing it on their own time. Much discussion concerning this situation. Mr. McCoy asked the council for a pole of their opinions.

Mr. Cafarelli would like to keep the position to one detective. Stated several reasons.

Mr. Dunn would like to keep the detective position. He also stated several reasons.

Mr. Pucci would like to have the position back. He would like it to be one detective.

Stated several reasons.

Mayor made several comments about people in Aliquippa said they can't do business here in Ambridge because the heat is on.

Mr. Gagliardi would like to have one detective.

Mr. McCoy would like to continue on and see only one detective.

Ms. Miller she would like see the statistics before and after Officer Bufalini and leave it up to the Police Chief and Mayor.

Mr. McCoy remarked that he was not poling the council to spite the Mayor or the Chief but because the public is present and would like them to know how we feel.

Mr. Cafarelli – Public Works.

He stated they discussed at their meeting the street sweeping, the traffic study, and the men are still patching pot holes.

Ms. Miller asked about the pole & sign on 8th Street. Mr. Cafarelli commented that they will be fixing that pole soon. Mr. McCoy asked if there was an accident there, Mr. Cafarelli suggested that it was not an accident it might have been a truck make the turn too sharp.

Mayor asked about the street sweeping signs, when are they going to be replaced. Mr. Cafarelli said they have arrived and will be starting to be replaced this week.

Mr. Dunn – Recreation.

He spoke of the AYA cleaning up Panek Park. Kristen and Mr. Gagliardi put signs on the ball field up there to keep the dogs out and that we need a dumpster up there.

X. Engineer’s Report.

Mr. Lemmon remarked about the bids for the crack & sealing of the Borough parking lot. Mr. Lemmon stated that the reason we went to sealed bids is because of the specs were different than the bids.

Mr. McCoy asked that Mr. Lemmon study these bids and give us your recommendations at the next meeting. Ms. Denne asked that because the next meeting was so far away, would waiting cause any problems. Mr. Lemmon replied no.

Mr. Lemmon commented about the bid awarded to Sangro.

Beaver County Community Development wants him to proceed with 18th & Pine (N. Walnut) to get it out of the way. Mr. Cafarelli made the motion and Mr. Dunn 2nd.

Council	Vote	Council	Vote
Mr. Cafarelli	Y	Mr. Mikulich	Absent
Mr. Dunn	Y	Mr. Pucci	Y
Mr. Gagliardi	Y	President McCoy	Y
Ms. Miller	Y	Mayor Notarianni	

Passed 6 – 0.

The Social Security Alley was started, we graded, seeded and mulched. Mr. McCoy asked if when the job is complete will it elevate the problems in that alley, Mr. Lemmon replied yes. Some stuff was blocking the catch basin and it’s all been taken care of.

He also spoke of USDA to get a grant to replace the Borough garage. They have grants and grant/loans. Mr. Cafarelli made the motion to approve grant application, Mr. Gagliardi 2nd.

Mr. McCoy commented about the 4 worst streets in Ambridge that need repaired. He asked Mr. Lemmon how long would it take to get these projects started. Mr. Lemmon suggested that it would take some time to do the different projects to it’s best to get them started.

Ms. Denne asked that if we could have a meeting with KLH, Columbia Gas and the Municipal Authority to make sure we are not going to be doing the roads that they will be digging up behind us. Mr. Cafarelli mentioned that he spoke with Columbia Gas and their project is to dig up every road in Ambridge over the next 4 years.

TAPE TURNED OVER

XI. Borough Manager's Report

Columbia Gas will be here next Wednesday to present a \$5,000.00 check for the Water Element to the Committee to Clean & Beautify Ambridge.

Moving forward on the Elms Street Project.

Renovations & Upgrades on the Parking lots on Melrose.

She needs a motion from council to accept the Retirement Letter to Sgt. Bufalini.

She has been working with Juvenile Services for the summer help.

Mr. McCoy read aloud the resignation letter from Sgt. Bufalini, he reluctantly accepts the resignation. The council thanked him for his services.

Motion for Sgt Bufalini retirement letter made by Mr. Cafarelli, 2nd by Mr. Gagliardi.

Council	Vote	Council	Vote
Mr. Cafarelli	Y	Mr. Mikulich	Absent
Mr. Dunn	Y	Mr. Pucci	Y
Mr. Gagliardi	Y	President McCoy	Y
Ms. Miller	Y	Mayor Notarianni	

Passed 6 – 0.

XII. Other Items not on agenda.

Mr. McCoy wanted to know when the summer help would be starting so that we could have them clean up the alleys. There are many projects going on here in the Borough and we don't have to manpower to clean the alleys every day. Ms. Denne said the program for summer help starts when school is out. Mr. McCoy asked if we could find out from Sheriff David if he has some none violent criminals that we could use for extra help. Ms. Denne consented to ask the Sheriff.

XII. Adjournment -

Motion to Adjourn made by Mr. Gagliardi, Ms. Miller 2nd.

All in Favor Ayes 6 ~ Nays 0.

Passes 6 – 0. Adjourned 8:10 m

Next Meeting – May 13, 2008 7pm.

Respectfully submitted, by Kristen Denne, Borough Manager

I herby certify that these are the true and correct minutes of the Workshop Meeting of the Borough of Ambridge Council for April 8, 2008

Borough of Ambridge Seal