

MINUTES
Borough of Ambridge – Regular Meeting
Ambridge Municipal Complex
March 23, 2010 – 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, M.J. Flannery, Tina Iorfido Miller, Mike Mikulich, Joe Pucci and Gerald C. McCoy

Administration and Staff Present: Mayor Rich D'Ambrosio, Recording Secretary Marilyn Sheleheda, Borough Solicitor Rick Start, Police Chief Romutis, Fire chief Drewnowski.

III. Invocation

Father Mike Polosky of SS Peter & Paul Ukrainian Catholic Church – Ambridge.

IV. Pledge of Allegiance

Prior to starting the meeting Mr. McCoy introduced Officer Sam Klabor, new police officer working in Ambridge.

V. Citizen's Participation on Agenda Items Only – (5 minutes per speaker)

Mr. Eric Geisbert -836 Melrose Ave. Ambridge

He requested usage of the green grassy field at the Hang Zone for Lacrosse Team. He spoke a little about the youth organization Ambridge Youth Ignite. It's been in Ambridge for about 7 years. He states that they won't be making any money from this team, he'll be charging \$5.00 to participate and his hope is that the parents will use their money left over from registration fees for equipment because it's so expensive for Lacrosse. They plan on practicing twice a week. He also notice that when it rains it will be too wet in which case maybe they can use the roller hockey space @ the Hang Zone. He is asking for this space from the end of March until the end of May.

Marlene Verygood – 652 Melrose Ave.

She spoke on item #2 on the Agenda, the parking lots being used during Nationality Days. She wondered if it was including the parking lots on Melrose Ave. Mr. McCoy commented that it is the municipal lots on 4th & 7th @ Merchant and lot on 600 block of Melrose. Ms. Verygood asked about her tenant whom she pays for a parking pass each month, what is she to do with her car during Nationality Days? Mr. McCoy asked Ms. Erica Wachtel spoke about this situation. She said she is not aware of any problems with parking passes in the past, but she was sure that they could arrange for this special situation. Mr. McCoy asked Ms. Wachtel to get the parking pass holders name from Ms. Verygood and make arrangements. Ms. Wachtel commented that wouldn't be a problem.

No other speakers on Agenda Items.

VI. **Treasurer's Report**—respectfully submitted by Marilyn Sheleheda, Treasurer.
 Mr. Mikulich read the following report aloud as of 4pm today, March 23, 2010.

General Fund Analysis

| | | | | |
|--|--|------------------|-------------|----------------------|
| \$1,109,532.65 | General Fund Bank Account Balance 3/23/2010 4:00 pm. | | | |
| \$6,841.48 | All Outstanding Checks 3/23/2010 4:00 p.m. | | | |
| \$1,102,691.17 | Available Balance 3/23/2010 4:00 p.m. | | | |
| Treasurer's General Fund NOTES: | <i>Totals are as follows:</i> | | | |
| | Deposits: \$247,478.37 | | | |
| | Debits: \$125,961.09 | | | |
| | -which include the following: | | | |
| | <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="padding-left: 20px;"><u>44</u> Checks</td> <td style="text-align: right; padding-left: 20px;">\$78,780.47</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding-left: 20px;"><u>1</u> Payroll (s)</td> <td style="text-align: right; padding-left: 20px;">\$47,180.62</td> </tr> </table> | <u>44</u> Checks | \$78,780.47 | <u>1</u> Payroll (s) |
| <u>44</u> Checks | \$78,780.47 | | | |
| <u>1</u> Payroll (s) | \$47,180.62 | | | |
| Other Fund Balances as of 3/23/2010 | | | | |
| \$61,853.69 | Grants/Special Funds (Insurance Proceeds - Garage Damage) | | | |
| \$151,262.52 | Liquid Fuels Fund | | | |
| \$36,750.79 | Escrow Disbursement Account | | | |
| \$39,233.02 | Recreation Fund | | | |
| \$333,423.13 | Sinking Fund (FEMA Grant) | | | |
| \$622,523.15 | Total Other Funds Balances (Restricted Use) | | | |

VII. **Boroughs Bills and Expenses**

No questions or corrections. Mr. Cafarelli made the motion to approve the bills and expenses. Mr. Dunn seconded.

| Council | Vote | Council | Vote |
|---------------|------|------------------|------|
| Mr. Cafarelli | Y | Mr. Mikulich | Y |
| Mr. Dunn | Y | Mr. Pucci | Y |
| Mr. Flannery | Y | President McCoy | Y |
| Mrs. Miller | Y | Mayor D'Ambrosio | |

Motion Passes 7 ~ 0

VIII. New Business:

1. Ambridge Area Chamber of Commerce Request for Fingerprinting Station And Discount on Police Protection During Nationality Days.

Mr. McCoy states that the Chamber is requesting the same station that they had in previous years. Mrs. Miller made the motion to approve, Mr. Mikulich seconded.

| Council | Vote | | Council | Vote |
|---------------|------|--|------------------|------|
| Mr. Cafarelli | Y | | Mr. Mikulich | Y |
| Mr. Dunn | Y | | Mr. Pucci | Y |
| Mr. Flannery | Y | | President McCoy | Y |
| Mrs. Miller | Y | | Mayor D'Ambrosio | |

Motion Passes 7 ~ 0

2. Ambridge Chamber of Commerce Request for 3 Municipal Parking Lots Use During Nationality Days.

Mr. McCoy asked that it be approved on the contingency that no one with parking passes are effected and that Ms. Wachtel will accommodate anyone with parking passes. Mr. Cafarelli made the motion to approve, Mr. Dunn seconded.

| Council | Vote | | Council | Vote |
|---------------|------|--|------------------|------|
| Mr. Cafarelli | Y | | Mr. Mikulich | Y |
| Mr. Dunn | Y | | Mr. Pucci | Y |
| Mr. Flannery | Y | | President McCoy | Y |
| Mrs. Miller | Y | | Mayor D'Ambrosio | |

Motion Passes 7 ~ 0

3. Request for Police Sergeants Training & Field Training Officer.

Mr. Pucci states that they did not discuss the training classes. They discussed the police department in general. He does feel that this school at the Holiday Inn for Civil Service is needed and so that they can learn because none of them know too much about Civil Service. Mr. McCoy is in favor the Civil Service Class. Mr. Mikulich made the motion to have Civil Service Board attend the class, Mr. Cafarelli seconded.

All in Favor: Ayes 7 ~ Nays 0.

Motion Passes 7-0

Mr. Flannery comments that there is another class in September 2010 and because of the spending freeze, they are going to move the Sgt. Training to later in the fall. Mr. McCoy mentioned he feels that would be a good idea because sending these officers now would leave the Borough shorthanded on officers. Mayor D'Ambrosio asked if we could possibly send one or two now and one or two in the fall, that way it wouldn't interrupt the scheduling. Mr. McCoy suggested it would be a better idea to wait until they hire more full time officers and adjust you schedule. Mr. Pucci asked Mr. Mikulich what his thoughts were because he was head of Finance.

Mr. Mikulich asked Chief Romutis if they could send one without causing a scheduling issue. Mr. McCoy asked if it can be done without overtime costs. Chief Romutis checked the schedule and it won't cause any overtime with one officer going to the class. Mr. Mikulich made the motion to allow one officer to attend the class for \$620.00, Mr. Pucci seconded.

| Council | Vote | | Council | Vote |
|---------------|------|--|------------------|------|
| Mr. Cafarelli | Y | | Mr. Mikulich | Y |
| Mr. Dunn | Y | | Mr. Pucci | Y |
| Mr. Flannery | Y | | President McCoy | Y |
| Mrs. Miller | Y | | Mayor D'Ambrosio | |

Motion Passes 7 ~ 0

4. Request for Hiring Part Time Officer: Alfred Bialik

Motion to hire officer Bialik made by Mr. Mikulich, seconded by Mr. Dunn.

| Council | Vote | | Council | Vote |
|---------------|------|--|------------------|------|
| Mr. Cafarelli | Y | | Mr. Mikulich | Y |
| Mr. Dunn | Y | | Mr. Pucci | Y |
| Mr. Flannery | Y | | President McCoy | Y |
| Mrs. Miller | Y | | Mayor D'Ambrosio | |

Motion Passes 7 ~ 0

5. Request from Ambridge Youth Ignite

Mr. Mikulich asked if we accepted the Hang Zone yet. Mr. McCoy states that he does not think that we accepted it yet and we'll have to check with Mr. Lemmon because he (Mr. Lemmon) had a check list of about 12 items that needed to be addressed first. Mr. Mikulich commented that we would have to accept this back from the school district before we can give our permission, and unless we accept it back with contingency that the check list be completed. Mrs. Miller suggested that since it is in a time crunch, would the Youth Group be able to use Walter Panek Park? Mr. Geisbert remarked it will be fine. Mr. McCoy states that as long as they stay off of the ball fields. Mr. Mikulich suggested that he use Panek Park until the Hang Zone is accepted back and then you can move it back down here. Mr. McCoy commented that Council seems to be in favor of the group using the field at Panek Park until the Hang Zone is accepted back as long as you don't use the baseball fields. Mr. Dunn comments that the football practice season starts August 1st. Mr. Dunn also asked what hours will he be using the fields? Mr. Geisbert comments that it will be 2 hrs from 4-6 on Mondays and Saturday from 10 – noon. Mr. Mikulich makes a motion to allow the Ambridge Youth Ignite to use Panek Park until the Hang Zone is accepted and then move practices to Hang Zone. Mr. McCoy states that we would insist that you clean up after yourself. Second made by Mrs. Miller. Mr. Cafarelli asked if they could use tennis shoes instead of spikes in the

(continued)

Hang Zone for a few weeks until the grass comes in. Mr. McCoy states that they will be in Panek Park for a few weeks anyway. Mrs. Miller wanted to take the opportunity to thank Mr. Geisbert on behalf of Council for taking the time to work the youth of Ambridge.

All in Favor: Ayes 7 ~ Nays 0.

Motion Passes 7-0.

6. Appointment of One Person to Civil Service Board.

Mr. McCoy states that we have two applications: Mr. John Seresun & Ms. Sally Knoll. Mr. Pucci nominated John Seresun, Mr. Mikulich seconded the motion.

| Council | Vote | | Council | Vote |
|---------------|------|--|------------------|------|
| Mr. Cafarelli | Y | | Mr. Mikulich | Y |
| Mr. Dunn | Y | | Mr. Pucci | Y |
| Mr. Flannery | N | | President McCoy | Y |
| Mrs. Miller | Y | | Mayor D'Ambrosio | |

Motion Passes 6~1

IX. Executive Session – Personnel Reasons. 7:25pm

Motion made by Mr. Cafarelli for executive session – personnel matters, Mr. Mikulich seconded.

All in Favor: Ayes 7 ~ Nays 0.

X. Return from Executive Session. 7:50pm

Return from Executive Session motion made by Mr. Dunn, seconded by Mr. Flannery.

All in Favor: Ayes 7 ~ Nays 0.

XI. Other Unfinished Business

Mr. Mikulich asked about the Riverfront Partnership Membership, who is our representative, Mr. McCoy states that generally it was Kristen, but since she has been gone, he has been filing in for her, when the new manager is hired, he or she will take over being the representative.

No other unfinished business.

XII. Citizen's Participation (Citizens are limited to 5 minutes per speaker)

Mr. Bob Thompson – 460 Glenwood.

He asked for clarification to the no parking sign on 5th & Glenwood. Mr. McCoy asked if he is referring to the sign up where you make the bend by the Towers. Mr. Thompson replied yes. Mr. McCoy commented that the sign coming down the hill should come down. It should only be going up. Mr. Thompson asked if the parking should be from that sign to the alley. Mr. Dunn states that it should be from the corner to that sign. Mr. Thompson agrees that it should be because the fire trucks wouldn't be able to make the turn, and he spoke to the fire chief about the parking situation near his garage. Mr. McCoy states that if someone parks in front of his garage call the police. Mr. Thompson states one woman parks across from his garage not in front of it. Fire Chief commented that he feels the sign is in the wrong place because when he has to back the fire truck up the hill to come back down the way it is now he wouldn't be able to do it. Mr. McCoy commented that we will have to look into it. Mr. McCoy commented that we may have to change the ordinance and asked Mr. Cafarelli to look into the matter.

Barbara Costa – 699 Melrose Ave.

She asked if in the Official Reports if they were going to talk about the manager search and if they could give an update. Mr. McCoy commented that we have to readvertise, because the first round didn't work out.

Erica Wachtel – Chamber of Commerce.

She spoke of the building on 7th & Merchant that is falling over. She commented that the Chamber's insurance will cover them, she just wanted to make sure the Borough is covered and since there are a lot of people expected to be on the street for those 3 days is there something we can do with the Borough to insure the best possible precautions are taken. Mr. McCoy commented that we have taken him to court several times, and he continues to be fined and we are following the legal process. The Fire Chief commented that he and Mr. Ivancik spoke and they both agree, that the day before Nationality Days, they will take the bucket truck and remove loose bricks. Ms. Wachtel asked if the bucket truck will be occupied with helping with the electrical. Mr. McCoy states that his concerns are legal stand point. What if you remove a few bricks and the whole building falls? Mr. Mikulich agreed that he didn't think that would be a good idea. Mr. McCoy suggested that maybe Mr. Unis will loan us some fencing. Mr. McCoy commented that if one of our people would God forbid get killed while trying to take a few loose bricks off. Mr. Mikulich states the best suggestion is to have the building come down as soon as possible. Mr. McCoy states that this property owner has been fined at least once, maybe more. Ms. Wachtel commented that she will speak to Mr. Ivancik about that building.

John Zabrooky – 811 Pine St.

He asked about the restrooms at the Hang Zone. Mr. Dunn commented that our insurance deductible was \$1,000.00 so the Borough will have to take on the cost of the repairs and we are in the process of taking care of the repairs. Mr. Zabrooky also asked about curfew, if there is one in effect. Police Chief replied yes, the parents will be responsible for their children. He also spoke about the high school grounds between the parking lots, he thought it was part of the school landscaping, it is very dangerous. Mr. McCoy commented that he will have our Borough Engineer look into the matter.

XIII. Official Reports

Motion to accept the Official Reports made by Mr. Mikulich, seconded by Mr. Pucci.

| Council | Vote | | Council | Vote |
|---------------|------|--|------------------|------|
| Mr. Cafarelli | Y | | Mr. Mikulich | Y |
| Mr. Dunn | Y | | Mr. Pucci | Y |
| Mr. Flannery | Y | | President McCoy | Y |
| Mrs. Miller | Y | | Mayor D'Ambrosio | |

Motion Passes 7 ~ 0

Mr. Flannery offered a comment after the vote. He thanked the Police Chief because at the very first meeting of the Public Safety meetings the Police Chief spoke of the new formats. Mr. McCoy thanked the chief also.

XIV. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn made by Mr. Mikulich, seconded by Mr. Pucci.

All in Favor: Ayes 7 ~ Nays 0.

The meeting adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

NEXT COUNCIL MEETING: April 13, 2010