

MINUTES
Borough of Ambridge – Regular Meeting
Ambridge Municipal Complex
July 22, 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, Tina Iorfido Miller, Mike Mikulich, Joe Pucci and Gerald C. McCoy

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

III. Invocation

Ms. Barb Costa, Trinity Episcopal School of Ministry

IV. Pledge of Allegiance

V. Citizen Participation on Agenda Items Only (3 minutes per speaker)

Jerome Gill – 831 Glenwood Ave. -Ambridge

He asked that when the council speaks of New Business if they could give more details because the audience does not have a copy of these items. Mr. McCoy asked the police chief if he wanted to make comment at this time. Chief Romutis states he did not know what Mr. Gill was referring. Mr. McCoy remarked that they could not possibly give details on everything as some are very extensive. Mr. Gill commented that the audience would like more details.

Mary Tapenaris - 300 fourth St. – Ste 300 – Office Address from Premier Properties

They belong to ACRE, and the National Real-estate Organization. She was commenting on the property inspection ordinances. Her concern is the 3 strike rule. We feel that it is better to be preventive rather than ignore problems. So we call and encourage our other tenants to call with problems. We have what we call nuisance tenants not just in Ambridge but other towns also, and some times these tenants call the police constantly on their neighbors, i.e. They don't like their children, they don't like their dog, or they argue with their wife. Landlords are being put in a position of possibly discriminating against their tenants. They had a representative from Beaver County Fair Housing and Southwestern PA. Legal Services speak at their last meeting and both representatives agreed that this kind of ordinance is making landlords break the law. It's not only the tenants that get the police called on them. The home owners in Ambridge also have shabby looking houses. This is discriminating to say that it is only the tenants that have shabby dwellings. She just wants council to look at the legal aspects of the ordinances when passing them, to get out a copy of the Landlord Tenant Act and understand that the ordinances that you pass can not contradict the law. Do not ask the landlords to be the police officers or the judge.

VI. Presentation by Tom Patrician, Ambridge Chamber of Commerce.

He spoke of the Soap Box Derby that used to be a big event in Ambridge years ago. He wanted to ask if the races could be run on 8th Street from Duss Ave to Good Samaritan church.

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There is a misprint in the paperwork concerning the street closure; it will not close the street as the paper says for 2 ½ days, only for Saturday morning and Sunday morning until the races are over. Saturday and Sunday nights traffic would be normal. It will be held on Sept 27th and 28th. The kids would get a chance to race other kids from all over. This would get them points to go to the big race in Akron Ohio. He also spoke of rally race in April 25th & 26th of 2009, and a bigger race on May 30, 2009. This would be a 4 county official race site, Greene, Mercer, Beaver & Lawrence counties. There is already a great deal of interest from local businesses, clubs, parents, grandparents who want to get the kids active in something other than computer games. Mr. McCoy commends Mr. Patrician's efforts and recommends that the council approve this with a contingency that the solicitor reviews everything. Mr. Mikulich made to motion, Ms. Miller seconded. *After the motion: Question by Ms. Denne, who would be going to Penn Dot, either the Chamber or the Chamber's Insurance company. Mr. Patrician said he'll contact Penn Dot. Mr. Patrician suggested that hopefully either 14th Street or 11th Street will get paved one of these days which would be better in the future, but as it stands now 8th street is the best.*

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

Motion to allow Soap Box Derby with the contingency of Solicitor Review. **Passed 7 – 0.**

VII. **Treasurer's Report** –respectfully submitted by Marilyn Sheleheda, Borough Treasurer

Mr. Mikulich read the following report:

\$1,389,526.36	General Fund Bank Account Balance as of 7/22/2008 4:00 pm.
<u>\$6,952.31</u>	2007-2008 Outstanding Checks as of 7/22/2008 4:00 p.m.
\$1,382,574.05	Available Balance as of 7/22/2008 4:00 p.m.

Deposits: \$170,674.94

Debits: \$221,958.64

-which include the following:

<u>89</u> Checks	\$116,775.80
<u>2</u> Payroll (s)	\$105,182.84

Other Fund Balances as of 7/22/2008 -4pm

\$75,320.18	Grants/Special Funds (Insurance Proceeds - Garage Damage)
\$10,115.26	Liquid Fuels Fund
\$5,961.75	Escrow Disbursement Account
\$39,056.82	Recreation Fund
\$331,925.82	Sinking Fund (FEMA Grant)
<hr/> \$462,379.83	Total Other Funds Balances (Restricted Use)

VIII. Boroughs Bills and Expenses

Mr. Cafarelli questioned Ms. Denne on the invoice from Shiloh Services for small purchases \$520.00 in addition to the monthly contract bill. Ms. Denne didn't remember what it was for and commented that she would check into it, but she believed it was back up issues for the server. Mr. McCoy asked about Action Tire, vehicle inspections \$585.00, did we really pay that much for an inspection. Ms. Denne commented that there were some issues for that v3ehicle that needed to be addressed to pass inspection. Mr. Cafarelli commented that it may have been transmission and brakes issues to pass. Mr. Gagliardi asked if we have a Borough mechanic. Mr. McCoy stated that Don Larrick Sr. still works on our machinery. Ms. Denne commented that Mr. Larrick has had some health issues currently and he would have been doing the brake work if it were not for the health issues. Motion to pass the bills by Mr. Cafarelli, Mr. Gagliardi seconded.

Council	Vote		Council	Vote
Mr. Cafarelli	Y		Mr. Mikulich	Y
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 7 – 0.**

IX. New Business

1. Review of Changes in Garbage Ordinance.

Mr. McCoy commented that he would like to have these changes in the ordinance advertised. Ms. Denne stated that council got the changes, marked in red, in their copies of the ordinance:

- The penalty was increased from \$25.00 to \$50.00 for automatic ordinances.
- Borough can no longer provide the receptacles for recycling – it is the homeowner's responsibility.

Mr. McCoy commented that council has been working on these changes for quite some time. These are the same complaints that we have been getting for the last year or so, especially in the alleyways. People just don't understand that you can not leave garbage in the alleys all week. What we want this evening is to advertise this ordinance. Mr. Mikulich asked Mr. Ivancik if he and Ms. Orłowski reviewed the ordinance. Mr. Ivancik replied that yes, they did review it and it was adequate for her to enforce regulations. Mr. Mikulich made the motion to advertise the ordinance with the changes, Mr. Cafarelli seconded.

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

The motion to advertise the ordinance with changes. **Passed 7-0.**

2. Review of Changes to Proposed Nuisance Ordinance/Property Inspection Ordinance.

Mr. McCoy stated that this is a good ordinance and it was approved by the city of

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Pittsburgh and they did the grunt work and saved us money in that respect. It will protect our citizens and that is what we are asked to do on a daily basis in this Borough. He asked if any member of council had any questions or comments. Mr. Pucci made the motion to advertise this ordinance, Mr. Dunn seconded.

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

Motion to advertise this ordinance. **Passed 7 – 0.**

3. Request for a Traffic Study to Impose One Way Traffic Traveling South Bound on Henrici.

Mr. McCoy asked which way does most of the traffic travel on that street. Ms. Miller commented that she has lived in that area most of her life and most of the traffic goes south. She sees a need for this because of children in that area because of the bend, drivers can't always see around that bend. Mr. McCoy asked if Ms. Miller would canvas the residents on that street. She agreed. Mr. McCoy wanted to table this because he would like to know what the majority of how the residents feel. She will report to him for the next meeting. No other members of council objected.

4. Consideration of Amending the Parking ordinance to eliminate commercial Truck Parking on Merchant St.

Mr. McCoy stated that this is not for unloading trucks, only parked. Mr. Pucci commented that this should go for all our streets not just Merchant. There has been a truck parked on 8th St. for 3 weeks now and hasn't moved. Mr. McCoy agreed. He would like to table this ordinance until next meeting until council members can come up with changes to the ordinance for commercial. Mr. Mikulich commented that he thought we already had an ordinance concerning commercial vehicles parking on Borough Streets. Mr. McCoy asked Ms. Denne to look into the matter. Ms. Denne asked the police chief about the complaints of commercial vehicles parking near Vocceilli's Pizza. The chief remarked that he researched into the matter and he could not find an ordinance that said they could not park there. Ms. Denne remarked that there are several other places on Merchant Street that this is happening to, for instance these trucks will unload stuff at the beginning of the day and at the end of the day reload the truck, but they are parked there all day long. Mr. McCoy recommended finding the ordinance and revising it rather than enacting another ordinance. Mr. Mikulich asked the police chief if there was anything in the ordinance about vehicles parked on any street. He suggested that he believes the ordinance is Borough wide and it's not just a Merchant Street restriction. The police chief remarked that he only looked for Merchant Street and did not look for other streets. Mr. Mikulich also asked of the chief about the weight limit trucks and other commercial vehicles except for deliveries. The police chief states that he will have to have one of his officers trained for this task. Mr. Mikulich also commented about the weight limit on the bridge and we will have to get information from the county on this subject. Ms. Denne commented that we do have signs. Mr. McCoy recommends that this be reevaluated and that each councilmember gets a copy of this ordinance so they can address it.

5. Study for Traffic Lights by Public Works Committee.

We had this study done and there are quite a few instances that we can remove some of these lights which have side streets that are a one way. Mr. McCoy suggests removing the traffic lights at 5th – 7th @ Merchant Streets, but leave the one at 6th Street, until a later time.

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The cost of these lights is getting phenomenal. Mr. Mikulich made the motion to remove those two lights and he also made the comment that we need to change our ordinance. Ms. Denne remarked that this would be a two prong approach, advertise and update the ordinance and removal. Mr. Gagliardi suggests that we cover the light first and let the people get used to it. Mr. McCoy said they will work on that after the ordinance is updated. This is with the contingency that we update the ordinance. Mr. Dunn seconded.

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

Motion to eliminate the two traffic lights on 5th & 7th –Merchant with the update on the ordinance. **Passed 6 – 0-- 1 Abstain.**

6. Handicapped Sign for 530 Melrose Ave.

This application is for James R. Miller.

Motion to approve the handicapped space made by Mr. Miller, comment also made that this is no relation to her husband with the same last name. Second by Mr. Mikulich. Mr. Mikulich also had a comment – there are already 4 H.P. spaces on that block. Mr. McCoy remarked that there is nothing in the law that specifies if you can limit the number of spaces. The police chief commented that he is starting to keep track of which ones are expired and which ones are expiring. The solicitor commented that this just limits the amount of spaced that able bodied persons can park - the ordinance states that there is a procedure for handicapped spots and he has complied with it.

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

Motion to approve handicapped space for 530 Melrose. Passed 6 – 1.

7. Review of Policies submitted by Police Chief.

Mr. McCoy asked the police chief to address this subject. Chief Romutis commented about the insurance provider to get us better rates. This concerns the holding cells, medical assistant for detained persons, and secondary employment. Mr. McCoy remarks that the council members reviewed this material in their packets and asked the chief if the bargaining unit approved everything in the report. Mr. McCoy would like to approve this with the stipulation that our solicitor review and approve it and no backlash from the union. Mr. Mikulich made the motion and Mr. Pucci seconded.

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

Motion to approve these polices. **Passed 7 – 0.**

8. Closing of Melrose between 4th – 5th St.
 Mr. McCoy read the letter from Ambridge Christian Center who is requesting the street be blocked off to have a block party from 6pm to 9pm on Friday August 15th. They provide school supplies and backpacks for the children. The give away about 80 of these backpacks. Mr. Mikulich made the motion, Ms. Miller seconded.
 All in favor – Ayes 7 ~ Nays 0. **Passed 7 – 0.**

X. Other Unfinished Business.

(Tape turned over)

2 votes taken but nothing on tape. The following is a handwritten account of subject & vote.

Motion to repair 6th St.

Motion made by Mr. Gagliardi. Mr. Pucci Seconded.

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

Motion to repair 6th St. **Passed 7 – 0.**

Tabled Sergeants promotions until next meeting.

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

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

Motion Passed 5 – 2.

XI. Citizen Participation (3 minutes per speaker)

Unknown name and address.

Woman spoke of the repairs on our streets. She was happy to see that council discussed the issued. She also spoke of work orders for our street department. Council explained that the office issues the work orders for weeds and such things except for individual pot holes. Mr. McCoy explains that Ms. Denne takes charge of this department. Mr. Cafarelli also mentioned that he has told the Public Works department that if they see something on the street they should bend over and pick it up. She was concerned that the people aren't getting their money's worth for their taxes.

Barbara Costas – 699 Melrose Ave.

She lives at the corner of 7th & Melrose and she comes up 7th from Maplewood and she can not imagine just having a stop sign there unless it's a 3 way stop. She feels that it's a busy intersection and she would like to know who she should address her concerns to. Mr. McCoy suggested the Borough Manager. Mr. McCoy remarked that a 3 way stop sign is a good suggestion.

Roberta Schuli – Baden, Pa.

She commented that Mr. Start is new to the group and she understands that he has been instructed to go back to square one with the process for the business. She suggests that he give some guidance of how the process should occur and then find out its done wrong. Ms. Denne states that there has been a conference call between the solicitor and Mr. Sass.

Mike Komas – 1010 Lenz Ave.

He commented that Mr. Sass has always cooperated with everything he was asked on his petition. He wants to make sure that the people and council know that his efforts aren't aimlessly planned. He is part of the planning commission and they set some standards at their meetings before they would even consider his efforts. He cooperated totally, with police – fire – insurance and whatever it would take. He feels that they presented a proposal that was done well enough. It was presented to council and you rejected it, and that's ok because that's the way it works. In respect to Mr. Sass and he hopes that he continues his efforts. One day he did his own traffic study on Duss Ave. – to see how many cars passed by. He also commented on how well the Fire Chief coordinates his department concerning the fire on 338 Maplewood – the garage was only a couple of feet from the houses on either side and neither house was damaged by the fire. He also asked about the noise ordinance that was passed about a year ago with the decibel levels. That ordinance might help the other gentleman's concerns.

Bill Bokovic – 1663 Henrici St.

He would like to commend Officer Davis. He has taken a lot of the abandoned vehicles off our streets. He remarked about another problem. One vehicle, a pick up truck with a tow sticker on it was moved to Foodland parking lot. He also suggested that there are a couple of other vehicles that are parked there and are outdated. He said that the police told him they can't do anything because it's private property. Ms. Denne remarked that people think they can out smart us, but that's not a problem, we can take care of those vehicles down at the Foodland parking lot. Ms. Denne also thanked him for advising council of this problem. Mr. Bokovic also remarked about Henrici Street becoming one way – he thinks it's a good idea mostly because there are so many kids playing on that street, he would even go one step more – putting a stop sign at Church intersects with Henrici, people come down and around that street too fast.

No other speakers.

XII. Executive Session entered at 9:20 on personnel matters.

Motion to come out of executive session made by (inaudible), Mr. Pucci seconded.
All in favor, Ayes 7 ~ Nays 0.

XIII. Adjournment

Ms. Miller moved to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Mikulich seconded the motion.
The motion to adjourn passed unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 9:23 p.m.

NEXT COUNCIL MEETING: August 23, 2008.

Respectfully submitted, by Kristen Denne, Borough Manager

I hereby certify that these are the true and correct minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Borough of Ambridge Council for July 22, 2008.

Borough of Ambridge Seal