

MINUTES
Borough of Ambridge – Regular Meeting
Ambridge Municipal Complex
May 27, 2008 – 7:00 pm

I. Call to order

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

II. Roll Call

Present: Bob Dunn, Orlando Gagliardi, Mike Mikulich, Joe Pucci and Gerald C. McCoy

Absent: Tony Cafarelli: Ms. Miller –Family matters: Police Chief- mother’s operation

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. Barb Costa, Trinity Episcopal School of Ministry

IV. Pledge of Allegiance

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

No one wished to speak.

VI. Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes.

January 22, 2008

February 26, 2008

Mr. Mikulich stated error on council vote –should be 5 – 2.

March 11, 2008

Motion to approve with corrections made by Mr. Mikulich, Mr. Pucci 2nd.

All in Favor: Ayes 5 ~ Nays 0

The motion to approve the Minutes collectively with corrections: - *Passes 5 – 0*

VII. Treasurer's Report – Respectively submitted by Marilyn Sheleheda

Mr. Mikulich read the following report:

\$1,410,838.40	General Fund Bank Account Balance 05-27-2008 4:00 pm.
<u>\$33,596.57</u>	2007-2008 Outstanding Checks 05-27-2008 4:00 p.m.
\$1,377,241.83	Available Balance 05-27-2008 4:00 p.m.

Totals are as follows:

Deposits:

Debits: \$366,933.91

-which include the following:

<u>4</u> Returned NSF Deposited Checks	\$2,549.28
<u>1</u> Deposit Error from Citizens Bank	\$300.00
<u>1</u> Wire Transfer for Bond Payment	\$196,590.63
<u>67</u> Checks	\$115,536.63
<u>1</u> Payroll (s)	\$51,957.37

Other Fund Balances as of 05-27-2008

\$75,238.34	Grants /Special Fund (Insurance Proceeds-Garage Damage)
\$10,104.27	Liquid Fuels Fund
\$5,961.75	Escrow Disbursement Account
\$39,014.38	Recreation Fund
\$331,565.17	Sinking Fund (FEMA Grant)
\$461,883.91	Total Other Funds Balances (Restricted Use)

VIII. Boroughs Bills and Expenses

Mr. Mikulich commented that the bill for Triangle Pet is still not broken down into what addresses are making these animal complaints. He would like to see this done. Mr. Dunn makes the motion to accept the bills and expenses, Mr. Gagliardi 2nd.

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

The motion to approve the boroughs bills and expenses passed 5-0.

IX. New Business

1. Motion to Approve the Following Handicapped Spaces:

Bernie Bennett. –approved by Police Chief

317 Maplewood Ave.:

Motion to approve handicapped space made by Mr. Dunn, 2nd by Mr. Mikulich

All in Favor: Ayes 5 ~ Nays 0

The motion to approve the handicapped space for 317 Maplewood: *Passed 5-0.*

Ronald Carrodus – approved by Police Chief

1117 Lenz Ave.:

Motion to approve handicapped space made by Mr. Dunn, 2nd by Mr. Mikulich.

All in Favor: Ayes 5 ~ Nays 0

The motion to approve the handicapped space for 1117 Lenz Ave: *Passed 5-0.*

Florence Stefanacci – approved by Police Chief

631 Glenwood Ave.

Motion to approve handicapped space made by Mr. Mikulich, 2nd by Mr. Pucci.

All in Favor: Ayes 5 ~ Nays 0.

The motion to approve the handicapped space for 631 Glenwood Ave: *Passed 5-0.*

Diane e. Demcak –approved by Police Chief

947 Pine St.-

Motion to approve handicapped space made by Mr. Mikulich, Mr. Dunn 2nd.

All in Favor: Ayes 5 ~ Nays 0

The motion to approve the handicapped space for 947 Pine St - *Passed 5-0.*

Gary L. Hoge –Approved by Police Chief

346 Duss Ave.

Motion to approve handicapped space made by Mr. Dunn, 2nd by Mr. Pucci

All in Favor: Ayes 5 ~ Nays 0

The motion to approve the handicapped space for 346 Duss Ave. - *Passed 6-0.*

Kathleen J. Mesko – approved by Police Chief

1909 Beaver Rd.:

Mr. McCoy asked that this particular handicapped space application be investigated in more detail and discussed in private. Moved to next meeting.

2. Centax Agreement.

Ms. Denne read the agreement stipulation of Centax being available in the Ambridge Borough building on every third Thursday and during quarterly collection it will be increased to two days for the 3rd week of the month. Mr. McCoy asked that council approve this agreement with that stipulation. He also commented that he is pleased that this stipulation was going to be implemented as he had some issues with Centax himself, and this will help the residents of Ambridge come and pay their taxes. Mr. Mikulich asked if when these Centax people are going to be able to take care of any resident's tax issues, Ms. Denne replied yes. Mr. Mikulich asked about refunds, Ms. Denne said if arrangements are made – yes. Mr. Mikulich remarked that he is not happy with Centax in the first place because of the way they talked to the residents, and he would like to see Park Rd. Offices return to taking local tax money. Mr. McCoy agreed that they have treated our citizens with some disrespect, however he and Ms. Denne spoke in great length with Bob Vilella who runs Centax and we stand to lose a substantial amount of money if we don't use Centax. Mr. Gagliardi commented on

(continued)

stories he heard about how much Harmony Twp has collected from people from out of the area. Mr. McCoy states that Ms. Denne has stated it would be like \$100,000.00 that we would lose, because the Park Road offices were not actively pursuing the people who owed taxes. The Solicitor commented that we re-negotiated Centax's percentage also it was previously 2 ½ % and now it's 1 ¾%. Mr. Gagliardi asked if they agreed to the percent reduction. Ms. Denne replied yes. The Solicitor commented that they collected from people \$174,000.00 principal & interest from 2005 & 2006 from people that have never paid taxes in Ambridge before, 2007 & 2008 an additional 3,000.00 –that's a total of \$257,000.00 --the commission we had to pay them was \$6,700.00. He states that they have not been as user friendly as they should have been, but it also money that we may not have received either. Ms. Denne commented that a lot of this was on businesses, not just residents. These businesses took from the town and never paid what they owed. These businesses are on the books now and have to pay every year and the audits are continuing. Mr. McCoy noted also that during their meeting with Mr. Villella from Centax that he would personally address and disrespect that his employees have for our residents. Ms. Denne explained that the \$180,000.00 is more than 3 mils and if you vote no, you can explain to the tax payers where you can make up the 3 mils of taxes. Mr. Dunn made the motion to approve with the stipulation and Mr. Pucci 2nd.

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

The motion Passes 4 – 1.

3. Motion to approve the recommendations for the traffic study for 3rd & Pine.

This motion is to accept recommendations to allow for a stop sign for the east side of 3rd & Pine and motion to allow advertisement to amend the ordinance for the stop sign. Motion made by Mr. Dunn, Mr. Mikulich 2nd.

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

Motion to approve recommendations for 3rd & Pine: *Passed 5 ~ 0.*

4. Motion to enter into a Funding Agreement with Beaver County Community Development to complete the 18th & Pine Street Project.

This is a CDBG Grant of \$50,000.00 to do the street improvements that are necessary because the street is sinking. We set aside \$40,000.00 in our budget for this and with the grant money we only need an additional \$27,513.00 to complete the project. This is the agreement to get this project started.

Motion to approve to enter into the funding agreement made by Mr. Mikulich, Mr. Dunn 2nd.

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

Motion to approve agreement for 18th & Pine Street: *Passed 5 ~ 0.*

X. Other Unfinished Business

Mr. McCoy spoke to Mr. Lemmon concerning road situations in Ambridge. Mr. Lemmon said that we could safely repair these roads at 5th and 6th Street. We need to advertise for bids and Mr. Lemmon will give us the specs. Mr. Mikulich made the motion to have Mr. Lemmon do the specifications and bid for 5th & 6th Street repairs, Motion made by Mr. Mikulich, Mr. Pucci 2nd.

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

Motion to approve agreement for 5th & 6th Street repairs. *Passed 5 ~ 0.*

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

Ms. Sposaro – 503 Melrose Ave & has business on 11th Street in Ambridge.

539 Melrose Ave has a piece of metal and caution tape for over 1 year and the woman who a life there says she refuses to fix sidewalk. It's a hazard for pedestrians walking. Ms. Denne replied that has been a problem for some time, we will have Code Enforcement send this woman letter to get it fixed. Mr. McCoy remarked that there was a water leak at 511 or 521 – the property owner failed to shut off the water when there wasn't a tenant living there and it tunneled under 539's sidewalk and caused the problem. We found it to be the responsibility of the property owner with the leak. We told her the information from the Water Authority and she would have to go after the property owners at 511 or 521, but it's her responsibility to fix her own sidewalk. Mrs. Sposaro asked last year to have someone look at 419 -10th Street. A gentleman put a deck on his house and he climbs out of his window to get to this deck and she didn't think there was ever a permit issued. Also between 22 -23rd street in the alley behind Dave Drewnoski's house – there is a guy there who fixes lawn mowers in his garage and there is a lot of garbage, ask Cindy to go and check it out. Also where I live, I rent garages on 5th Street and across from my garages there used to be yellow line painted so I could pull out of my garage – it's faded, I would like to have those yellow lines repainted because if someone parks across from my garage – I can not pull my car out. Ms. Denne remarked that Mrs. Sposaro should call Mrs. Whitehair in the administration office and she will get a work order for this.

Mr. Gerry Giamaria -609 Melrose Ave.

The sewer at 7th and Melrose is a problem when it rains, no water goes down into the sewer it back up, could we have the works department check it out. Mr. McCoy replied yes. Ms. Giamaria commented that the man at 605 Melrose Ave applied for a handicapped spot 6 months ago and was denied and the other day he was out there painting the space in front of his house with blue paint, she asked him if he had permission and he said yes, could we have this checked out. Mr. McCoy replied yes.

Barb Costa -699 Melrose Ave. Ambridge

She lives at the corner where Mrs. Giamaria was speaking of and it's true it backs up during rain beyond the middle of the street. It some times runs down 7th street. Mr. McCoy asked if it was previously reported previous to today meeting, she replied yes she thinks it was reported last year. Mr. McCoy asked Ms. Denne to look into it.

Annette Remica -924 Melrose Ave. -Ambridge

She spoke of 920 (not sure) there are two trucks and a car and he used my garage with permission. Is this considered a business because like 5am in the morning it's like a procession with people coming and going? He has packed this garage to the hill, and this could be dangerous and if it is a business he should be paying taxes, and what about refuse does he pay like I do. Ms. Denne asked her to and give her the exact address.

Marlene Verygood -652 Melrose Ave. -Ambridge

There is a tractor trailer on 3rd and Merchant that has not cap on it and has been there for over a week. She commented that Ambridge can plant flowers but if you don't enforce the laws, it doesn't mean a thing. Ms. Denne asked the Mayor to look into it because it's his department since the truck is on the street.

Mayor Notarianni just wanted to make an announcement that the police department is open from 8am until 4pm Monday thru Friday.

XII. Official Reports

Mr. Mikulich – Finance/Administration
Nothing to report.

Mr. Dunn – Recreation
Nothing to report.

Mr. Gagliardi – Public Safety
He just wanted to report that we are getting more money because of tickets.
Mr. McCoy stated that it was a good thing, you break the law – you pay.

Motion to approve official reports made by Mr. Mikulich, Mr. Pucci 2nd.
All in Favor – Ayes 5 ~ Nays 0
Motion Passes.

XIII. Adjournment -

Motion to Adjourn made by Mr. Pucci, Mr. Mikulich 2nd.
All in Favor Ayes 5 ~ Nays 0.
Passes 5 – 0. Adjourned 7:47pm

Next Meeting – June 24, 2008 7pm.

Respectfully submitted, by Kristen Denne, Borough Manager

I herby certify that these are the true and correct minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Borough of Ambridge Council for May 27, 2008.

Borough of Ambridge Seal