

**MINUTES**  
**Borough of Ambridge – Workshop Meeting**  
**Ambridge Municipal Complex**  
**March 11, 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, Tina Iorfido Miller, Joe Pucci and Gerald C. McCoy

Absent: Tony Cafarelli

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**

Mr. James Wayneford, Trinity Episcopal School of Ministry. Mr. McCoy thanked the ministry for providing clergy on a regular basis to do the invocation.

**IV. Pledge of Allegiance**

**V. Proclamations**

Presented to Mr. Bob Mikush headed up a committee of volunteers to clean and beautify Ambridge. Mr. Mikush thanked the council and explained what the committee does in its efforts.

Presented to Vocelli's Pizza for providing services and goods to the volunteers of Ambridge. Owner of Vocelli's thanked the council for recognizing them and stated that they would always be there to help out the community.

**VI. Treasurer's Report** –submitted by Marilyn Sheleheda

Mr. Mikulich read the following report: As of 4pm, March 11, 2008

General Fund balance	\$ 582,803.78
Outstanding checks	<u>\$ 28,087.90</u>
Available balance	\$ 554,715.88

Deposits \$ 128,912.89  
(includes -PEMA Grant Reimbursement-Hazel Ave \$21,835.14)

Deductions	\$ 92,263.66 which includes the following:
64 checks	\$ 34,289.33
1 payroll	\$ 57,974.33

Total other funds \$ 461,027.47

## VII. Boroughs Bills and Expenses

Mr. McCoy asked for a motion to accept the bills and expenses. Mr. Mikulich asked about the uniform reimbursement for Officer Bufalini. His question pertained to the fact that Officer Bufalini retiring in the near future and why would we pay him his uniform allowance. Ms. Denne acknowledged that Officer Bufalini was retiring near the end of April of this year and it is part of his union contract for this allowance every year. Mr. McCoy asked the police chief about this purchase order, the chief stated that he denied the purchase order because Officer Bufalini could not show him any tears in his clothing. Mr. Gagliardi also agreed that if he was retiring he felt we should not pay \$550.00 allowance or maybe pay a percentage of this amount. Mr. Iorfido Miller asked about his uniform is plain clothing, Ms. Denne acknowledged it was plain clothing because he was a detective and also used these clothes for court. Mr. McCoy stated that in order to refuse reimbursement he must have a motion and a second. Mr. Mikulich made the motion to refuse reimbursement this bill for Officer Bufalini' clothing allowance and Ms. Miller seconded.

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

The motion to deny the uniform reimbursement expense *Passed* 6-0

Motion to accept all the remainder bills and expenses made by Mr. Pucci, seconded by Ms. Miller.

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

The motion to accept the bills and expenses *Passed* 6-0.

## VIII. Items for Discussion

### 1. Code Enforcement vehicles.

Mr. McCoy asked Mr. Mikulich to speak on this matter. Mr. Mikulich stated that he spoke to the Chief of Police to possible give one of his department's old vehicles that are not in use any longer so that our code enforcement people don't have to use their personal vehicles. The chief gave him a list of the vehicles that they don't use, but either the vehicles are brand new condition or most of them are in very poor condition

(continued)

and in need of large amounts of money to repair. There are a couple of vehicles that were seized in drug transactions. The chief stated and wanted to check with the solicitor but only the police department can use these vehicles. Ms. Denne agreed that these seized vehicles can only be kept in police ranks. Mr. Mikulich suggested that police vehicle 304 would be the best vehicle to use, of course removing the radio, siren, the police sticker on the door and replacing it with “code enforcement”. The chief asked that if the Borough would give that unit to code enforcement – would his department be able to use it in an emergency if one of his vehicles are in for repair. Mr. Mikulich states that in a case like that, maybe they should leave the radio in the vehicle while code enforcement is using it. Mr. McCoy asked the chief if that vehicle is worth putting money into for this use. The chief said yes he thinks so – it just burns oil, however he would like to wait until the new vehicle comes in. Mr. Gagliardi asked if this vehicle will only be used during business hours and the code enforcement people will not take the vehicle home – Mr. Mikulich replied –it would only be used during business hours and will not go home with anyone. It will also be marked and will give credibility to the code enforcement people. Mr. Mikulich also wanted to know if the code enforcement people have identification. Ms. Denne replied yes, they both have ID. Mr. Pucci suggested that we get in touch with the county to see if they have any used vehicles from them, they have tons of them. Mr. Mikulich and Mr. McCoy both replied that suggestion is worth a try. Mr. McCoy states that we should let this discussion until next meeting. In the meantime, Ms. Denne should get in touch with the county and ask about those vehicles. Mr. Mikulich stated also that he would give each member of council a copy of the vehicle report from the police chief that he has so they would be able to read it over.

**2. Tree Commission Vacancy.**

Mr. McCoy asked Mr. Mikulich if the vacancy is because of the term being up for this person. Mr. Mikulich replied that the person no longer lives in the area, she has moved to Florida. Mr. McCoy asked Ms. Denne to put a notice on the Borough door that anyone interested to be on the Tree Commission to put in an application for it.

**3. Advertisement for Sealing of Parking Lot.**

Motion to advertise for parking lot made by Mr. Mikulich and Mr. Dunn seconded.

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

The motion to approve advertising for sealing the Parking lot *passed 6-0.*

**4. Penn Dot Agility Program.**

Ms. Denne explained that the Penn Dot Agility Program that was put into the packets does not require any action tonight but she suggests that it be reviewed by the Public Works Dept. Committee, it's a program is a service swapping between municipality and Penn Dot. She would ask that council review it also. It will be on the agenda for the next meeting.

**5. Beaver County DUI Task Force.**

Mr. McCoy suggested that this seems like a very good program and we should initiate it and asked Ms. Denne to speak on this item. Ms. Denne suggested that the solicitor review this program before the next meeting because she was not briefed on this item. Mr. Mikulich remarked that he thinks it's a good program and Mr. McCoy agrees, but would also like the solicitor to review it. Mr. McCoy asked the police chief to elaborate on it. The chief explained that the DUI task force is where the task force officers will have jurisdiction enforcement no matter what county they go within a certain area. They set up check points and will have local officers participate in those check points, and this is an agreement to be able to have our officers participate in those pools. The Mayor interjected that this is not only for drinking, but for checking for registration and insurance also to make sure those are up to date. There are a lot of people driving around without insurance. Ms. Miller stated that this report was done by the Mayor's son as a survey and it was very informative about what is going on with teenagers in our community concerning how easy it is for them to get alcohol, and most of them said from their homes. Mr. McCoy remarked that this item will be reviewed by the solicitor and discussed at the next regular meeting.

**6. Curb Cut – 1001 Kennedy Drive- Ambridge**

Mr. McCoy remarked that all the councilmen have a copy of the curb cut, Mr. Ivancik has approved it and so has the police chief. Mr. Mikulich made the motion to approve, Mr. Gagliardi seconded.

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

The motion to approve the curb cut request *passed 6-0.*

**7. PAAC Resolution – Update the Harrisburg City Contract.**

Ms. Denne explained that this Harrisburg City contract is for Ambridge to be able to piggy back purchases off the state pricing. Mr. McCoy states that he wants to move this resolution approval to the next regular meeting.

#### **XIV. Citizen's Participation (citizens are limited to 5 minutes per speaker)**

##### Jerome Gill – 831 Glenwood Ave.

Mr. Gill had a question concerning the job description Municipal Authority. Mr. McCoy suggested that Mr. Gill talk to the Municipal Authority, that their board has authority over that issue. Mr. Gill questioned the nepotism policy. Mr. McCoy referred that question to the solicitor. Mr. Start replied that he reviewed that policy and that this policy is not applicable because this policy refers to employees only, it's a separate body. This council does not have the authority to supervise or discipline anyone from either authority-Municipal nor the Water. Mr. Gill questioned if the council appoints these board people. Mr. McCoy replied certainly, however the Water and Municipal Authorities are separate entities, they have their own budgets and everything else.

##### Corky Mihalic – 824 -24<sup>th</sup> St.

He discussed the fact that people coming to Ambridge to work or to live that we should not make new ordinances about cleaning up Ambridge; we need to enforce the ones we have now. Each of us needs to see the problems in Ambridge, all of us. There are abandoned vehicles in the alleyways and on private properties between Duss and Lenz around 22<sup>nd</sup> – 23<sup>rd</sup> Street. We should check these old ordinances and enforce them. Who would want to pay a quarter of a million dollars for a new condominium and ½ a block away are abandoned vehicles. He suggests that we have to draw a new picture of Ambridge. Mr. Gagliardi states that at one time we did try to get the vehicles off of private property. Ms. Denne states that she is almost positive, but if it's private property we are able to cite the owners of those vehicles and if it's on the street –the police are able to cite the owners.

##### Marlene Berry -652 Melrose Ave.

She reported 655 Melrose Ave and has been empty for 2 years and nothing has been done about this vacant house. In December she talked to Code Enforcement -they told her that they have authority to condemn it. Last week she spoke to them and they assured her it was condemned, but there still are no signs up. Ms. Denne asked Ms. Berry to call her tomorrow at her office. Mr. McCoy asked Mr. Ivancik if it is condemned and how long has it been condemned. Mr. Ivancik responded by confirming it has been condemned however he was not sure how long and he spoke to the owner who stated it was not his property. She also had another question about tractor trailers on Merchant Street being parked on the 400 block. Ms. Denne said they are only allowed on Merchant for local deliveries. Mr. Drewnowski remarked that there is a tractor trailer parked in front of the junk store next to the burned down George's appliance store, they were evicted by the magistrate and were told to clean out that store and that is why the tractor trailer is there. Mr. McCoy asked if anyone has seen that tractor being loaded. Mr. Drewnowski said not to his knowledge, he could not even get in touch with the owners of the junk store to do an inspection.

No one else wanted to speak.

## IX. Committee Reports

### Administration & Finance:

? Mr. Mikulich suggested that we clean up our website and bring it up to date and change our phone messages to eliminate the voices of people who have retired.

? Mr. Mikulich reported that street signs that need to be replaced on especially Merchant St. They were originally replaced 15-20 years ago with a grant because Old Economy, but some of those signs have been ripped down because they were cast iron. We should look into another grant to replace some of these broken signs.

? Mr. Mikulich also has some suggestions for properly documented record keeping of absenteeism and vacations of the employees.

? He also suggested that we keep things very tight because of the budget.

Mr. McCoy asked Ms. Denne about the grant for the signs. Ms. Denne replied that we ordered 19 signs and they should arrive in about 6 – 8 weeks. Mr. Mikulich asked if they were street signs and Ms. Denne replied “Way Finding Signs”. Mr. Mikulich remarked that those signs are fine, but he suggests that we get the actual street signs like 5<sup>th</sup> & Merchant. Mr. McCoy suggested that we move these signs about 2 feet higher so maybe they won’t be torn down.

### Public Safety

? Mr. Gagliardi remarked what a good job the police department is doing by picking up two subjects trying to steal fence. Mr. Gagliardi referred the details to the police chief. Chief Romutis stated that they have one in custody and a warrant for the other.

? Mayor Notarianni interjected with a question on what was being done if anything about the burned out house on 2<sup>nd</sup> and Merchant. Mr. McCoy stated that there are bench warrants out for the owners arrest because they have been trying to get in contact with her and she never returns any phone calls. We have contacted her parents and left messages too. The constables are trying to hunt her down. The Mayor just wanted to be sure efforts are being made. Mr. McCoy acknowledged that all efforts are being made, Mr. Unis has made 3 meetings with this woman and she never showed up. Mr. McCoy asked for anyone who has a better suggestion please let him know. Mr. Mikulich suggested that we take over the ownership of the property and tear it down and clean it up. We put a lien on the property when it sells we get the first monies out of it. Mr. Gagliardi suggested that it will cost between \$5,000 - \$10,000. How would we get our money out of it? Mr. Mikulich thought that the empty cleaned up lot would sell for \$10,000.00 – some discussion & remarks among council that it wouldn’t sell for that much. Mr. Mikulich states that even if the borough doesn’t get its money back at least the property would be clean up and it wouldn’t be such an eyesore when you come into Beaver County from Allegheny County. Mr. McCoy mentioned that if we could legally do it, we would tear it down. However, if you take over the property as you suggested, you are setting precedence for everyone in the borough who doesn’t want to take care of their property to just walk away from it. Everyone talks about the deficit in the borough and whether or not we can make our payments next year. Mr. Pucci remarked that the residents complain when we spend \$450.00 on a tool that is needed and yet the mayor is suggesting that we take \$8,000 - \$10,000 out to spend on tearing down a house that we may never recover our money. Mr. Pucci suggests that there is nothing we can do until we find that woman and personally I will not approve the spenditure of \$8000 - \$10,000 to tear down that house.

Public Works

Mr. Dunn did not have anything to report.

(Tape turned over)

Recreation

Mr. Dunn remarked about some of the meetings that are scheduled. Mr. Gagliardi stated that he noticed in the newspaper where the Fish & Game Commission is giving grants. He suggested that we look into putting in boat docks in our two miles along the river. In the past the Fish Commissioner said that we needed a crossing where the railroad tracks are, but with all the new technology we can just have a button to press and the gate would go up or down. Ms. Denne remarked she would be happy to visit the area with Mr. Gagliardi and check into a grant.

**X. Engineers' Report**

Mr. Lemmon opened the bids for the sealing of the parking lot. #1- #4 -#7 did not bid.

URAL Paving bid \$101,475.00 for repair and replacement.

East Coast Paving bid \$ 96,954.00.

A Merante Contracting bid \$ 86,000.00.

Sangro Inc. \$ 46,700.00 –estimate is \$53,000.00

Stefanik (next generation) \$106,500.00

Mr. Mikulich made the motion to turn these bids over the Engineer to review.

Mr. Lemmon remarked the other item on his report was for the Borough Garage, he asked Ms. Denne if there were any decisions made, and Ms. Denne states that the Public Works Committee needs to meet with the Engineer to discuss the options.

**XI. Borough Manager's Report**

? Ms. Denne reports that the Way Finding Signs will be in 6-8 weeks. Emphasis on the downtown region -4<sup>th</sup> -8<sup>th</sup> 11<sup>th</sup> entrance Ways into the Borough. She worked with Rob Matzzi to get more DCED funding and get more street signage.

? Also the contract has been executed with Fester Consulting and will be coming in at the end of the month for pension issues. She put into councils mailboxes information on the executive training she attended last month and thanked the council for giving her that opportunity.

? Lt. Kuzma has given her an email on the school resource officer; we have been operating since that program started without a formal agreement, and a hand shake basis. Lt. Kuzma has raised some concerns that we need to formalize a contract with the school district. Since the school will be working on their budget in the near future we should send them a letter and get in black and white what the school resource officers duties will be and what the school district reimbursement to the Borough needs to be. If we want to continue this program and she would appreciate council's input. In April the demolition will start on the old building on 11<sup>th</sup> St. The contractor doing the school will be doing the 11th Street project and it will be pretty dusty.

? April 22 council meeting falls on Election Day, and she needs council to advise whether or not they want to have a meeting.

Mr. Mikulich made the motion to have only one meeting in April and Ms. Miller seconded.

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

The motion to approve only one meeting in April *passed* 6 – 0.

Mr. Mikulich asked of the Borough Manager about the emergency contacts, Ms. Denne replied that she has called today –Mr. Leon and is waiting to hear back from him. Mr. Mikulich also asked about the school ground here at 11<sup>th</sup> & Duss; since the new high school is in operation –are they supposed to be restoring and who will be over seeing that project. Mr. McCoy remarked that three council members were supposed to meet with the school board; he thought it was Mr. Mikulich, Mr. Cafarelli and Mr. Gagliardi. Mr. Mikulich asked if it was Ms. Mansell that was on the committee if council would replace her. Some council discussion about Ms. Mansell not wanting to be on the committee because her residence is right behind the school. Mr. McCoy asked Ms. Denne to check into who was on that committee.

**XII. Items not included in the agenda**

? Mr. McCoy mentioned about the “street sweeping” signs, he asked Ms. Denne to get the DPW to get these signs fixed –repainted –or replaced.

? Mr. McCoy also stated that he wants immediate attention to the house on 2<sup>nd</sup> and Merchant –he did everything that he told the mayor he did. He remarked that Unis Demolition offered to tear it down for \$8,000.00 if that woman pays for it, if the Borough has to tear it down the cost will be far greater than \$8,000.00 because of legal fees and such. He wants the public to know that we are doing everything we can to get this house taken down, but at the same time, we don’t want to open a can of worms and let every property owner to think that the Borough will take charge of their blighted property at will. He asked Ms. Denne to make sure something is done by next meeting.

**XIV. Adjournment**

Mr. Mikulich moved to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Gagliardi (per audio tape) seconded the motion. The motion to adjourn passed unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 8:25 p.m.

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 March 11, 2008.*