

**MINUTES**  
**Borough of Ambridge – Regular Meeting**  
**Ambridge Municipal Complex**  
**Tuesday - February 24, 2009**  
**7:00 pm**

**I. Call to order**

**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 Rick Start, Police Chief Mark Romutis

**III. Invocation**

Given by Reverend Luke Anchor, Church of the Savior-Ambridge.

**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's Minutes**

1. January 27, 2009

No additions or corrections mentioned.

Motion to accept the minutes made by Mr. Pucci, seconded by Ms. Miller.

All in Favor: Ayes 7 ~ Opposed 0.

*Motion Passes. 7-0.*

2. February 10, 2009

Ms. Miller commented on page 6 where the tape failed to record and therefore her detailed input for the traffic study for Henrici Street was not recorded into the typed minutes. She just wanted it recorded that she had documented it. No other corrections or additions. Motion made to accept the minutes by Mr. Cafarelli, seconded by Mr. Gagliardi.

All in Favor: Ayes 7 ~ Opposed 0.

*Motion Passes. 7-0.*

**VII. Treasurer's Report** –respectfully submitted by Marilyn Sheleheda, Treasurer.  
 Mr. Mikulich read the following report aloud as of 4pm today, February 24, 2009.

<b>General Fund Analysis</b>	
\$821,225.46	General Fund Bank Account Balance 2/24/2009 4:00 pm.
<u>\$9,321.49</u>	2007-2008 Outstanding Checks 2/24/2009 4:00 p.m.
<b>\$811,903.97</b>	<b>Available Balance 2/24/2009 4:00 p.m.</b>
<i>Totals are as follows:</i>	
	<b>Deposits: <span style="float: right;">\$250,188.68</span></b>
	<b>*which includes Transfer from Liquid Fuels Acct. \$152,147.08</b>
<b>Treasurer's General Fund</b>	<b>Debits: <span style="float: right;">\$155,666.14</span></b>
<b>NOTES:</b>	<b>-which include the following:</b>
	<u>  54  </u> <b>Checks</b> <span style="float: right;">\$104,596.07</span>
	<u>  1  </u> <b>Payroll (s)</b> <span style="float: right;">\$51,070.07</span>
Other Fund Balances as of 2/24/2009 -4:00 pm	
\$75,497.20	Grants/Special Funds (Insurance Proceeds - Garage Damage)
\$10,378.62	Liquid Fuels Fund
\$5,961.75	Escrow Disbursement Account
\$39,148.63	Recreation Fund
\$332,705.97	Sinking Fund (FEMA Grant)
<b>\$463,692.17</b>	<b>Total Other Funds Balances (Restricted Use)</b>

Motion to accept the Treasurer Report made by Mr. Dunn, seconded by Mr. Gagliardi.

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 Passes 7 ~ 0*

**VIII. Boroughs Bills and Expenses**

No one had any additions or corrections to the bills and expenses. Mr. Dunn made the motion to pay the bills, 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 Passes 7 ~ 0*

**IX. New Business**

1. Resolution 2009-01 Supporting House Resolution 676.

Mr. Mikulich commented that this is for support on this national resolution on a local level. It is rather lengthy and very informative concerning health care. He remarked that he feels that council should pass it to let everyone know that we support health care for everybody. Mr. McCoy states that he had a meeting with County Commissioners: Mr. Amado and Mr. Spanik- this was passed in 2007 on a county level, and it's still sitting in Committee in Harrisburg He would like this passed on a local level before it's either approved or denied so our people are protected. No other discussion. Mr. Mikulich made the motion to accept Resolution 2009-01 and Ms. Miller 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 Passes 7 ~ 0*

2. Ordinance #1231 Amending Chapter 21, Streets & Street Obstructions.

Mr. McCoy states that all of council is aware of all of the items discussion on the council floor. This is an addition to make sure dumpsters have owner's identification and reflective tape so citizens don't run into them. No other discussion or questions. Motion made by Mr. Pucci, Mr. Mikulich 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 Passes 7 ~ 0*

3. Request for Part Time Police Officers

Mr. Pucci made the motion to hire the police officers. Mr. Mikulich seconds. Chief Romutis commented that he asked the two officers to attend the meeting so if they are hired they can get sworn in today, Aaron J. Ogrizovich and Sokheng Seng. Chief Romutis explained their current jobs and they passed the written and physical test. No other discussion.

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 Passes 7 ~ 0*

4. Social Security Building

Ms. Denne explained that Council wished the Solicitor to inquire of the drop dead date was in order for Council to make the decision on whether or not to accept the building. He received a message from Greg Gleason the Solicitor of the Ambridge school district and he was told that the time is now. If Council doesn't take possession of the building it will be returned to the Federal Government. Mr. McCoy commented that previously Ms. Denne did not know where or not there would be any costs to the Federal Government if we take possession. Mr. Start commented that he spoke to the school district solicitor the day after the last meeting and he was informed that the school wants to get rid of it as soon as they can because of the financial responsibility. Mr. Gleason also told Mr. Start that the school district would be cooperative in transfer title they will not assume any of the costs incurred such as attorney or legal fees. Mr. McCoy commented that the fire chief inspected that building thoroughly and he found it to be good shape with minimal damage and suggests that it's a pretty good building. Mr. McCoy then recommended that Council accept the schools' offer. Mr. Start commented to Council to keep in mind that they will be approving the 'concept' of getting the building and that the Federal Government may still have their own plans. Mr. Cafarelli asked about the operating costs such as electric and gas on a yearly basis, we'll have to budget for that expense. Mr. Pucci commented that the younger football teams are using that building currently to house their uniforms and equipment. Mr. Cafarelli asked of Mr. Pucci if the football teams are willing to help with the expenses. Mr. Pucci commented that is the way he understood the Mayor to say. Mr. Cafarelli commented also about the flat roof, it may be in ok shape now but in 5 years it may cost us thousands of dollars to replace the roof. Would our insurance go up or do we have an umbrella insurance to take care of that piece of property. Ms. Denne commented that we do have an umbrella insurance however it would increase somewhat because the value of our assets would go up. Mr. McCoy states that the building was offered to us by the school district for the permission that we gave them to use of our basketball court area during their construction. We either want it or we don't – we have to make a quick decision or they are going to sell it. Mr. Start stated that the school is going to return it to the Federal Government as to say 'please take it off our hands'. Mr. Gleason stated that if you guys want it, you have to take it off the school's hands immediately. However, the Federal Government might just say 'no thank you' because ultimately it's under their control, but from the school districts prospective –

(continued)

the message was make a decision of yes or no. If you want to see figures and such, the school may say fine, but in the mean time they are going to try and get rid of it, they don't want the extra expense any longer. Mr. Gagliardi asked if we decide to take it and a few years down the road we decide we don't want it – can we sell it? Mr. Start stated that the Federal Government keeps a string on it, it always maintain ultimate control but they allow the school district and perhaps the Borough in the future to operate an educational mission, which would be a municipal mission should the Borough take it. But absence of fundamental change in structure, the Federal Government retains right of ownership and in 5 years if the Borough changes it's mind we would not have the luxury of selling it, the Federal Government will take it back. Mr. McCoy asked of the Solicitor if it was a possibility to get a grant from the Federal Government to fix it up. Mr. Start replied he did not know if that would be a possibility or not. Mr. Mikulich commented that he thought it was a good deal because we could use it for crime watch meetings with a little office and conduct business a little easier. We can have other government boards in there, in addition to storage which we don't have in this building. Mr. Start added that Mr. Gleason did stipulate that the Federal Government will not look favorably on this transfer if this is only to be used for storage. Recently the school district has been primarily using it for storage and apparently the Federal Government conducts some sort of review or inspection periodically and they have stated that it is to be used as a functional building not as storage. Therefore using as Crime Watch and things like that will demonstrate a functional use. Mr. McCoy suggested that we could fix it up for the kids to use as anything such as an activity building. Ms. Miller suggested it could be used as a recreational building for children, and if the football teams wanted to pay a fee for partial use of the building for their storage it would be ok. Mr. McCoy suggested to Mr. Dunn to have his committee look at this building to see if there would be a use for the Recreational Facility. Mr. Cafarelli asked the Solicitor since the owner of the building is the Federal Government, who is ultimately responsible for expenses such as the roof. Mr. Start remarked that since the building will be used by the Borough, it puts the entire burden on the Borough. Mr. Cafarelli commented that our public works department would have to do snow removal in the winter too. Mr. McCoy commented that it would need to be done only if it was going to be used. Mr. Gagliardi asked if the Federal Government would object to us moving walls. Mr. McCoy said there is no way to know but he doubts if they'll object. Mr. Mikulich made the motion to authorize the administration to move forward with the transfer of title for the old Social Security Building, Ms. Miller 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 Passes 7 ~ 0*

5. Request for Payment from Ambridge Municipal Authority

Mr. McCoy commented that all the council members are aware of the situation and have read the response by Mr. Frank Lemmon who feels that we are not in any way responsible for that issue. Mr. McCoy asked for a motion to deny their request for payment. Mr. Dunn made the motion to deny and Mr. Mikulich seconds.

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 Passes 7 ~ 0*

6. Establish Street Sweeping Schedule

Ms. Denne asked if council wanted to keep the same schedule from last year and what date do they want to start street sweeping. Mr. McCoy suggested that we keep the same schedule. Mr. Cafarelli suggested the first week of April, however, he is getting the Public Works to do some street sweeping now on the nicer days without giving police citations. Ms. Denne remarked that she would like to have the date advertised twice before we actually begin and she would have to look at the recycling schedule to make sure it doesn't clash. Mr. McCoy suggested that Ms. Denne advertise the beginning of street sweeping on the Comcast Cable Community Channel and WMBA because not all the residents get the times. The schedule will be the first available week in April following the recycling schedule. Mr. Cafarelli made the motion for approval, Mr. Pucci seconded. Mr. Gagliardi asked after the motion if we were going to change or upgrade our signs. Ms. Denne commented that if there are any bad signs in the Borough we will change them. Our police department should look out for unreadable signs. Mr. McCoy asked Mr. Cafarelli to make sure the DPW checks for bad signs and make sure they have signs so we don't get stuck without new ones. Mr. Cafarelli mentioned that the DPW has been changing the signs when time allows.

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 Passes 7 ~ 0*

7. Changes to Sign Ordinance.

Mr. Mikulich commented on the situation where a business sign which protruded over the sidewalk was damaged in the wind storm and the owner of the business wanted the Fire Dept to remove the sign, which the fire dept would not due because if there was any damage done to the sign or the building it would be the Borough's responsibility. There is a current ordinance that states all signs must be attached flush against the building, no more protruding signs. He asked of the Solicitor how to word the motion to make sure the business owners that have protruding signs to have them inspected

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once a year and send us proof of the inspection. Also to make sure that they know it is their responsibility should something happen to these signs they have to take care of the situation. In case we need to take the necessary steps to take care of it we can. Ms. Denne commented that there is on the books but it hasn't been enforced a yearly \$25.00 sign tax, and she feels we start to have the businesses register their signs and that within 30 days of the business closing the signs should come down. Mr. McCoy mentioned that he would like the Solicitor to look over this ordinance and make any revisions necessary and bring it to our next workshop meeting. Mr. Mikulich makes the motion to make changes in the ordinance, Ms. Miller seconds. Mr. Cafarelli after the motion asked about the Borough not being responsible should we miss inspections. Mr. Mikulich commented that it is the building owners building and their responsibility. All in Favor: Ayes 7 ~ Nays 0.  
*Motion Passes 7 ~ 0.*

**X. Other Unfinished Business**

Mr. McCoy wanted to speak concerning the Citizens for Police School in Beaver, he attended the training which is free and it was an excellent opportunity to learn about police functions. It is held for citizens, council people, and mayor or for any one. One of the police officers from the school mentioned to him that he wishes all the mayors in the county would come to this school. You have to sign up for this 10 week course and pass a criminal history check, but if you are interested in the fall classes contact the Borough Manager and we'll get you the information.

Mr. Cafarelli commented that there still are pallets and tractor trailers being parked the wrong way down at the water plant on 3<sup>rd</sup> street. Are we doing anything about this? He feels that it's an accident waiting to happen down there. Mr. McCoy commented this is a police matter and that we can not single out one individual, we have to look at all the businesses that have those issues. Chief Romutis commented that he did go and speak to this individual about this problem. Mr. McCoy commented that sometimes it's down to a single lane of traffic that even he had to wait for because of the situation at the water plant.

Mr. McCoy wanted to make sure all council members received the papers for the Ambridge School district Resource Officer duties. He asked if anyone had any objections to the way it was written by the school superintendent Erwin Weischedel & High School Principal Alan Fritz. Motion to approve it by Mr. Mikulich, seconded by Ms. Miller.

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 Passes 7 ~ 0*

**XI. Citizen's Participation (3 minutes per speaker)**

Corky Mikalich – 728 -24<sup>th</sup> St.

He spoke of more than just signs when it comes to safety. What about all the buildings that have holes in the roof. He spoke of the building on 7<sup>th</sup> & Merchant (PT Meats) he appreciates the man is in the service but it's a hazard. It's not just the roofs, the floors are

(Continued)

rotting too. The walls are just standing there and they will come down like last year at Viores. What about the used appliance building that caught fire a few years ago, the fireman couldn't get in because there was so much clutter at the rear door. There are other issues than just signs.

Ed Bartosh – 316 -13<sup>th</sup> St.

He wanted to commend our council on two decisions.

1. The Resource Officer at the school because the children need to be safe.
2. The health care resolution, it's imperative that the burden on the municipalities be taken off because of healthcare.

Also he wanted the council president to look into with our county where the money went that was set aside for the Ambridge Bridge. He would like to see something on paper where the money for infrastructure went. Mr. McCoy remarked that there was \$25 million dollars was originally appropriated for the bridge and was taken back; however, the Presidents stimulus package might fund the bridge. Ms. Denne commented that we can not request for the bridge because we do not own the bridge, but we did apply for 5 roads that are the worst, \$100,000.00 for the park to match for the walking trail grants, for some demolitions around town and for money to straighten out Merchant Street. Mr. McCoy mentioned that he will personally go and see the commissioners on this issue.

Mr. Bartosh commented that we should invite all the other legislators here to make sure that they commit to supporting this resolution. Mr. McCoy commented in defense of Mr. Altmire, if you look into his past, he is one of the best legislators we've had in a long time, and he will accommodate you for anything you want and he is sure he will back the resolution.

Gerri Gammara – 609 Melrose Ave.

She spoke about the store on Merchant Street with their products out on the sidewalk. She asked if there was an ordinance concerning product on the sidewalk. She also spoke of the manhole cover on 7<sup>th</sup> & Merchant Street. She said she had to straddle the cover because it was tilted and she was afraid of breaking something on her car, is it supposed to be like that, it happens several times that she saw it like this, maybe it's the kids tilting it. Also she lives on Melrose and it's a very dark street and the parking lot on Melrose has a street light out.

No other person wished to speak.

**XII. Official Reports**

No one added or commented.

Mr. Mikulich makes the motion to accept the official report. Mr. Gagliardi seconds.

All in Favor: Ayes 7 ~ Nays 0.

Passed 7 ~ 0.

**XII. Adjournment: 7:57pm**

Mr. Mikulich made the motion to adjourn, Mr. Cafarelli seconded.

All in Favor: Ayes 7 ~ Nays 0.

Passed 7 ~ 0.

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 February 24, 2009.*

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**Borough of Ambridge Seal**