

MINUTES
Borough of Ambridge – Workshop Meeting
Ambridge Municipal Complex
May 13, 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

Absent: Mayor Carl Notarianni will be late– family obligation:
Police Chief Mark Romutis –son is ill.

Administration and Staff Present:, Borough Manager/Secretary Kristen Denne, Borough Solicitor Rick Start, Borough Engineer Frank Lemmon, , 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. Treasurer's Report

Mr. Mikulich read the following report:

\$1,409,860.17	General Fund Bank Account Balance 05-13-2008 4:00 pm.
<u>\$15,195.46</u>	**2007-2008 Outstanding Checks 05-13-2008 4:00 p.m.
\$1,394,664.71	Available Balance 05-13-2008 4:00 p.m.

Totals are as follows:

Deposits: 851,696.90

Debits: 257,319.22

-which include the following:

<u>67</u> Checks	129,764.65
<u>2</u> Payroll (s)	125,950.05
<u>1</u> Returned Deposited Check	679.58

****Included in the outstanding checks is the amount \$10,505.96 which was deposited into the Ambridge Borough General Fund Account by Tax Collector in error on 3/4/08 and is now being refunded to School District.**

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Other Fund Balances as of 05-13-2008

\$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	<i>Total Other Funds Balances (Restricted Use)</i>

****Note: These figures are including April 9, 2008 thru May 13, 2008
No Meeting held on April 22,2008**

VI. Boroughs Bills and Expenses

Mr. Dunn had a question about Beaver Valley Trucking, what was done for this invoice. Ms. Denne did not know exactly what was done to the vehicle –she would have to check into it. Mr. Dunn asked about Triangle Pets. \$970.00, questioning the \$200.00 monthly fee. Ms. Denne remarked that the animals that Triangle picks up are strays, and the \$200.00 is like the retainer that we pay the solicitor- to be on call for Ambridge: they stop at the Boro office every morning to get any calls or complaints. Mr. McCoy asked about what do they do with the animals. Ms. Denne remarked that the animals go to shelters for so many days until people claim them or that someone adopts them. Mr. Pucci asked if we could keep track of where these calls are originated, like an address. Ms. Denne commented she could have the office keep records. Mr. Cafarelli asked about the invoices for the cell phones: do the employees know that these phones are not for personal calls. Ms. Denne said she would put a memo out reiterating the no personal calls on cell phones policy. Mr. Cafarelli asked that if someone could indicate on the list which phones are company phones. Ms. Denne said she is not sure if that could be done but she would check into it.

Mr. Cafarelli made the motion to accept the Bills & Expenses, Mr. Pucci 2nd.

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

Motion to approve the boroughs bills and expenses: *Passed 7-0.*

VII. Items for Discussion

A. Proposed road work.

Mr. Lemmon commented that he is waiting for information Columbia Gas and the Sewer authority if any further work is going to be done on these streets to coordinate the work. We can then re-prioritize this work. Mr. McCoy asked Mr. Lemmon to advise them as soon as possible so we can get the work done.

B. Letter from Brunner Refuse.

Mr. McCoy suggested that the request for a 3% increase because of fuel costs be refused because they signed a contract with us. The solicitor remarked that we need it in the form of a motion. Mr. Gagliardi made a motion to refuse a 3% increase to Brunner Refuse, Mr. Mikulich 2nd. Mr. Cafarelli asked when the contract with Brunner's is up, Ms. Denne replied next year.

All in favor of refusing the increase: 7 –Ayes: 0 - Nays

Motion to refuse 3% increase: *Passed 7-0.*

C. Loitering Ordinance.

Solicitor explained that Ms. Denne requested a Loitering Ordinance and he sent her samples of other Municipalities enacted. However, these ordinances have been stuck down routinely by the court systems. The Supreme Court struck down an ordinance from Chicago because it violates people's civil rights, and what should be done is we should enforce the crimes code and keep the situation under control. There are at least 6 sections of the crimes code that could be used: disorderly conduct, criminal mischief, obstruction of justice, failure to disburse when ordered, public drunkenness, failure of disorderly persons to disburse upon ordered> when 3 or more person are participating in a course of disorderly conduct which cause or may reasonably be expected to cause harm or serious inconvenience, annoyance or alarm, a peace officer may order the participants to disburse. A person who refuses or knowingly fails to obey commits a misdemeanor in the second degree. This crimes code can give you sufficient basis to curb this activity which would otherwise cost the Borough time and money and then to be stuck down by the court if challenged. Mr. Gagliardi asked about the curfew ordinance, and wanted to know if Ambridge has one. Solicitor commented about the curfew is good and could be interpreted as part of the crimes code, and he (solicitor) was not asked to look at curfew ordinance, just loitering. Ms. Miller commented that she would like to convey to the Mayor and the police chief that summer is coming and we should enact these rules to keep the kids off the streets to prevent trouble. Mayor asked of the solicitor who else is eligible to disburse groups other than police department, such as fire dept, public works, and code enforcement. Solicitor remarked that he would have to check into it; typically it's the police department. Mr. McCoy suggested to the Mayor that he set up a meeting with the Public Safety Committee and do as the solicitor suggests just enforce what is on the books at the present time. Mr. Cafarelli asked about the speeding vehicles or running traffic lights. The Mayor mentioned that he has spoken to the police chief about the problems, however, the chief informed him that the police need to see the traffic light in order to give a citation and he has permission from the owners of the property on 19th & Duss to put a police car there and watch the traffic light. Mr. McCoy suggested that there are several traffic lights that they can sit and watch for instance 8th, 11th, 14th on Duss Ave. Mayor said he would speak to the chief. Mr. Gagliardi asked several questions about the speed traps and white lines.

D. Review Traffic Light Study

Mr. McCoy commented on which lights in the Borough can be eliminated and would like this to be completed by next meeting since meetings are only going to be held once a month during the summer months. He suggested that maybe we eliminate one traffic light a year from the streets that are one way. Mr. Gagliardi commented about the Merchant Street lights might not be a good idea to eliminate. Mr. McCoy suggested that stops signs be put in place of these traffic lights. The Solicitor remarked about the study and how it details removing/replacing/moving traffic lights. Mr. Mikulich asked if the council could get a copy of the study. Ms. Denne agreed. Mayor commented about the traffic light on 8th and Merchant Street by the A Plus, it's on a cheap piece of plastic because of an accident – why it was never replaced. There was several councilmen comments concerning this light

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situation and why it was never paid for by the insurance company. The Solicitor suggested that it was never reported to the insurance company and it may be too late to recover any money now because it was over 2 years ago. Comments were made concerning sidewalks being damaged by demolition companies. We have to keep up on watching these things because this is costing Borough money. Mr. Ivancik commented that the owner of the property's responsibility to have those sidewalks repaired or go after the demolition company since the property owner contacted the demolition company. Mr. McCoy asked if it was only the owner's property that was damaged or was it neighboring sidewalks also, Mr. Ivancik said it was only the owner's sidewalk. Mayor also commented that there is a high lift on 5th and Duss that has caused damage to sidewalks and he told the chief that if there is not a plate on that vehicle that we should impound it.

E. Request from Water Authority

Chairman of the Water Authority (Mr. Firich) spoke concerning refinancing of the bond that expires in the year 2021, and the term of the bond will go past 2021, and they would like permission from the Borough to stay in business for another 50 years past the year 2021 to float the bond. The solicitor commented that this is a common request, he has reviewed the document and he has no objection for this request. Mr. Mikulich asked if the date of the extension would start at the year 2021. The Solicitor remarked that it would start the day of the approval by council. Mr. Mikulich asked what the bonds were being used for. Mr. Firich states that it would be used for plant improvements, water lines, repairs to their buildings. Mr. McCoy asked if it needs to be approved tonight. Mr. Firich asked that they approve at this council meeting because the Water Authority had their meeting at 5pm today. Mr. McCoy suggested that since the Solicitor already reviewed it and there is no issues with the request by the Authority that council should vote on it. Mr. Mikulich made the motion to approve the request by the Water Authority and Mr. Pucci 2nd.

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

Motion to approve the Request by Water Authority: *Passed 7-0.*

F. Garbage Ordinance

Mr. McCoy commented that this issue has been brought before council before and there are alleyways that are in deplorable condition and he feels that the Public Works committee review the revision of the ordinance and come back to the next meeting with a recommendation.

G. Planning Commission Recommendations

Mr. Lemmon commented on two Borough Ordinances, #1161 & 1185, reviewed by the Planning Commission of which were in the packets. He suggests revising these two ordinances. Mr. McCoy asked that the Solicitor review these revisions and move it to the next regular meeting.

H. Ambridge Municipal Authority Easement

Mr. Lemmon discussed the project concerning this easement with Duquesne Light. There was extensive searches done and the property technically is still owned by the Borough. This is to move an electric pole on Banks Street because of the Sewer Authority's

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improvements. There is no harm in what they are suggesting. The Water Authority and Sewer Authority approved already. Mr. McCoy asked of Mr. Lemmon, this would not cause any problems and he would recommend approving this easement. Mr. Lemmon replied yes. Mr. Mikulich made the motion, Mr. Miller 2nd.

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

Motion to approve the Request by Municipal Authority for easement: *Passed 7-0.*

I. Centax Proposal

Mr. McCoy states that there have been discussions with Centax concerning the payment of Ambridge residents paying their taxes. We have requested them to have a representative be here at the Borough building twice a week. We also have negotiated with them that the citizens have a 5 day grace period to pay these taxes without penalty, and he also suggested that Ms. Denne put this information on the Borough’s website for anyone to view. Ms. Denne commented that they will be here every 3rd Thursday of each month from 12 noon until 4pm. During quarterly collections they will be here twice a month. Mr. McCoy wants the council to understand that changes will be made before we accept this proposal. Mr. Cafarelli commented that the taxes can be mailed also; you don’t have to appear in personal at the Borough building. Mr. McCoy stated that this will be moved to the next regular meeting.

J. Change Order & Final Payment to Sangro, Inc.

Mr. Lemmon was the repair contract with Sangro Inc. for an additional 4 locations that were not part of the original contract, some road repairs, and some castings that were broken during the renovations. This is for final payment. \$9,860.00. Mr. Mikulich commented that if anyone wants to see this company’s work – one place is at the corner by the Liquor Store – it used to flood when it rained, and now it doesn’t. Mr. Cafarelli commented also on Hazel Ave. also. Mr. Lemmon commented that there were 3 or 4 on Merchant Street that were temporary patches that will complete. Mr. Cafarelli made the motion to pay the final payment, Mr. Mikulich 2nd.

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

Motion to approve the payment to Sangro, Inc.: *Passed 7-0.*

K. Traffic Study of Third & Pine Street

Mr. McCoy asked the Solicitor if he reviewed it. The Solicitor said he did and he didn’t see any problems with it. Mr. Lemmon also remarked that it was a good idea. Ms. Denne stated that Lieut. Kuzma went to school for the correct placement of these signs. Discussion on how there was a sign there years ago but not part of the ordinance. Mr. McCoy suggested that council move it to the next meeting for approval.

L. Request from Steel Built Corporation

Mr. McCoy commented that he was against the request to paint the curb yellow and let their employees take over those spaces because the citizens in this Borough pay to park, and there is going to be a lot of improvements going on in the area of 14th Street, such as the 911 Center construction and moving and he feels that it would not be in the best interest of Ambridge to approve this request. Mr. Gagliardi asked where would their employees park, Mr. McCoy remarked that is not council’s problem, that is up to Steel Built Company, they could possibly go to see Gene Pasch and rent spaces from him and shuttle the employees to and from their cars. Mr. McCoy asked for a motion to reject the request to park on the public street. Motion made by Mr. Pucci, 2nd by Mr. Cafarelli.

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

Motion to deny the request from Steel Built: *Passed 7-0.*

M. Request for Use of Walter Panek Park by Ambridge Vol. fire Department

Mr. McCoy states that the Volunteer Fire Department asks for use of Walter Panek Park for the 4th of July Fire works this year because of the construction at the high school. Mr. McCoy recalls when he was younger that is where the fire department originally had the fire works. Mr. Dunn made to motion to approve the request, Ms. Miller 2nd. Mr. Mikulich asked the Solicitor if he should abstain because he is part of the process for the fire works. The Solicitor said no there reason for him to abstain – he can vote.

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

Motion to approve request from Ambridge Vol. Fire Dept.: *Passed 7-0.*

VIII. Citizen’s Participation (Citizens are limited to 5 minutes per speaker)

Jack Firich – 804 -24th St. –Ambridge.

He spoke concerning the fire works display, because of the construction at the high school they are being relocated this year; the switched fire work companies because of problems with Zambelli’s in the past; they will be setting off 25-30 test firings in the middle of June – it will be announced in the newspaper prior to testing. Parking will be limited – there will be absolutely no parking in Borough Park. There will be shuttling services. There will be seating in the grass so bring your own chair and the AYA will have their concession stand open.

Tape Turned Over

NOTE: Not on tape but taken from Ms. Denne’s notes.

Joe Rodriguez - 154 Maplewood Ave –Ambridge

Spoke concerning the vacant property on 156 R –Maplewood Ave that caught fire.

Sandy Shone – Employee from Steel Built

Presented permission letters and corresponding information from Port Authority Transit of Allegheny County and the Beaver County Transit Authority that their employees may park in the Park ‘N Ride on 11th Street. Both Transit Authority requested Steel Built show proof of certificates of liability. She remarked that they contracted spaces from Tom Allen, and Gene Pasch but she needed council’s approval to let their employees’ park in the Park N Ride. Mr. McCoy commented that the solicitor remarked that all the information needed has been provided and there is no reason why the council can not approve this request. Motion to grant permission with the condition that all the corresponding information papers presented are true and correct. Mr. Cafarelli asked about the 11pm activity. Ms. Shone stated that according to the papers this parking will only be for the afternoon shift. Mr. Gagliardi asked if Steel Built is paying for the other parking spaces. Ms. Shone replied with the dollar value on the other spots. Ms. Shone asked if she understands that they are not permitted to park on 14th Street. Council members discussed the reasons for not permitting parking on 14th Street because of the heavy equipment and construction going on their. Mayor asked of Ms. Shone about the rumors concerning how long they plan to be in Ambridge. Ms. Shone stated at this time: indefinitely. Motion made by Ms. Mikulich, 2nd by Mr. Dunn.

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

Motion to approve request from Steel Built for Park N Ride permission: *Passed 7-0.*

Marlene Verygood -652 Melrose Ave. Ambridge

Ms. Verygood commented on 655 Melrose Ave – understands that the building is condemned and that there are people going in and out of that building. She also said that the grass has been cut the day before. Mr. McCoy asked Mr. Ivancik if the building is condemned and he also asked of the Mayor to check with the police chief to check on the activities of the in and out of the building. Mr. McCoy asked if we could add those two houses to our list with the burned out house on 2nd & Merchant. –there are the three houses we need. Some council discussion on the houses that need to be demolished.

Corky Mihalic - 728 -24th Street. Ambridge.

He discussed issues of the Steel Built parking problems in the Park N Ride. He wants to know who is going to be policing the Park N Ride. Ms. Shone remarked that her employees will have some kind of permits so they won’t be ticketed. He also requested that the council consider return the ordinance for the street sweeping from \$25.00 to a lower amount. Mr. McCoy commented to Mr. Mihalic that he himself forgot to move his vehicle and received a \$25.00 ticket, but if you don’t park there you won’t get a ticket. Mr. Mihalic commented that he already pays for the street sweeper in his taxes and he shouldn’t be paying for it again with those high price tickets. Mr. McCoy states that the \$25.00 ticket was in place before we bought the street sweeper.

Bill Baccovak – 1663 Henrici Street –Ambridge.

He spoke of the fence near the water authority building was taken down and trees put up. He also states that the grass behind the Foodland area and surrounding area is high. He wanted to know if there isn’t anything being done about it. Mr. McCoy mentioned that we have cited those people and the justice fines them but there is nothing we can do until they sell the buildings. Mr. Baccovak wants to know why we can’t cut the grass and send these people the bill. Mr. McCoy states that we have done that in the past and our Borough Manager do it again. Mr. Baccovack also commented that there still are issues with trucks not stopping on 19th and Merchant. Mr. McCoy states that we are going to take care of the problems, it’s in the works now.

Ms. Bea Patterson – Chamber of Commerce – 422 Merchant St.

She asked a question concerning the churches that already have health licenses from the state if they would be excused from getting a \$75.00 health license for Nationality Days. Mr. McCoy commented that the Borough Manager would look into the matter.

No other persons wished to speak.

IX. Committee Reports

1. Administration and Finance
Mr. Mikulich commented on the contracts with the two departs: police & service.
2. Public Safety
Mr. Gagliardi did not have anything to comment.
3. Public Works
Mr. Cafarelli commented concerns with the garbage ordinance and the alleys. Right now the DPW are sealing and cleaning for Nationality Days, when they are finished with the clean up they will go back to sealing cracks. He asked of Ms. Denne if we heard anything from the county for sweeping the bridge. Ms. Denne commented that she did receive a proposal from them on what they are willing to pay. Mr. Cafarelli commented that we need to make a decision on that soon. Mr. Mikulich remarked that the man that runs the street sweeper is finished by 10am, he washes it off and then goes home at 1pm. He feels that there is at least 2 hours of down time that he can be sweeping other streets or alleys that need it. Mr. Cafarelli will take to these guys about changing their lunch hours and look into this matter. Mr. McCoy suggested that they sweep the secondary street first then the alleys.
4. Recreation
Mr. Dunn commented on getting the grass cut in the parks –it’s still pretty high. Ms. Denne commented that she will have the guys go out before the end of the week. Mr. McCoy stated that the lot across from the Vets on 11th & Duss is getting high and we’ll have to fine those people like we did in the past. Mr. Mikulich commented that Mr. Drewnowski went out the Borough Park Swimming Pool and retrieved two speakers and put them into the trees in PJ Caul Park for the Memorial Day Services. He just wanted to thank Mr. Drewnowski.

X. Engineer’s Report

Mr. Lemmon commented about two things: council action for the crack, surface sealing & line painting from East Coast Paving in the amount of \$9,191.09. Motion made by Mr. Mikulich to accept this bid, Ms. Miller 2nd.

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

Motion to approve bid from East Coast Paving: *Passed 7-0.*

Second item May 20, will be opening the bids for Pine Street although the signs say North Walnut, the ordinance calls it Pine. Mr. Lemmon remarked when all the bids are opened –the county will inform you the low bid and put their grant money towards it and you pay the

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balance which is estimated around \$30,000.00. Mr. Cafarelli had some questions about this work being done on Pine (North Walnut). Mr. Lemmon commented that the road work will be done from Hazel to 16th Street and that the damage was caused by water.

XI. Borough Manager's Report – Ms. Kristen Denne

- Ms. Denne spoke of the Keystone Recreation grant in which she applied and was accepted by the state. This is approximately a \$430,000.00 grant for trails and supplemental facilities in the park, such as trails, a pavilion and volleyball courts.
- The PJ Caul water element is to be completed by the end of this week.
- Nationality Days will be this week. Streets will be closed, so keep this in mind.
- Sgt. Rick Bufalini will be given the Detective Murray Award on Thursday morning by the D.A. Dept. - this award is given every year to an officer by showing exemplary service. Thursday is also the Police Memorial in Beaver County.
- Also to reiterate the 3rd Thursday of each month Centax will be at the Borough Building starting this week.

XII. Items Not Included in Agenda.

Mr. Mikulich commented that the last Monday in May is considered Memorial Day and Ambridge is having its Memorial Day Service in PJ Caul Park at 11am, the 26th sponsored by the VFW and American Legion Post 341.

XIV. Adjournment

Mr. Mikulich moved to adjourn the meeting. Ms. Iorfido Miller 2nd. The motion to adjourn passed unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

NEXT COUNCIL MEETING: May 27, 2008 -7pm

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 May 13, 2008.

Borough of Ambridge Seal