

MINUTES
Borough of Ambridge – Regular Meeting
Ambridge Municipal Complex
January 27, 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: Mayor Carl Notarianni, Borough Manager/Secretary Kristen Denne, Fire Chief David Drewnowski

III. Invocation

Invocation was given by Mrs. Barb Costa, Trinity School.

IV. Pledge of Allegiance

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

No one wished to speak on *Agenda Items*

VI. Presentation

Mr. McCoy stated a presentation by Rooks Tavern was scheduled. No representative from this establishment was present to give presentation. If the representative comes in later, we will then give the presentation.

VII. Approval of Previous Meeting's Minutes

November 25, 2008

No additions or corrections. Motion by Mr. Cafarelli to approve November 25, 2008 minutes, seconded by Mr. Gagliardi

All in favor: 6; Nays: 0 ; Abstain: 1 (Mr. Mikulich)

Passes 6 ~ 0.

December 9, 2008

Additions or corrections. Mr. Mikulich wanted a correction made on page 9, paragraph 3, ¾ of the way down concerning the sewers being closed. He mentioned the Lutheran Church (was also misspelled) and it's on 8th St. not 13th Street, and the other one was 11th & Kennedy not 10th & Kennedy. Mr. McCoy asked Ms. Denne to make sure these get corrected. No other corrections or additions. Mr. Mikulich makes the motion to approve December 9, 2008 minutes with the corrections. Mr. Cafarelli seconded.

All in favor: 7; Nays: 0

Passes 7 ~ 0.

January 13, 2009

No additions or corrections. Motion to approve January 13, 2009 minutes made by Mr. Dunn, Mr. Gagliardi seconded.

All in favor: 7; Nays: 0

Passes 7 ~ 0.

*** The representative from Rooks Tavern entered the meeting at this time and was allowed to give the presentation.*

Mr. McCoy asked her to come to the podium and identify herself. She stated Nancy Cisoranza, General Manager of Rooks. Mr. McCoy read aloud the commendation presented by the Borough of Ambridge for being in business in Ambridge for 20 years. Ms. Cisoranza thanked the council and apologized for the owners not being able to accept in person, and she also wanted to announce that the rumors that they are closing are false, they are staying.

VIII. Treasurer's Report – respectfully submitted by Marilyn Sheleheda
 Mr. Mikulich read the following report aloud as of 4pm January 27, 2009:

\$835,484.63	General Fund Bank Account Balance	01/27/2009 4:00 pm.
<u>\$20,950.72</u>	2007-2008 Outstanding Checks	01/27/2009 4:00 p.m.
\$814,533.91	Available Balance	01/27/2009 4:00 p.m.

<i>Totals are as follows:</i>	
Deposits:	\$50,840.47
Debits:	\$165,994.01
-which include the following:	
<u>78</u> Checks	\$107,087.90
<u>1</u> Payroll (s)	\$58,906.11

Other Fund Balances as of 01/27/2009	
\$75,484.17	Grants/Special Funds (Insurance Proceeds - Garage Damage)
\$162,497.65	Liquid Fuels Fund
\$5,961.75	Escrow Disbursement Account
\$39,141.87	Recreation Fund
\$332,648.55	Sinking Fund (FEMA Grant)
\$615,733.99	Total Other Funds Balances (Restricted Use)

VIII. Boroughs Bills and Expenses

Mr. Cafarelli had a question of Columbia Gas on the last page. He states that while he realizes that rates have gone up, these bills are really high. Ms. Denne remarked that she usually has the administration offices at 69° during the day and she lowers the administration offices to 66° over night and over the weekends. She also states that the Council Chambers is turned off altogether until meetings are held. Mr. Cafarelli remarked about being strict for the garage. Ms. Denne commented that \$616.00 for the garage is not bad; her house was \$450.00 for this month. Mr. Cafarelli commented that he has asked the men over at the garage to lower the temperature when they leave the building. Mr. Gagliardi made the motion to pay the bills. 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

IX. New Business

1. Motion to Advertise Dumpster Ordinance.

Mr. McCoy asked to move this to the next agenda, in case anyone has any comments for the Solicitor, he will be present for that. Mr. Gagliardi asked if they checked into the differences in size of the dumpsters. Ms. Denne commented that they needed the square footage which they obtained, however the prices for the permits will stay the same. No objections to move to next meeting.

Mr. McCoy asked for motion to approve final payment to Sangro for that project. Mr. Mikulich asked the payment amount. Mr. McCoy states \$40, 025.26. Mr. Gagliardi mentioned that this was in the budget for that amount. A motion was made by Mr. Gagliardi, seconded by Mr. Pucci.

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. School Resource Officer Request for School District.

Mr. McCoy announced that this was approved by the school board to increase our officer’s wages from \$36,000.00 to \$42,000.00. This increase will pay his full salary. Mr. Mikulich made the motion to accept this amount, Mr. Gagliardi seconded.

***After the motion was made: Mr. Cafarelli asked we were \$10,000.00 short. Mr. McCoy commented that it included the health benefits. The school board asked for a compromise and that officer works for this Borough whether he is on overtime or summer months.*

(Continued)

Mr. Cafarelli asked if the school board said they wanted to compromise. Ms. Denne commented that it covers the salary and health benefits for 9 months. Mr. Cafarelli asked if it's the same officer. Ms. Denne commented that it's up to the union.

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. Acceptance of Proposed Logo.

Mr. McCoy mentioned that everyone on council has a copy of the logo and personally he thought it was excellent. He asked Ms. Denne who did it. Ms. Denne replied it was a company called Business World Etc. Mr. McCoy asked Ms. Denne to make the audience copies after the meeting. Mr. Mikulich asked if it was going to be on our letterhead, and Ms. Denne acknowledged that it would but the main purpose was for the website, our old logo was not compatible. Ms. Miller made the motion to accept the new logo, and 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

X. Other Unfinished Business

Mr. McCoy commented that he would like to see the minutes to reflect any complaints that are remedied. Mr. Cafarelli agreed that he would like to see the out come. Mr. McCoy remarked that anytime anyone has a request from the podium on something that needs done, he would like reported who handled it and when, he would also like something in writing from them that you can give to council and if anyone comes back we can at least let them know their problem has been corrected. Mr. Cafarelli remarked that it should be some sort of justification, for instance he and Mr. McCoy went on one that turned out to be a legal matter, and it didn't pertain to the Borough. Mr. McCoy comments that the public has a right to know. Ms. Denne states that she does not think it needs a motion; she will just put out a directive. Mr. Gagliardi mentioned something about parked cars on private property. Mr. McCoy states to Mr. Mayor, he and Mr. Cafarelli personally went up there and those cars were tagged but it would be good to bring back to council. Mayor Notarianni asked if this pertains to phone call complaints also, Mr. McCoy states no, those complaints are handled in house, and this would only be complaints at the meetings.

Ms. Denne asked for councils' blessing to go after some money from the stimulus packages. She was at a meeting at the county and these things seem to be moving quickly, such as demolition, road projects, Walter Panek Park, planning commission.

She is not skipping around the projects; however, she is under such time restraints that it may look like that. There is something in your packets. Mr. McCoy commented also acquisition on the social security building, he would like council's input. The fire chief is put together a report. It's just in the talking stages right now, because that buildings needs so much work, we can either accept it or reject it. We have to know where we stand on it. He asked that the council study the report. Mr. Mikulich asked about a time period to get back to the school whether or not we are taking it. Ms. Denne commented that the solicitor has been talking with the school and she will ask him if there is a definite time frame. Mayor Notarianni asked if they were using our property to store all the equipment and materials. Are they supposed to restore it? Mr. McCoy commented that in the consent decree, several council meetings concerning that, they were asking to put up tennis courts, but we didn't want to give them the facility. If nothing transpires to satisfy council, they have to put it back the way it was when the easement was originally agreed upon. The Mayor commented that the Borough should be compensated for letting them park all that stuff on our property. If we are permitted to have that building, he has someone who is interested in buying it. Mr. McCoy commented that we will cross that bridge when we come to it. Mr. Mikulich read aloud parts of the agreement of 6/15/05, page 2 paragraph 7, district agrees that it will all necessary action to transfer title and ownership of the social security building with the consent of other government agencies be obtained. Mr. Mikulich commented that we have to go to the Federal Government for approval. He also commented the government has to approve it, it has to be used for recreational and educational facility and there were more stipulations that he doesn't remember just then. The government has the title and they have to give it to the school district and then the school district can give title to us, if we deem necessary to have it. But the government has it. Mr. McCoy restated that we are only in the talking stages.

Mr. Gagliardi had a question for the fire chief, does this building have a sprinkler system now. Mr. Drewnowski commented that it does not have a sprinkler system now. Mr. Gagliardi commented that if it was to be occupied we would require sprinklers. Mr. McCoy commented that if it needs a roof, that is \$6,000 to \$10,000 right there if it needs it. Mr. Mikulich commented maybe \$20,000. Mr. McCoy commented that he would like council members to look over the report (no cost figures attached to the report yet). Mr. McCoy thanked the fire chief for the report.

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

Mr. Jack Firich 804 -24th St. Ambridge

The new 911 center going in on 14th Street and across the street is Straight Steel or Garage Wizard, and there are tractor trailer going in day and night, beating up the roads, those truck drivers are coming across the bridge and turning onto Merchant Street. There are no posted signs "no trucks". These trucks (he saw 3 today) come out of Straight Steel (14th Street) and they turn left and go right onto Merchant Street into New Economy Business Park. We replaced the fire hydrant 3 times and finally took it out against the wishes of the fire chief. Nobody ever hits it, but in the mornings it was leaking or it's at a 60° angle. He feels that something should be done. There used to be signs on 8th and Merchant that said "no trucks", but they are no longer there. And when he goes to work @ 3:30 -4:00am. These tri-axle trucks are lining up. Mr. McCoy asked Mr. Gagliardi to look into this since he is on the safety committee. There are trucks lined up on 4th Street by Rooks' for Do it Best, there are trucks lining up on Duss Avenue by the water plant. You look at any pole and there are no signs that say No Trucks. Mr. Gagliardi commented that this has been a problem for a long time. Mr. Firich commented that those trucks weigh 60-70 thousand pounds and our streets aren't the best to start with the pot holes and these trucks are beating up our streets. Ms. Miller commented that her husband is a truck driver and he commented that the signage is poor.

She also commented that a truck came onto her street from Rte 65 because he made a wrong turn. We have to implement proper signage. Mr. Firich also commented about the signs on Merchant Street near New Economy Business Park, his opinion is the signs are dopey. Mr. McCoy remarked that those signs were implemented on advice from the Borough Engineer to guard Ambridge against law suits when two trucks come thru there. Mr. Firich commented that the trucks never stop for those signs anyway, unless they are going to hit each other, then they slow down. Mr. McCoy commented that this is a police matter and the Mayor should have the Police Chief look into this matter. Mr. Firich also commented about 14th & Duss; the trucks will run you over if you get too close to the traffic light when you stop. Mr. McCoy commented that is a state road from 8th Street to 24th Street on Duss Ave. Mr. McCoy commented that we should have a meeting with the state, he was sure that they would cooperate to correct the problem. Mr. McCoy asked Mr. Gagliardi to have his Public Safety Committee look into the matter. Mr. Gagliardi commented that it's happened when the trucks come down Glenwood, they take out the power lines and cable lines and they keep going. Mr. Mikulich remarked that the signage in Ambridge used to be coming off of Rte 65: NO TRUCKS, LOCAL DELIVERY ONLY. Off of 4th Street: NO TRUCKS, LOCAL DELIVERY ONLY, and the bridge has a weight limit on it and it should have no trucks at all on it. More discussion between audience and council members on what the weight limits might be: empty or full. Mr. McCoy commented that our police department has been monitoring this situation and they have been ticketing trucks coming across the bridge. The Mayor and the Chief have been doing a good job. Mr. Mikulich states that the trucks park along 14th Street near Oak Alley, and there is no parking on one side, but there are no signs. Mr. McCoy asked Mr. Cafarelli to have public works put new signage there when there is no snow. Mr. Cafarelli suggested that we ask Straight Steel to put a sign right at the gate (on their property) leading back out to 14th St. ALL TRUCKS with an arrow to leave their plant. Mr. McCoy commented that it was a good point. More conversation between audience and council. Mr. McCoy commented that another audience member, Mrs. Flannery, said that they have those signs @ Centria and the trucks knock them over. Ms. Denne commented that about a month ago Mr. Start, the solicitor and Mr. Lemmon, the Borough Engineer were discussing this issue and said that you have to prove with a study that these trucks will do structural damage to the streets. Mr. Lemmon said that Harmony Twp had one done and the cost is around ten thousand dollars, however, on the other side of the coin, if you have this study done, we can make that money back in 2 tickets. It's really at the councils' discretion. However, without the study – it won't hold up in court. There has to be traffic studies and stop sign studies and it will have to be done on every street in the community. Mr. Mikulich commented that we have ordinances where trucks are permitted to travel. Mr. Firich commented that he went to ESB Bank the other day and a guy across the street had a chair blocking parking spaces because he wanted to unload his broken pop machines, that is what the access alleys are for- loading and unloading; and he should not be unloading on Merchant Street. Mr. McCoy asked the Mayor to look into this matter with the police chief. The Mayor asked if the potato chip truck is like a UPS truck, Mr. Firich commented no, it's bigger. He will look into it. The Mayor also commented that General Dollar's truck also comes in the middle of the night on Saturdays and unloads. Mr. McCoy asked the Mayor to look into it.

(TAPE TURNED OVER)

More discussion concerning Creek Side Springs and the trucking situation whether or not they are parking there or just waiting to unload. Mr. McCoy said it's a violation when the truck parks and takes the cab away. Mr. McCoy remarked that we cannot favor one business over another. More discussion among council members concerning signs, trucks and parking trucks. Mr. Cafarelli asked if Ms. Denne will set up a meeting between himself, Mr. Gagliardi with the State about the signs. Ms. Denne affirmed that she would. Mr. McCoy asked the Mr. Lemmon be included in that meeting. Mr. Cafarelli commented that years ago you didn't see a truck on Merchant Street, they unloaded in the alley. Ms. Miller asked if maybe the trucks can't fit in the alleys because of dumpsters and things, it might be something to look into when you have the meeting. The Mayor commented that the bigger trucks have to enter the alleys on 8th Street

and it might be hard for them to turn to get out of the alleys and also that some of our street signs are so faded that you almost can't read them.

No one wished to speak.

XII. Official Reports

Motion to accept the official reports made by Mr. Mikulich, seconded by Ms. Miller.

All in favor: 7 Ayes; 0 Nays

Passes 7~ 0.

XIII. Adjournment:

Mr. Mikulich makes to motion to adjourn, Mr. Cafarelli seconds.

NEXT COUNCIL MEETING:

February 10, 2009

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 January 27, 2009

Borough of Ambridge Seal