

MINUTES
Borough of Ambridge –Regular Meeting
Ambridge Municipal Complex
June 24, 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, and Gerald C. McCoy

Absent: Joe Pucci

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

III. Invocation

Pastor Davis, Fellowship of United Methodist – Center of Hope.

IV. Pledge of Allegiance

V. Citizen Participation on Agenda items Only (3 minutes per speaker)

No one wished to speak.

VI. Presentation by Pat Nardelli, Castlebrook Development.

Mr. Nardelli spoke of the new addition to the project of the Emergency Services of Beaver County –the new 911 Center on 14th Street and Oak Alley. He spoke of how they were going to rename the Business Park Drive –but have not decided on a name yet, and they were going to widen the road to accommodate all the traffic. Right now Oak Alley is only an emergency exit for the time being. They wanted to maintain the integrity of Oak Alley because of all the homes there. They have been in compliance with the ordinance and asked for a few waivers which the Planning Commission has recommended, such as the reduction of the sidewalk from 10 feet wide to 6 feet wide at the new driveway, and the need to put only one sidewalk at the northwest side instead of both sides. The reason for no sidewalk on the EMS side is that they would like it to be limited to public access, and no pedestrian traffic. Landscaping and fencing will also be provided according to Home Land Security Standards. The area will be sufficient lighting in the EMS parking lot and we also ask that we not be required to put lighting on the Business Park Drive because the lighting from the parking lots will be enough and because we will be developing more of the properties in the near future. He asked that council approve these waivers and to answer any questions. Mr. McCoy asked about the offset of the 911 Center from Oak Alley & Merchant St, like where the actual building is going to stand. Mr. Nardelli commented that it's going to be 110 feet from Oak Alley and about 140 from Merchant. He states that they tried to get it far enough from the streets that there would not be pedestrian traffic near by. Mr. Gagliardi asked about the communication tower height, Mr. Nardelli commented that he thinks that the tower will only be about 180 feet.

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The operations from this facility will be limited, not a lot of trucks, but if they need a vehicle because of an emergency there will be room for them. They are going to break ground for the new building in September 08. Mr. Nardelli commented that they have been working with Kuhn's Market and they have a sincere interest in opening up a facility here in Ambridge. There has been discussion on where it will be placed and they have been trying to coordinate a location that would be satisfying to everyone. They are trying to create a different scape – both urban and suburban. Comment from Mike Mikulich that it's a tremendous improvement to our community. Mr. Nardelli remarked that a lot of the credit should go to Mr. Moltoni, but he (Mr. Nardelli) is happy to be on board. Mr. McCoy asked about completion date. Mr. Nardelli stated that the 911 Center wants to be up and running by August 2009 – so completion date is looking to be July 2009. Mr. McCoy also asked Mr. Lemmon about any corrections. Mr. Lemmon made comments about the corrections and suggested that it be approved on a contingency that corrections are made. Mr. Cafarelli made the motion that the plans be approved on a contingency. Mr. Mikulich seconded.

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

Motion to *accept* Castlebrook Proposal with contingency. **Passed 6 – 0**

VII. Approval of Minutes

March 25, 2008

May 13, 2008

May 27, 2008

April 8, 2008

No Comments on March 25, 2008

No Comments on May 13, 2008

Mr. Mikulich made a comment for May 27, concerning Centax, whether or not we would lose \$100,000.00 –he feels that that statement was deceiving - we would not lose that kind of money– The Solicitor pointed out that it was just comment on the 'minute review' and not a debate on the content of the discussion in the minutes. Mr. McCoy asked Ms. Denne to look into the matter.

No Comments on April 8 minutes.

Mr. McCoy suggested that the minutes be approved as a package. Mr. Gagliardi made the motion to approve. Mr. Dunn seconded.

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

*Abstain from May 27, 2008 approval

Motion to *accept* the minutes as a package*. **Passed 6 – 0.**

VIII. Treasurer's Report –Respectfully submitted by Marilyn Sheleheda, Treasurer.

Mr. Mikulich read the following report:

As of 4:00 p.m. 06/24/08 -
*Respectfully Submitted to Ambridge Borough Council by Marilyn Sheleheda -
Treasurer*

\$1,424,229.29 General Fund Bank Account Balance 6/24/2008 4:00 pm.
\$5,661.10 2007-2008 Outstanding Checks 6/24/2008 4:00 p.m.
\$1,418,568.19 Available Balance 6/24/2008 4:00 p.m.

Totals are as follows:

Deposits:	\$302,116.42
Debits:	\$270,767.13
-which include the following:	
<u>68</u> Checks	\$149,990.84
<u>2</u> Payroll (s)	\$120,776.29

Other Fund Balances as of 6/24/2008

\$75,282.95	Grants/Special Funds (Insurance Proceeds - Garage Damage)
\$10,110.26	Liquid Fuels Fund
\$5,961.75	Escrow Disbursement Account
\$39,037.51	Recreation Fund
\$331,761.75	Sinking Fund (FEMA Grant)
<hr/> \$462,154.22	Total Other Funds Balances (Restricted Use)

IX. Boroughs Bills and Expenses

Council member (voice unrecognizable) mentioned the invoice for Beaver Valley Trucking. Ms. Denne commented that one was inspection – and she did not recall the other charges, however, B.V. Trucking has raised their prices. Mr. Cafarelli asked about the Central Air Cooled Company (in Oakmont), why did we take power tools from them. Mr. McCoy suggested that we purchased a motor from them last year – and Mr. Cafarelli commented we also purchased a riding mower. They are expensive. Mr. Dunn suggested that we take our grass/lawn equipment to DO IT BEST (formally Ace Hardware), even if they were \$10.00 higher in price – we would save the gas & time money. Ms. Denne agreed and said she would look into it. Mr. Mikulich asked about the bill on Hudson Tree Service – how many trees did we service for that money. Ms. Denne remarked she did not know. Mr. Mikulich also referred to a situation that happened 10 years ago and the roots & sidewalk issues, we don't want to repeat a legal battles that we had in that situation. He spoke to the secretary of the Tree Commission and if there is a situation out there, this is what we should do, or this is what our recommendation is. If the tree is healthy it should not be removed, if it is diseased by all means have it removed. Mr. Mikulich commented that we (Tree Commission)

(continued)

need to take a tree inventory and we are working on that, we need a lot of people to help. Mr. McCoy asked if there were any other questions or comments concerning the bills and expenses. Ms. Miller made the motion to accept the bills and expenses, Mr. Cafarelli seconded.

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

Motion to *approve* Bills and Expenses - *Passed 6-0.*

X. New Business.

1. Planning Commission on Creekside Springs.

Mr. Lemmon commented that the Planning Commission recommendations for Creekside Springs. (*TAPE INAUDIBLE*) The Solicitor stated to council that if you do not make a decision on this recommendation by the Planning Commission within 90 days that it will automatically become approved. Mr. McCoy asked if it would be better to reject his proposal at this time. The Solicitor replied yes, the way it stands right now because of the significant problems. Mr. Cafarelli commented that we will be setting precedence for a business that wants to take over the sidewalks plus curb out to the street, what happens to the next neighbor that says hey you did it for him, I also want it. The solicitor agreed that was an excellent point. Mr. McCoy remarked that under the advice of our engineer and legal staff that we reject the proposal at this time. Mr. Mikulich made the motion to reject the proposal the way it stands, Mr. Cafarelli seconded.

After the motion - Further discussions concerning this proposal, Mr. Lemmon suggested that when Ms. Denne writes the letter to them you should ask for a copy of the full size drawings. Mr. McCoy stated also that he is also “pro-business”, however, when it jeopardizes the safety of the people and residents he is against it. If we can get this accomplished amicably and safely to the public then he has no problem with it. The Solicitor also suggested that the issue that we overlook is that their trucks are driving head-on into traffic. Ms. Denne does not want to turn down the business proposal, however, when the tractor trailer will drive head on into traffic and then go into reverse into the dock and then come across a closed sidewalk. The cab of the truck would then be sitting in what was parking lane. This causes concerns for the Borough in a liability standpoint that Creekside Insurance is comfortable with this proposal. She also remarked that if something is existing and we did not create it to be this way, the municipality isn’t necessary liable or considered neglect, but if you let it continue to be a worse situation or you plan to make it a worse situation—we become liable. If there would be an accident there—the people here and the governing body would be liable and our insurance would have to pay the claim which falls back on the tax payers. Making this kind of decision isn’t because we don’t like the way it’s set up, it is because of very significant financial stipulations that will fall back because of public safety and heavy financial ramifications. She hopes that this explains the situation more to the residents and she feels that we can find a better solution to this problem.

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

Motion to *reject* Planning Commission Proposal for Creekside Springs -*Passed 6-0.*

2. Adoption of Amendment to Ordinance §15-213.

The Amendment to the ordinance to erect a stop sign at the intersection established at Third & Pine Street traveling East. Mr. Cafarelli made the motion to approve the amendment, Mr. Dunn seconded.

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

Motion to approve amendment. *Passed 6 – 0.*

3. Blight Designation for CDBG Program.

Ms. Denne explained that the Planning Commission reevaluates the CDBG Blight Program every 10 years. The want us to designate the area so that we can receive the facade program. We just need to ratify that amendment. Ms. Miller made the motion, Mr. Dunn seconded.

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

Motion to ratify the CDBG Program. *Passed 6 – 0.*

4. Accept Resignation of Sandra Wright Justiss from HARB Board.

Mr. McCoy explained that Ms. Justiss is moving from the area and has done a great job on the HARB Board and we hate to lose her. Mr. Mikulich made the motion to accept the resignation with regret and added that we should send her a letter of appreciation her for her time served. Mr. Cafarelli seconds the motion.

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

Motion to accept the resignation from Sandra Wright Justiss. *Passed 6 – 0.*

5. Naming of the Shoppers Rest Area.

Mr. McCoy remarked that there was discussions about naming this area. He would like to table this item until next meeting and he recommends this council naming the Police Station at the Municipal Building George A. Kyrargyros in honor of the former Police Chief.

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Mr. Mikulich makes the motion that council approve naming of the Police Station tonight, Ms. Miller seconds the motion.

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

Motion to Name the Police Station at the Municipal Bldg “George A. Kyrargyros ” *Passed 6 – 0.*

Mr. McCoy thanked council for its vote, it’s long overdue that we recognize Chief Kyrargyros and asked Ms. Denne to have a plaque made up.

6. Review of Rental Permitting & Disruptive Ordinances.

Mr. McCoy explains that this is the ordinance that Pittsburgh has adopted to be stricter on landlords, he asked our Solicitor to review the ordinance and to give his opinion if we could use it in Ambridge. Mr. Start (Solicitor) states that he started to look over this Pittsburgh ordinance about 8 months ago, the ordinance that Ambridge adopted 4 years ago, had 2 primary focuses – 1) required rental units to be register, inspected and maintained, 2) required tenants to abide by the law and not engage in distributive conduct. The ordinance says that if the tenant engages in distributive conduct 3 times in one year they can be evicted. The target of that ordinance was targeting tenants who act in unacceptable ways. This ordinance has not yet been challenged here, however, if a tenant is evicted and something happens to them we could get sued. There are some concerns with that ordinance and some of the other communities in the county have followed suit and adopted this same ordinance, recently Beaver Falls. The city of Pittsburgh has enacted this same ordinance but split it into 2 separate ordinances. One addresses the first focus of our ordinance – the registration, inspection and maintenance of housing units. The city of Pittsburgh imposes a \$1,000.00 fine for those properties that are in violation of that. The second one addresses conduct by the residents as does ours, but theirs focuses on the landlord, not the tenant. The city of Pittsburgh ordinance states that if a tenant engages in 3 distributive conduct events --- police coming to their home with good cause or issuing citations or arresting for bad behavior – 3 times in a 60 day period. The landlord is given the opportunity to correct the problem, if the police are called back to the property for a 4th or subsequence time – the cost of that is imposed on the owner of property. The purpose in this is to not expose the city to the liability of throwing someone out of their house, but rather focusing on the landlord to fix the problem rather than costing the taxpayers money to police the property. The cost is based on police officers time, wages, benefits and equipment. Their ordinance provides for misdemeanor offenses against the owner and the tenant, but it does not provide for the misbehaving eviction of the tenant. There is an appeal board for the landlord that received notice to appeal the ruling as not to take away their property rights without due process. Ambridge would have to create a new board in town for the appeal process for the distributive tenant law. They would have to hear from the landlord that says “no I’m not violating the law” and then rule on that appeal. Clearly the focus is to force the landlord to enforce orderly conduct as opposed to removing the tenant from the premises. Mr. McCoy asked me to share my findings with you tonight for your consideration. I can certainly supply you with the Pittsburgh ordinance or I can draft a proposal for council. Ms. Denne asked about the fine, is it summary or misdemeanor or civil on the landlord. Mr. Start states that these are actually ‘criminal misdemeanor’ charges. If landlord or tenant violates the ordinance, they are subjecting themselves to criminal prosecution. Audience member asked if it would include housing at Crestview Village, Mr. Start replied it would include any rental in town. Mr. McCoy

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states that the people in our community have been complaining for years that our ordinances are not strong enough for the absentee landlords. This will help community to open the door to do some clean up. He would ask council to ask Mr. Start to put an ordinance for us to review. Mr. Cafarelli asked if we are going to piggy back our other ordinance. Mr. Start (solicitor) remarked that we would repeal the old ordinance and adopt the new ordinance which is much stronger. Mr. Gagliardi commented that years ago we tried something that people formed a landlords association that tried to stick up for the tenants. Mr. Start stated that there was much testimony taken in by the Pittsburgh City Council because the people have that right. That is why they layered it with an appeal board. That is why we would need to create an appeal board. Mr. Mikulich made a motion for the solicitor to begin writing this ordinance and we can then review it and let the people voice their opinions about it. Mr. Dunn seconds the motion.

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

Motion to permit the solicitor to prepare a rental disruptive ordinance. **Passed 6 – 0.**

After the vote - Mr. Start commented that this is not an overnight process and that council would have ample time to review it and make revisions and certainly give the citizens the opportunity to voice their opinions. Mayor Notarianni addressed a situation that if a tenant moved from one apartment to another apartment 1 block down, would that landlord be liable if the police are called to the new apartment? The solicitor remarked that this is for the landlord to be held responsible, and he can not be held responsible if that tenant lives at another address. It has to be that particular unit. Mayor clarified the question, he wanted to know if a particular tenant lives in one building and causes problems in another building. Is the landlord responsible? The solicitor states that this law is designed to rid neighborhoods of problem properties not problem people on the street.

TAPE TURNED OVER

7. Review of Refuse Ordinances.

Mr. McCoy commented that we get many complaints concerning about people who live near alleys and they put their garbage out 7 days a week. He commented that we need to revise the ordinance. Ms. Denne states Public Works Committee met last week and they decided the following: No garbage in alleys with the exception of dumpsters, 2 cans per household, recyclables if not in a container must be in clear bags (not brown or black-trash collectors are getting cuts on tin cans) – each household, unit or rental unit – it must have two cans per unit. No garbage in alleys with the exception 12 noon the day prior to collection day. Mr. Gagliardi asked about the landlords who had tenants move out during the weekend and they clean out the apartment and put all the garbage outside long before garbage collection day. He thinks the code officer should be citing these people. Ms Denne stated that all you have to do is call into the Boro office and we'll send someone out to investigate. Mr. Cafarelli asked Cindy to do a routine patrol and don't wait for someone to call the councilmember and then for the council member to call her – she should just do patrol for this type of situation on her own. Mr. Gagliardi asked since Cindy doesn't work on the weekends, could she take another day off during the week and patrol on Saturday and check for violations. Mr. Notarianni commented about a Laundromat on Merchant Street –he didn't want to mention any names – but we all know which one it is. They were

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working out on the street and it's terrible and we should close them down. Mr. McCoy asked the Mayor if he went into the code enforcement officers and asks how many citations have been issued and ignored, did you go into the magistrates' office and ask how many hearing were scheduled and they didn't show up for. The mayor replied yes he did and unfortunately we don't have a permanent justice there—they keep rotating and only Mr. Knaflec knows the whole story. Mr. McCoy states that Cindy is following the guidelines of the law; she can not go outside the law. More discussion about Cindy doing her job, Mr. McCoy mentioned that Cindy is doing her job and is following the guidelines of the law. Mr. Cafarelli asked of the Mayor if he found out if this person has been paying his fines, and they Mayor replied no. Mr. Start, the solicitor states that he has accompanied Ms. Denne at the premises you are speaking of and met with their attorney and the last time was February and there was a concerted effort to clean it up, but I guess it's going down the toilet again. Ms. Denne asked of the Mayor to ask this question of the magistrate how many of our citations have been throw out of his court. 4 officials sitting in this room have written citations and they get thrown out. The solicitor commented that we need a magistrate, not this rotating system that we have now. These rotating magistrates seem to be very tolerant and charitable to this person. Mayor argued that we should get rid of this nuisance business, and the solicitor states that we have pictures, we have words, we have evidence and still these things are ignored. Mr. Mikulich asked if there is anything that we have right now that we can go and shut them down. Mr. Start commented that they found a drum of stuff that had no business being there and still they can't do anything. Mr. Start agreed with the mayor that they job is not completed there, but don't think we haven't done everything within the law that we could possibly do. Ms. Miller agreed with the mayor and asked if we are going to keep citing these people, she just purchased her first home here in Ambridge and she was driving her father in law around showing the town and then there is this eyesore. She is not blaming council, but we should not give up, we should keep the pressure up. Fire Chief Drewnowski commented about one hearing he had concerning fire code violations, the magistrate said "I knew your family longer than I knew this bench—charges dismissed" boom – that was it. More discussions. Mr. McCoy suggested to the mayor that he go over and sit in on a hearing when it involves the Boro and see what goes on. Mayor commented that we are doing what we can but we are losing the battle –that is all he is trying to say, that's his opinion. Mr. Cafarelli remarked that he wants to see that mess cleared up too.

Mr. Mikulich suggests that people are throwing out more garbage right after their garbage has been picked up and it sits a whole week before it's picked up again. On page 3 of the ordinance it states that it includes alleys. And on page 7 it defines rubbish, refuse, what should be in bags...each can should not be left at the curb no earlier than 12pm the day before scheduled pick up day and removed no later than 12 pm the day after the pick up day. The time and canister is important about the residential area. We have the ability that we could site these people for throwing out their garbage an hour after their garbage was picked up. Mr. Mikulich would suggest that we pick up all the garbage on one day – not 5 different days a week. Mr. McCoy agreed, but the cost would be too much.

Motion to approve the amendments to the garbage ordinance made by Mr. Mikulich, seconded by Mr. Cafarelli.

All in favor- Ayes 6 ~ Nays 0.

Motion to approve Amendments to Garbage Ordinance – **Passed 6 – 0.**

8. Water Feature Signage.

Ms. Denne wants council's approval to put up signage at the water feature in P.J. Caul Park stating that the Borough will prosecute anyone who does damage or vandalism to anything in the Borough Parks. Because we did already have damage done in the water feature. Mr. McCoy asked for a vote to put up the signage. Mr. Mikulich mad the motion, Ms. Miller seconded.

All in favor – Ayes 6 ~ Nays 0.

Motion to put up signage – **Passed 6 – 0.**

9. St. Johns Sign on Fence.

Mr. McCoy states that St. John the Baptist church is having their 15th annual Rysyn food Festival from August 7 thru August 9. They would like permission to hang a banner on 11th & Duss Ave. It will not obstruct traffic view. Mr. Mikulich made the motion to allow the banner, Mr. Dunn seconded.

All in favor – Ayes 6 ~ Nays 0.

Motion to allow banner – **Passed 6 – 0.**

10. Grant Money. Resolution 2008 - 03

Ms. Denne explained that this grant opportunity came up last minute from Preserve America and she will be working with Ms. Landis the director of Old Economy Village for marketing materials for Old Economy and Historic Business District. She asked that since the grant is due Friday, she would like councils resolution to go forward with this grant. This will be at no cost to the Boro; they will be getting matching funds from the State.

Motion made by Ms. Miller for the resolution. Second by Mr. Mikulich

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

Motion to pass resolution for grant money – **Passed 6 – 0.**

XI. Unfinished Business.

1. Mr. McCoy states Center of Hope is having a health screening on July 10, 6 to 7pm by Heritage Valley Health System. They will be doing blood pressures, blood sugar and weight and vision at no charge. There are flyers on the podium and there will be some in the lobby of the administration office.
1. Mr. Mikulich comments on a Correspondent from the Chamber of Commerce about the Soap Box Derby, the correspondents have a sample resolution attached state that they would like to have the derby Sept. 27 & 28 -2008, April 25 & 26- 2009 and May 30 of 2009 –presuming that it will be on 8th Street like it was in the late 50's and early 60's in Ambridge Borough. Someone in the audience responded that it is not in Elwood City and that is the only place in Western Pa. that they are run now. Some discussion of 14th Street, 11th or 8th Street. Mr. Mikulich asked about September this year. Audience member said that would be like practice time, rally race for the big one in May of 2009. Mr. Mikulich would like to make the motion to approve the race for this September 2009. Ms. Denne spoke to Chamber member to forward insurance information about the derby for the solicitor to review because we have to get Penn Dot to approve. We will have to put off the formal approval from council until July meeting.
2. Mr. Mikulich mentioned that the Borough building is now 12 years old and the carpeting needs to be replaced. They are atrocious. The administration office would be the Borough's expense, however the council chambers would be split 3 ways, the water authority would take a 1/3 – the municipal authority would take a 1/3 and the Borough would take a 1/3. He would like to bring it up on the floor to replace these rugs with commercial grade that won't hold the stains.

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3. Ms. Denne said she would prepare quotes for replacement. Discussion between council members to possibly having it steam cleaned first, then replace it if necessary. Mr. Gagliardi made the motion to have the carpets steam cleaned, Mr. Dunn seconded.
All in favor Ayes 6 ~ Nays 0.
Motion to clean carpets **Passes 6 - 0.**
4. Mr. Mikulich discussed the towing situation in the Borough, the outrageous prices that are being charged. He would like have the Police Chief to look into this. Ms. Denne suggested that we can not force any particular towing service on residents – we ask first who they would like to use. The chief and Ms. Denne spoke about this, and the only time we can intercede on this is if they want a towing company from McKeesport that would keep traffic tied up too long, it's up the driver who that want called. The police chief responded that we could wait a reasonable amount of time for the towing company that the driver wanted and then in order to clear up traffic we have to call one. We call one that will respond 24 hrs a day should we need them. Mr. Mikulich suggested that people have told them that they had no choice other than to take that towing service. He didn't know the details, or how factual that is, but we should look into this situation. Some of the insurance companies are complaining about this same situation that they have alternative towing services and they were not given the opportunity to use that service, and they had to pay out the high price. We should make it clear that we give them a reasonable amount of time and then we use this company. Mr. Gagliardi suggested that we put it out for bid like Pittsburgh does. Mr. Mikulich states that he wants it clear that the individual has the right to ask for whichever towing company they want.
5. Mr. Mikulich also discussed the stop signs on Merchant Street near the Foodland area and the trucks are stopping for no reason and with the price of gas, (tape inaudible) like a set back. The solicitor asked that we just live with the stop signs for right now. Mr. Mikulich just asked because it was brought up to him. Mr. Cafarelli asked about the stop signs, did we get the proper permits. Ms. Denne said yes. More discussion about the placement of the signs. Mr. Lemmon spoke of how the corner is on a diagonal. (Tape inaudible) Mr. McCoy said that it was approved by council.
6. Mr. Mikulich asked about a correspondent about health bill #676. Ms. Denne remarked it was in the packet.
7. Ms. Miller remarked she noticed a lot of street lights being out in the Borough especially on the main streets. Who is supposed to report those light outages. Comment made that it was supposed to be the police department who should report those. Mr. Mikulich commented on a Boro employee that used to go out on her own and report these light outages but asked for \$50.00 a month for gas from the Borough and we denied it, and she doesn't do this anymore for the Borough.
8. No Idle Policy for All Boro Vehicles.
Mr. Cafarelli noted that Pittsburgh has been making adjustments on municipal vehicles because of fuel costs. He asked the police chief if we could do that with our police vehicles, such as if we need to write a report, find a tree and sit under it without running the air conditioning. In Georgia anyone caught speeding will pay additional fines because of the extra fuel costs it's police force. He quoted some items from the Sierra Club on how much fuel costs either the air pollutants or our pockets when vehicle idle. A couple of communities purchased motor cycles to cut down on expenses. Mr. McCoy asked if Mr. Cafarelli was making a motion on idling on all Borough vehicles. Mr. Cafarelli replied yes, he makes the motion, Mr. Dunn seconded. *After the motion - Mr. Gagliardi made the comment that leaving the vehicle running cuts down on the cost of starters on the vehicles. It causes a lot of wear and tear on the starters and that is why we voted years*

(continued)

ago to let the vehicles run. Mr. Mikulich asked if they want to have all Boro equipment included in this motion, Mr. Cafarelli said yes, Mr. Mikulich remarked that the Fire Dept should be the exception because they need the motors running for equipment to work. Ms. Denne states that it will be with the exception of emergency vehicles when they need to have their lights on.

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

Passed No Idle Poicy for all Boro Vehicles. *with exception of Emergency Situations.

Passed 5* - 1.

- Council Member asked about the Borough Garage. Ms. Denne commented that she and the Boro Engineer have been working on that project. (tape inaudible). The mayor asked a question concerning a garage on (tape inaudible). More discussion.

(Tape turned over)

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

Tom Patrician -concerning Creekside Springs changes in the way they receive their shipments, with a loading dock as we discussed. The loading dock does not go from 3rd street to 4th street – it only goes from his business – the traffic would be diverted around the loading dock situation with a barrier – proper signage – he agreed with anything we asked him to do including having a man on the street when a shipment was coming in and truck will be set in correctly and safely and then the truck would move on immediately. He agreed to remove it should he move his business in the future with no cost to the Boro. Also the mis-worded (the North and West was incorrect) ordinance was corrected and submitted. A member of NIRA is on our board and involved in the plans for the 911 Center and is favorable to it. We have to show the other businesses in this town that we care about them too, not just the new businesses. That is the purpose of the planning commission. Mr. Patrician wanted to make sure that council got all the paperwork for this project in their packet. Mr. McCoy responded yes, and they do read everything prior to the meetings. Mr. Patrician just wanted to make sure the public knows that the insurance company, police and fire chief gave the ok to this project. Mr. McCoy commented that there are other still problems and ordinance issues that need to be ironed out. Council has a Borough Solicitor and Borough Engineer to guide us to make the correct decision and we need to go by their suggestions. Mr. Lemmon commented that the Borough still owns the Right of Way and has to decide if they are going to sell it to him, make an easement or vacate it, and if they can’t make the decision in 90 days, the application is automatically approved. Mr. McCoy remarked that we are pro business, but we need to wait for our engineering and legal staff to be in favor of us approving these changes because we can not jeopardize the safety of our public. Mr. Patrician just wanted the public to know that it’s not an insurmountable thing and that they have been doing what council has asked them to do, he just wants to keep them as a business in this town and looking out for the safety also. Mr. McCoy commented that council does too.

Mr. Mihalic -728 24th St.

He commented that he was under the impression that the Borough was in the new building only 8 years, but it’s 12. He saw Ambridge buy new badges, new guns, new trucks, new equipment, but the sound system is terrible and it has been since day 1. We talk about getting new carpets and we

(continued)

can't fix the sound system. We can't hear out in the audience. Mr. McCoy remarked that we are having the carpets cleaned –not replaced. Mr. Mihalic also commented about 911 Center moving in and it's going to be a non taxable property, we are also talking about a grocery store moving in and we will probably be giving them a tax break, which hopefully won't hurt the other grocery store in the area. This property was supposed to be housing to bring us tax revenue. Hopefully this grocery store won't go bankrupt in 8 – 10 years. We can take an example from West Homestead that brought business into the Borough that will bring us revenue because we have infrastructure that needs fixed and we don't have the money to do it. Am I wrong or did I hear that we are not putting in new sewer lines, or new water lines. Mr. McCoy stated that Mr. Mihalic is wrong, that he told Mr. Cafarelli that they are putting new sewer lines.

Mary Pat Gallerenzo -232 Park Rd.

She spoke of the American Bridge building and how people strip that building and take plywood when it's put up and that there are drugs and prostitutes in there during the night. Mr. Notarianni commented that there are people sleeping in there too. Maybe we should put a fence around it. Ms. Gallerenzo asked if we could do something about this building. Mr. McCoy commented that we need to start arresting trespassers. Mr. Gagliardi asked who owns that building and he thought someone was going to do some work on that building. Mr. McCoy asked Mr. Notarianni to ask the police chief to start making arrests to trespassers. Ms. Gallerenzo also commented about the junk cars. Mr. Notarianni asked Ms. Denne to ask the owners to put No Trespassing signs up and then the chief can make arrests.

No other citizen wished to speak at this time.

XIII. Official Reports

Mr. McCoy asked for a motion to accept the official reports. Mr. Mikulich made the motion, Ms. Miller seconded.

All in favor – Ayes 6 ~ Nays 0.

Motion to Accept office reports **Passed 6 – 0.**

XIV. Executive Session.

Mr. Cafarelli made the motion to go into executive session at 9:30pm personnel issues, seconded was inaudible.

Mr. Dunn made the motion to come out of executive session, second was inaudible (several voices seconded-no official named). 9:45pm

Mr. McCoy commented on the Port-A-Johns for the 3rd of July – council wanted to confirm that the price was \$5,000.00 from Mr. Firich. Chief Drewnowski called Mr. Firich by cell phone, Mr. Firich on speaker commented that he was not sure of the price. Ms. Denne asked him about the price, she asked Mr. Firich if that was indeed the original price for them. Mr. Firich wasn't sure. Ms. Miller suggested that we rent 8 Port-A-John for one day, Mr. Mikulich seconded.–

All in favor – Ayes 6 ~ Nays 0.

Motion to rent 8 Port A Johns – **Passed 6 – 0.**

XV. Motion to adjourn made by Mr. Mikulich, seconded by Ms. Miller.

All in favor. Ayes 6 ~ Nays 0.

Motion to adjourn **Passed 6 – 0.**

The meeting adjourned at 9:47p.m.

Next Council meeting July 22, 2008.

*** A note to council member: The tape recorder in Council Chambers was not in 100% working order for the previous meeting and less for this meeting—most of the information on the tape was distorted. However, I did my best to identify and evaluate the speakers & conversations, and anyone is welcome to come and listen and verify any recordings. –Marilyn Sheleheda*

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 June 24, 2008.

Borough of Ambridge Seal