

BOROUGH OF AMBRIDGE

MINUTES

Council Meeting: April 14, 2015

Ambridge Municipal Complex



I. Executive Session – Personnel Matters

II. The April 14, 2015 meeting of Ambridge Borough Council was called to order at 7:00PM within the Council Chambers of the Ambridge Municipal Complex.

President Mikulich reported that the vote to consider authorizing the road closure of Merchant Street for the annual Nationality Day's Parade was taken off of the Agenda as the Council has received a telephone call five minutes before the start of this meeting from the Chamber of Commerce's Parade Chairman that that parade was cancelled.

III. Roll Call:

Present: Mrs. Drewnowski
Mr. McCoy
President Mikulich
Vice President Iorfido- Miller
Mr. Pucci
Mayor D'Ambrosio

Also Present: Borough Manager Kauer, Police Chief Mann, Fire Chief Drewnowski, Solicitor Start, Engineer Lemmon and Code Enforcement Officer Clark.

Absent: Mr. Cafarelli and Mrs. Caldarelli

IV. Invocation given by Ms. Barb Costa, Trinity School of Ministry

V. Pledge of Allegiance

VI. Presentations

1. **Recognition of Alexander's Restaurant and the Barlama's Family for over nine decades of Business in Ambridge** – President Mikulich presented a Proclamation from Council and Mayor to Mr. and Mrs. William Barlamas and members of their family recognizing their business's success and long-tenure in Ambridge.

VII. Citizen's Participation On/Off Agenda Items (5 minutes per speaker)

1. **Mr. Jerome Gill, 831 Glenwood Avenue**, expressed concerns to Borough Council and Mayor about the hiring of one of the proposed new part-time police officers. He stated that one of the officers has been investigated by the NAACP. Mayor D'Ambrosio stated that both applicants scored very high on the recent eligibility test and have passes background investigations. The Police Chief confirmed the Mayor's remarks.
2. **Mr. Ross McCoy, 1700 Duss Avenue**, expressed his praise to the career Fire Department and their recent actions on extinguishing a structure fire on Henrici Street that was able to be stopped from spreading to adjacent buildings. He also commended the Police Department for their recent efforts to check on a vacant property that is located next to his residence. Mr. McCoy credits the efforts of having a paid firefighter on duty for quickly extinguishing the Henrici Street fire.

3. **Ms. Lorianne Burgess, 570 Merchant Street**, reported that a number of the Merchant Street business owners have created a new business oriented organization. She invited the members of Council and community to their next meeting on May 6 at Moon Beam Jar. Lastly, she requested a meeting with the Borough Manager to explain their organization's mission to the Borough.
4. **Mr. Clint Tidell, unreported address**, thanked all of those involved with improving the public safety in the community. He suggested to Council that the Borough consider placing surveillance cameras in public areas and along the roadways to deter crime. He also stated that he has presented to the Borough Manager a plan to reconstruct the Skate Park that is located behind the Borough Building.

VIII. Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes

March 10, 2015 Council Meeting

Mr. McCoy made the motion to accept the minutes, seconded by Mrs. Miller. A roll call vote was taken:

Council	VOTE	Council	Vote
Mr. Cafarelli	Absent	Mrs. Miller	Y
Mrs. Caldarelli	Absent	Mr. Pucci	Y
Mrs. Drewnowski	Y	Mr. Mikulich	Y
Mr. McCoy	Y	Mayor D'Ambrosio	

Motion Passes

IX. Treasurer's Report

Mrs. Drewnowski reported the figures outlined within the Borough Treasurer's Report:

Treasurer's Report			
April 14, 2015			
General Fund Analysis			
\$739,372.71	General Fund Bank Account Balance as of: -4/14/2015 -4:00 pm		
\$32,216.99	All Outstanding Checks as of: -4/14/2015 -4:00 pm		
\$707,155.72	Available Balance as of: -4/14/2015 -4:00 pm		
General Fund Summary:	<i>Totals are as follows:</i>		
	Deposits:	\$677,921.91	
	Debits:	\$630,474.16	
	<i>-which include the following:</i>		
	<u>74</u> Checks & other Debits	\$190,572.55	
	<u>3</u> Payroll (s)	\$209,901.61	
	<u>1</u> Repayment to Sinking Fund	\$230,000.00	
Other Fund Balances as of 4/14/2015 4:00 pm			
\$64,086.04	Grants/Special Funds		
\$164,379.37	Liquid Fuels Fund		

\$36,395.54	Escrow Disbursement Account
\$33,496.20	Recreation Fund
\$234,407.16	Sinking Fund
\$532,764.31	<i>Total Other Funds Balances (Restricted Use)</i>

X. Borough Bills and Expenses

Motion to Pay the Bills (Unpaid: \$237,230.18 / Paid: \$37,763.00) was made by Mr. McCoy, seconded by Mrs. Miller; a roll call vote was taken:

Council	VOTE	Council	Vote
Mr. Cafarelli	Absent	Mrs. Miller	Y
Mrs. Caldarelli	Absent	Mr. Pucci	Y
Mrs. Drewnowski	Y	Mr. Mikulich	Y
Mr. McCoy	Y	Mayor D'Ambrosio	

Motion Passes

XI. New Business - Items for Discussion:

Motion to direct the Borough Manager to send a letter to the Beaver County Times expressing the Borough Council's disappointment in the Ambridge Area Chamber of Commerce's decision to move the 50th Annual Nationality Day's Festival from Ambridge Borough to a site in Harmony Township. Motion was made by Mr. McCoy, seconded by Mr. Pucci; a roll call vote was taken:

Council	VOTE	Council	Vote
Mr. Cafarelli	Absent	Mrs. Miller	Y
Mrs. Caldarelli	Absent	Mr. Pucci	Y
Mrs. Drewnowski	Y	Mr. Mikulich	Y
Mr. McCoy	Y	Mayor D'Ambrosio	

Motion Passes

Motion to adopt Resolution No. 2015-5, a Resolution of the Borough of Ambridge, County of Beaver appointing a delegate and alternate appointee to the Beaver County Tax Collection Committee. Motion was made by Mr. McCoy, seconded by Mrs. Drewnowski; a roll call vote was taken:

Council	VOTE	Council	Vote
Mr. Cafarelli	Absent	Mrs. Miller	Y
Mrs. Caldarelli	Absent	Mr. Pucci	Y
Mrs. Drewnowski	Y	Mr. Mikulich	Y
Mr. McCoy	Y	Mayor D'Ambrosio	

Motion Passes

Motion to authorize the hiring of Douglas Edgell as a probationary part-time Patrolman was made by Mr. Pucci, seconded by Mr. McCoy; a roll call vote was taken:

Council	VOTE	Council	Vote
Mr. Cafarelli	Absent	Mrs. Miller	Y
Mrs. Caldarelli	Absent	Mr. Pucci	Y
Mrs. Drewnowski	Y	Mr. Mikulich	Y
Mr. McCoy	Y	Mayor D'Ambrosio	

Motion Passes

Motion to authorize the hiring of Shane Gilchrist as a probationary part-time Patrolman was made by Mrs. Drewnowski, seconded by Mrs. Miller; a roll call vote was taken:

Council	VOTE	Council	Vote
Mr. Cafarelli	Absent	Mrs. Miller	Y
Mrs. Caldarelli	Absent	Mr. Pucci	Y
Mrs. Drewnowski	Y	Mr. Mikulich	Y
Mr. McCoy	Y	Mayor D'Ambrosio	

Motion Passes

Motion to accept the resignation of part-time police officer Ryan Lesko, motion was made by Mr. Pucci, seconded by Mr. McCoy; a roll call vote was taken:

Council	VOTE	Council	Vote
Mr. Cafarelli	Absent	Mrs. Miller	Y
Mrs. Caldarelli	Absent	Mr. Pucci	Y
Mrs. Drewnowski	Y	Mr. Mikulich	Y
Mr. McCoy	Y	Mayor D'Ambrosio	

Motion Passes

Motion to amend the Ambridge Business Development Zone for Beaver County Community Development Façade Improvement Program funding from 4th Street to 15th Street along Merchant Street from alley to alley along crossing streets as per the recommendation of the Ambridge Downtown Development Council. Motion was made by Mr. McCoy, seconded by Mrs. Miller; a roll call vote was taken:

Council	VOTE	Council	Vote
Mr. Cafarelli	Absent	Mrs. Miller	Y
Mrs. Caldarelli	Absent	Mr. Pucci	Y
Mrs. Drewnowski	Y	Mr. Mikulich	Y
Mr. McCoy	Y	Mayor D'Ambrosio	

Motion Passes

Motion to authorize the distribution of a Request for Proposals for the Ambridge Downtown Zoning Modifications Project. As per the recommendation of the Ambridge Downtown Development Council. Motion was made by Mrs. Miller, seconded by Mr. Mikulich; a roll call vote was taken:

Council	VOTE	Council	Vote
Mr. Cafarelli	Absent	Mrs. Miller	Y
Mrs. Caldarelli	Absent	Mr. Pucci	Y
Mrs. Drewnowski	Y	Mr. Mikulich	Y
Mr. McCoy	Y	Mayor D'Ambrosio	

Motion Passes

Motion to authorize the President of Council to execute a Donation Agreement by and between the Borough of Ambridge and Wells Fargo Bank for the donation of the land located at 104 Park Road. Motion was made by Mrs. Drewnowski, seconded by Mrs. Miller; a roll call vote was taken:

Council	VOTE	Council	Vote
Mr. Cafarelli	Absent	Mrs. Miller	Y
Mrs. Caldarelli	Absent	Mr. Pucci	Y
Mrs. Drewnowski	Y	Mr. Mikulich	Y
Mr. McCoy	Y	Mayor D'Ambrosio	

Motion Passes

Motion to authorize the street closure of Melrose Avenue between 7th and 8th Streets from September 2, 2015 through September 6, 2015 for the annual Good Samaritan Parish Festival and subsequently authorizing the hanging of their street banners for the festival. Motion was made by Mr. McCoy, seconded by Mrs. Drewnowski; a roll call vote was taken:

Council	VOTE	Council	Vote
Mr. Cafarelli	Absent	Mrs. Miller	Y
Mrs. Caldarelli	Absent	Mr. Pucci	Y
Mrs. Drewnowski	Y	Mr. Mikulich	Y
Mr. McCoy	Y	Mayor D'Ambrosio	

Motion Passes

Consider action to authorize the display of a street banner for Nationality Days at Merchant and 8th Streets and on the public fence at 11th Street and Duss Avenue. With the lack of a motion, this business item died – no action was taken.

Motion to authorize the temporary road closure of Merchant Street from 10th Street to 14th Street, including the use of PJ Caul Park, for a Car Cruise / Street Fair Event sponsored by the Ambridge Rotary Club on Saturday July 11th (with a rain date of July 25th) from 10AM to 4PM. Motion was made by Mr. Pucci, seconded by Mr. McCoy; a roll call vote was taken:

Council	VOTE	Council	Vote
Mr. Cafarelli	Absent	Mrs. Miller	Y
Mrs. Caldarelli	Absent	Mr. Pucci	Y
Mrs. Drewnowski	Y	Mr. Mikulich	Y
Mr. McCoy	Y	Mayor D'Ambrosio	

Motion Passes

Motion to authorize the issuance of an on-street handicap parking space in front of 273 15th Street as approved by the Ambridge Police Department. Motion was made by Mrs. Drewnowski, seconded by Mrs. Miller; a roll call vote was taken:

Council	VOTE	Council	Vote
Mr. Cafarelli	Absent	Mrs. Miller	Y
Mrs. Caldarelli	Absent	Mr. Pucci	Y
Mrs. Drewnowski	Y	Mr. Mikulich	Y
Mr. McCoy	Y	Mayor D'Ambrosio	

Motion Passes

Motion to authorize the disbursement of \$76,593.75 from the General Fund to BNY Mellon for the General Obligation Bonds Series of 2002, motion was made by Mrs. Drewnowski, seconded by Mrs. Miller; a roll call vote was taken:

Council	VOTE	Council	Vote
Mr. Cafarelli	Absent	Mrs. Miller	Y
Mrs. Caldarelli	Absent	Mr. Pucci	Y
Mrs. Drewnowski	Y	Mr. Mikulich	Y
Mr. McCoy	Y	Mayor D'Ambrosio	

Motion Passes

Motion to authorize the advertisement of the 2015 Road and Inlet Repair Program with a bid opening on May 5, 2015, motion was made by Mr. McCoy, seconded by Mrs. Drewnowski; a roll call vote was taken:

Council	VOTE	Council	Vote
Mr. Cafarelli	Absent	Mrs. Miller	Y

Mrs. Caldarelli	Absent	Mr. Pucci	Y
Mrs. Drewnowski	Y	Mr. Mikulich	Y
Mr. McCoy	Y	Mayor D'Ambrosio	

Motion Passes

Motion to authorize the advertisement of Ordinance No. 1270, an Ordinance of the Borough of Ambridge, Beaver County, Pennsylvania repealing Ordinance No. 1239, and authorizing the Ambridge Fire Department to recover costs and / or expenses for its services from property owners through claims submitted only to the individual property owners' insurance policies. Motion was made by Mr. Pucci, seconded by Mr. McCoy; the Borough Manager explained the concept of third-party billing for fire services and the programs available by insurance companies to reimburse municipalities for fire service charges. He explained that the two other paid fire departments in Beaver County also conduct third-party billing for fire services. A roll call vote was taken:

Council	VOTE	Council	Vote
Mr. Cafarelli	Absent	Mrs. Miller	Y
Mrs. Caldarelli	Absent	Mr. Pucci	Y
Mrs. Drewnowski	Y	Mr. Mikulich	Y
Mr. McCoy	Y	Mayor D'Ambrosio	

Motion Passes

Motion to enter into an agreement with PA Fire Recovery Service for billing services relative to fire department services and subsequently authorize the creation of the Ambridge Fire Apparatus Replacement Fund for fire billing proceeds to be deposited into. Motion was made by Mr. Pucci, seconded by Mr. McCoy; a roll call vote was taken:

Council	VOTE	Council	Vote
Mr. Cafarelli	Absent	Mrs. Miller	Y
Mrs. Caldarelli	Absent	Mr. Pucci	Y
Mrs. Drewnowski	Y	Mr. Mikulich	Y
Mr. McCoy	Y	Mayor D'Ambrosio	

Motion Passes

Motion to authorize the Borough Solicitor to prepare an Ordinance that would amend the Police Civil Service Rules as per the recommendation of the Ambridge Civil Service Commission. Rule amendments are relative to the examination requirements and general qualifications for new full-time police officers. Motion was made by Mr. Pucci, seconded by Mr. McCoy; a roll call vote was taken:

Council	VOTE	Council	Vote
Mr. Cafarelli	Absent	Mrs. Miller	Y
Mrs. Caldarelli	Absent	Mr. Pucci	Y
Mrs. Drewnowski	Y	Mr. Mikulich	Y
Mr. McCoy	Y	Mayor D'Ambrosio	

Motion Passes

Motion to authorize the sale of surplus property through the Municibid Auction Program of the surplus Public Works 1999 Ford Pickup Truck and Salt Hopper Spreader. Motion was made by Mrs. Drewnowski, seconded by Mr. Pucci; a roll call vote was taken:

Council	VOTE	Council	Vote
Mr. Cafarelli	Absent	Mrs. Miller	Y
Mrs. Caldarelli	Absent	Mr. Pucci	Y
Mrs. Drewnowski	Y	Mr. Mikulich	Y

Mr. McCoy	Y	Mayor D'Ambrosio
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Motion Passes

Motion to authorize the purchase of a 2015 Ford Police Interceptor Utility Vehicle through Ford Credit Municipal Finance Program that will have three annual payments of \$9,643.24 starting in 2015. Motion was made by Mrs. Miller, seconded by Mr. McCoy; a roll call vote was taken:

Council	VOTE	Council	Vote
Mr. Cafarelli	Absent	Mrs. Miller	Y
Mrs. Caldarelli	Absent	Mr. Pucci	Y
Mrs. Drewnowski	Y	Mr. Mikulich	Y
Mr. McCoy	Y	Mayor D'Ambrosio	

Motion Passes

Motion to authorize the purchase of a Linelazer 3400 Line Painting Machine for the Public Works Department from Seal Master at a price not to exceed \$3,693; motion by Mr. Pucci, seconded by Mr. McCoy, a roll call vote was taken:

Council	VOTE	Council	Vote
Mr. Cafarelli	Absent	Mrs. Miller	Y
Mrs. Caldarelli	Absent	Mr. Pucci	Y
Mrs. Drewnowski	Y	Mr. Mikulich	Y
Mr. McCoy	Y	Mayor D'Ambrosio	

Motion Passes

Motion to authorize Graham's Tree Service to remove and prune public shade trees as recommended by the Public Works Department at a cost not to exceed \$15,000. Motion was made by Mr. McCoy, seconded by Mrs. Drewnowski. Mr. Mikulich suggest that we remove from the bid the removal of trees in Walter Panek Park and trimming of trees on the upper section of 8th Street. He also suggested that we add the removal of the trees at the corner of 8th Street and Kennedy Drive and the trimming of trees on 22nd Street – thus keeping the bid at \$15,000; a roll call vote was taken:

Council	VOTE	Council	Vote
Mr. Cafarelli	Absent	Mrs. Miller	Y
Mrs. Caldarelli	Absent	Mr. Pucci	Y
Mrs. Drewnowski	Y	Mr. Mikulich	Y
Mr. McCoy	Y	Mayor D'Ambrosio	

Motion Passes

Motion to authorize the advertisement for the position of school crossing guard, motion was made by Mrs. Drewnowski, seconded by Mrs. Miller; a roll call vote was taken:

Council	VOTE	Council	Vote
Mr. Cafarelli	Absent	Mrs. Miller	Y
Mrs. Caldarelli	Absent	Mr. Pucci	Y
Mrs. Drewnowski	Y	Mr. Mikulich	Y
Mr. McCoy	Y	Mayor D'Ambrosio	

Motion Passes

Discussion:

- Amendment to the Street Restoration Specifications that would require all opened bituminous street openings to be restored curb to centerline or either curb to curb depending on the location of the street opening. Engineer Lemon explained that this new specification would apply to all asphalt roadways in the Borough, no matter its age, and

would also improve the keyways of new and old paving and the sites where there are multiple openings within a 100 foot vicinity of each other.

Motion by Mr. McCoy, seconded by Mrs. Drewnowski to accept the new street restoration specifications and enter them as official street restoration details of the Borough of Ambridge; a roll call vote was taken:

Council	VOTE	Council	Vote
Mr. Cafarelli	Absent	Mrs. Miller	Y
Mrs. Caldarelli	Absent	Mr. Pucci	Y
Mrs. Drewnowski	Y	Mr. Mikulich	Y
Mr. McCoy	Y	Mayor D'Ambrosio	

Motion Passes

- Creation of a strategically targeted Local Economic Revitalization Tax Assistance Act program to provide real estate tax abatements for development of areas in need of revitalization and to combat blight within the Borough. The Borough Manager explained the concept of a real estate tax abatement program as a tool to fight blight and also support commercial redevelopment within targeted areas of the Borough such as the 400 block of Merchant Street and the New Economy Business Park area.

Motion by Mr. McCoy, seconded by Mrs. Miller to authorize the Solicitor, Manager and Engineer to prepare an Ordinance that would create the Ambridge Local Economic Revitalization Tax Assistance Program; a roll call vote was taken:

Council	VOTE	Council	Vote
Mr. Cafarelli	Absent	Mrs. Miller	Y
Mrs. Caldarelli	Absent	Mr. Pucci	Y
Mrs. Drewnowski	Y	Mr. Mikulich	Y
Mr. McCoy	Y	Mayor D'Ambrosio	

Motion Passes

- 2015 Memorial Day Ceremony – Mr. Mikulich requested the use of PJ Caul Park for the Ambridge American Legion and Veterans of Foreign Wars for the annual Memorial Day Ceremony on Monday, May 25, 2015. Motion to authorize the use of the Park and Public Services for the Memorial Day Ceremony was made by Mrs. Miller, seconded by Mrs. Drewnowski; a roll call vote was taken:

Council	VOTE	Council	Vote
Mr. Cafarelli	Absent	Mrs. Miller	Y
Mrs. Caldarelli	Absent	Mr. Pucci	Y
Mrs. Drewnowski	Y	Mr. Mikulich	Y
Mr. McCoy	Y	Mayor D'Ambrosio	

Motion Passes

XII. Committee Reports

- i) **Administration and Finance:** Mrs. Drewnowski reported that the Committee met on April 9th, those present included herself, Mrs. Caldarelli, Mrs. Miller and the Borough Manager. She stated that they discussed the following:

- PIB Loan Financing – Loan Proceed Arrived
- Fire Service Billing Program – creation of Fire Apparatus Replacement Fund
- Creation of Real Estate Tax Abatement Program to enhance development
- Creation of an electronic recycling program
- Update on creation of a Borough Business Roster
- Review of Budget to Actual Reports

- Review of 2013 Audit recommendations.

ii) **Code Enforcement Committee:** No report.

iii) **Public Safety:** Mr. Pucci reported that the Borough Manager has been working with the Firefighters Union for the purpose of establishing the 2016 Collective Bargaining Agreement / Contract. Mr. Pucci stated that we need to keep our career Fire Department. He stated that having a career firefighter on duty has resulted in many occurrences of life and property saved at a much faster rate. He recalled on a fire that occurred at his residence where his home and family was saved through the quick actions of the Ambridge career firemen. Mr. McCoy commented that he was impressed with the quick actions of the Ambridge Firefighters to contain the recent fire on Henrici Street to one home, even as the houses overlapped each other. Mrs. Drewnowski commented that the costs of operating the career Fire Department is less than the costs of trash collection per year. Fire Chief Drewnowski commented that the fire on Henrici was quickly extinguished by Firefighter Larrick who was able to contain the fire until the arrival of additional manpower.

Mrs. Miller thanked the Police and Fire Departments for their hard work with the Henrici Street fire. She stated that the fire victims are close friends of hers, and that they plan to rebuild their home. Mrs. Miller is coordinating a fundraiser to help the fire victims on May 3, 2015 at the Polish Falcons Club.

iv) **Public Works:** No report.

v) **Parks:** Mrs. Miller reported that the committee met on April 9th; in attendance was herself, Mrs. Drewnowski, Mr. McCoy, and the Borough Manager. She stated that the Committee plans to meet with Mr. Tidell at an upcoming meeting to discuss his plans for the Skate Park. She also expressed a desire to work with the Rotary Club to co-sponsor their July Car Cruise and Street Fair on Merchant Street

Motion to co-sponsor the Rotary Club Car-Cruise and Street Fair on Merchant Street in July, 2015 was made by Mrs. Drewnowski, seconded by Mr. Pucci; a roll call vote was taken:

Council	VOTE	Council	Vote
Mr. Cafarelli	Absent	Mrs. Miller	Y
Mrs. Caldarelli	Absent	Mr. Pucci	Y
Mrs. Drewnowski	Y	Mr. Mikulich	Y
Mr. McCoy	Y	Mayor D'Ambrosio	

Motion Passes

Mrs. Miller also reported that the Public Works Department has cleaned the graffiti from the park's playground equipment and that the Borough Manager is in the process of applying for a grant to replace the play structures at 8th Street Park and Walter Panek Park. The Recreation Committee also praised the two high school students who are working together to build the dog park at Panek Park.

vi) **Engineer's Report:** Engineer Lemmon reported that he has prepared a monthly report for Council. He also reported that he will attempt to have the catchbasin at 5th Street and Park Road reconstructed before the municipal authority repaves Park Road after their sewer project. Mayor D'Ambrosio questioned the long-term closure of Fourth Street by the municipal authority for the sewer projects. He stated that the Authority never received any authorization from Council for such a long-term closure of a Borough Road. The Mayor stated that he was advised that they will reopen the road each night after their continual sewer project work. It was agreed to direct the Manager to send a letter to the Municipal Authority advising them that if they have future long-term closures of Borough roadways that it needs to be presented to Borough Council first.

XIII. Other Unfinished Business

None.

XIV. Official Reports

1. **Motion to accept the Official Reports;** motion was made by Mrs. Miller, seconded by Mrs. Drewnowski; a roll call vote was taken:

Council	VOTE		Council	Vote
Mr. Cafarelli	Absent		Mrs. Miller	Y
Mrs. Caldarelli	Absent		Mr. Pucci	Y
Mrs. Drewnowski	Y		Mr. Mikulich	Y
Mr. McCoy	Y		Mayor D'Ambrosio	

Motion Passes

XV. Adjournment –

Motion to adjourn was made by Mrs. Miller, seconded by Mrs. Drewnowski; motion carried unanimously – meeting was adjourned at 8:30PM

Respectfully submitted:



Joseph Kauer
Borough Manager / Secretary