BOROUGH OF AMBRIDGE
MINUTES
Council Meeting: December 8, 2015
Ambridge Municipal Complex

- **Executive Session – Personnel and Legal Matters**

- **The December 8, 2015 meeting of Ambridge Borough Council was called to order at 7:00PM within the Council Chambers of the Ambridge Municipal Complex.**

- **Roll Call:**
  Present:

  Mr. Cafarelli
  Mrs. Caldarelli
  Mrs. Drewnowski
  Mr. McCoy
  President Mikulich
  Vice President Miller
  Mr. Pucci

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

  Absent: Mayor D'Ambrosio

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

- **Pledge of Allegiance**

- **Presentations**
  - Recognition of Councilman Joseph Pucci: Members of Borough Council presented Councilman Pucci with a plaque thanking him and recognizing his nine years of service on Borough Council.

  - Recognition of Fire Chief David Drewnowski: Members of Borough Council, with members of the Ambridge Fire Department present, presented Chief Drewnowski with a plaque and retired Fire Chief's Badge. Chief Drewnowski is scheduled to retire effective February 3, 2016 after 31 years of service.

- **Citizen's Participation On/Off Agenda Items (5 minutes per speaker)**
  Mr. Mikulich addressed the audience and stated that Council does not wish to discourage anyone from coming to the meetings and expressing their concerns with Borough Council and the Mayor; however, stated that if you may have a specific complaint that can be addressed more efficiently by calling the Borough Office and asking for the Borough Manager, he can aim to rectify the issue or complaint (example: property maintenance complaints, park or public works needs...) a lot faster rather than waiting for the Council Meeting. Please do not hesitate to call the office at 724-266-4070 and the staff is always more than willing to help and address your concerns

  Mrs. Marilyn Sheleheda, Ambridge Fireworks Committee; congratulated Chief Drewnowski on his upcoming retirement. She also stated that the Fireworks Committee is conducting a Cash Bash Fundraiser on January 30th at the Eagles Club. Mrs. Sheleheda stated that tickets are $25 for four numbers and are available from any Committee Member or at the Borough Office and Representative Matzie's office.

Ms. Lorianne Burgess, 570 Merchant Street, expressed concerns about many commercial buildings on Merchant Street that uses their properties for warehousing. She stated that many locations are packed tight and pose a hazard. She also suggested Council consider adding a crosswalk on Merchant Street from the Public Parking Lot in the 700 block to Alexander's Restaurant.

Mrs. Felicia Mycyk, Ambridge Connection, thanked Chief Drewnowski for his service and that he has always been very helpful. She stated that Ambridge Connection is growing and moving forward with a plan to stream live the Borough Council Meetings. Mrs. Mycyk stated that they plan to start streaming the meetings live over YouTube in January 2016.

Mr. Mikulich stated that with this effort by Ambridge Connection, the citizens can see what is going on in the Borough and be more involved in the community.

Mr. Tom Friend, 511 Merchant Street, stated that this has been the most exciting Council Meeting he has attended. He also thanked Council for removing the DUI Signs from Route 65. Lastly, he reported a pothole on Merchant Street in front of the old Borough Building near 10th Street.

- **Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes**
  November 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	Y	Mrs. Miller	Y
Mrs. Caldarelli	Y	Mr. Pucci	Abstain
Mrs. Drewnowski	Abstain	Mr. Mikulich	Y
Mr. McCoy	Y	Mayor D'Ambrosio	
Motion Passes			

- **Treasurer's Report:**
  Mrs. Drewnowski read the monthly Treasurer's Report:

Treasurer's Report
December 8, 2015
Marilyn Sheleheda - Treasurer

General Fund Analysis

$311,700.17	General Fund Bank Account Balance as of:	-(December 8, 2015) -4:00 pm
$4,000.99	All Outstanding Checks as of:	-(December 8, 2015) -4:00 pm
$307,699.18	**Available Balance as of:**	**-(December 8, 2015) -4:00 pm**

General Fund Summary:	***Totals are as follows:***		
	Deposits:		**$343,342.58**
	Debits:		**$650,438.05**
	-which include the following:		
	76 Checks	*$481,540.46*	
	2 Payroll (s)	*$168,897.59*	

Other Fund Balances as of (December 8, 2015) 4:00 pm	
$850.11	Ambridge Fire Apparatus Replacement Fund
$82,563.45	Grants/Special Funds
$4,405.63	Liquid Fuels Fund
$65,321.43	Escrow Disbursement Account
$36,029.94	Recreation Fund
$826,821.56	2015 Road Construction Fund
$0.00	2015 PIB Note Sinking Fund
$334,534.20	Sinking Fund
$1,350,526.32	***Total Other Funds Balances (Restricted Use)***

- **Borough Bills and Expenses**

  Motion to Pay the Bills (Unpaid: $87,253.47 / Paid: $43,917.66) was made by Mrs. Drewnowski, seconded by Mrs. Caldarelli; - a roll call vote was taken:

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

- **New Business - Items for Discussion:**

  1) Motion to adopt the 2016 Borough Budget was made by Mr. McCoy, seconded by Mr. Pucci; Mr. Mikulich thanked Mrs. Drewnowski and the Borough Manager for their efforts in putting together the 2016 Budget. He stated that the proposed budget leaves a contingency of approximately $39,000 and does not call for a tax increase. A roll call vote was taken:

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

  2) Motion to adopt Ordinance No. 1281, an Ordinance of the Borough of Ambridge, County of Beaver, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, providing for the collection of taxes by the locally elected tax collector between the period of January 15, 2016 and April 15, 2016 in accordance with the provisions of Act 169 of 1998 and its amendments. Motion was made by Mrs. Caldarelli, seconded by Mrs. Miller; a roll call vote was taken:

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

  3) Motion to adopt Ordinance No. 1282, an Ordinance of the Borough of Ambridge, County of Beaver, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, levying a tax for the year of 2016 of thirty-four and one-half (34.50) mills on each dollar of assessed valuation of taxable property, setting discounts and penalties on collections. Motion was made by Mr. McCoy, seconded by Mrs. Drewnowski; a roll call vote was taken:

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

  4) Motion to adopt Ordinance No. 1283, an Ordinance of the Borough of Ambridge, County of Beaver, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, amending the Ambridge Borough Code of Ordinances by addition of a new chapter to be known and numbered as Chapter 238 and entitled "Halfway and / or Three-quarter-way Houses", which ordinance regulates the location of and operating standards of said facilities. Motion was made by Mr. Cafarelli, seconded by Mrs. Caldarelli; the Manager

explained that this Ordinance will regulate the placement of future ½ way and ¾ way houses to the C-2 Zoning District and place operational restrictions on the standards for how such facilities will operate within Ambridge. A roll call vote was taken:

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

5) Motion to adopt Resolution No. 2015-12, a Resolution of the Borough of Ambridge, County of Beaver, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, providing for installment payments of the tax levy for the year 2016 on each dollar of the assessed valuation of taxable property. Motion was made by Mr. McCoy, seconded by Mrs. Caldarelli, a roll call vote was taken:

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

6) Motion to adopt Resolution No. 2015-13, a Resolution of the Borough of Ambridge, County of Beaver, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, fixing the salaries and wages to be paid to the Non-Union Personnel for the calendar year 2016. Motion was made by Mrs. Drewnowski, seconded by Mrs. Miller; the Manager explained that this Resolution permits the salaries to be paid to the Code Enforcement Officer, Bookkeeper and Executive Assistant per the adopted 2016 budget. A roll call vote was taken:

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

7) Motion to adopt Resolution No. 2015-14, a Resolution of the Borough of Ambridge, County of Beaver, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, establishing fees for the filing of applications, permits and licenses for the Borough. Motion was made by Mrs. Caldarelli, seconded by Mr. Cafarelli; the Manager explained that this is the annual fee schedule. Notable changes from 2015 include an increase in the quarterly trash collection fee as result of the new contract. A roll call vote was taken:

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

8) Motion to offer conditional employment as a probationary full-time Firefighter / Code Enforcement Officer to David Gorecki, with a start-date effective January 1, 2016. Motion was made by Mr. Cafarelli, seconded by Mr. Pucci; Mr. Mikulich thanked the Ambridge Civil Service Commission for their efforts to complete the necessary testing for this position. He stated that Mr. Gorecki scored first on the recent testing and has been a part-time Ambridge firefighter since

2014. Mr. Mikulich added that Firefighter Gorecki is Firefighter 1 certified and highly educated. A roll call vote was taken:

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

Motion Passes

Chief Drewnowski introduced Firefighter Gorecki to the audience. Firefighter Gorecki thanked Council for their consideration to hire him. He stated that he has been an Ambridge Volunteer Firefighter since 2007, grew up in Ambridge Borough and now lives in Harmony Township.

9) Motion to authorize final payment in the amount of $14,731.70 to D'Andrea Plumbing for the P.I.B. Inlet Repairs Contract. Motion was made by Mrs. Drewnowski, seconded by Mr. Caldarelli; Mr. Cafarelli questioned if all of the work has been completed. He was advised by Mr. Suehr from NIRA Engineers that all work is done, inspected and satisfactory. A roll call vote was taken:

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

Motion Passes

10) Motion to request the Ambridge Civil Commission to complete the necessary testing procedures for the creation of a promotion eligibility list for the rank of Assistant Fire Chief and Fire Chief. Motion was made by Mrs. Caldarelli, seconded by Mr. Cafarelli; a roll call vote was taken:

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

Motion Passes

11) Motion to authorize the collection of Christmas Trees by the Public Works Department from December 28, 2015 through February 1, 2016. Motion was made by Mr. Cafarelli, seconded by Mr. McCoy; a roll call vote was taken:

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

Motion Passes

- **Committee Reports**
  - **Administration and Finance:** Mrs. Drewnowski reported that a handout summarizing the 2016 Budget is available and was provided as a handout for the public at tonight's meeting. She stated that a meeting was held on December 3rd; in attendance was herself, Mrs. Caldarelli and Manager Kauer. At the meeting they discussed the 2016 Budget and the Demolition of 451 Merchant Street Project. Regarding this project, the lowest bid received was $47,000 more than the grant award. Mrs. Drewnowski stated that the Borough Manager is working with the County to makeup the funding shortfall. She also stated that this is her last report as Administration and Finance Committee Chair as

she will be stepping down at year's end. Mr. Cafarelli and Mrs. Caldarelli both stated that Mrs. Drewnowski has done a great job in this position and that it will be sad to see her not continue as Chairperson.

- **Code Enforcement Committee:** Mrs. Caldarelli reported that the Code Enforcement Committee met on December 3, 2015, present included herself, Mrs. Drewnowski, Code Officer Clark, Borough Manager Kauer, and Fire Chief Drewnowski. She reported that Code Enforcement record keeping in the past has been poor and that the office is improving the code records. She stated that the same went for rental inspections; this is the reason why the Code Committee was formed, to correct all of this. Mrs. Caldarelli stated that the records are being updated on the "Code Pal" computer system, and the Code Officer and Fire Department are working diligently to get this done.

  She also reported that a list of commercial properties on Merchant Street that are in need of repair has been compiled. She stated that a friendly letter has been sent to all of them, calling out the issues and giving them until spring to address the repairs. If nothing is done formal notices for these issues will go out in early spring.

  Lastly, Mrs. Caldarelli requested that the Police Department to canvas the Borough each night to search for and identify burnt out street lights. She stated that a lot of complaints have been received regarding burnt out streetlights.

- **Public Safety:** Mr. Pucci stated that this will be his last Public Safety Committee report, a report he has given for the past nine years. In that tenure, he stated that both the Police and Fire Departments have improved greatly and are now what he considered the "best."

  Mr. Mikulich thanked Mr. Pucci for his service and wished him well.

  Chief Mann thanked Mr. Pucci and stated that it was a pleasure working with him. Chief Mann also stated that the Police Department is currently surveying building occupants on police calls as to who their landlords are. The information they receive will then be given to the Code Enforcement Officer.

  Mr. McCoy stated that Mr. Pucci never asks for any credit, and that he has been very instrumental in securing grants for the Borough from the County. He stated that he will miss working with Mr. Pucci and hopes that he will return back to Council in two years.

  Chief Drewnowski also thanked Mr. Pucci, stated that he has always been very helpful and that the Fire Department appreciates his service.

- **Public Works:** Mr. Cafarelli reported on the following items regarding the Public Works Department:

  - Contracted repairs to the catch basins under the 2015 PIB Inlet Project are complete
  - Leaf pickup is ongoing and is scheduled to end December 11th.
  - Trucks are ready for winter operations / salt hoppers have been placed back in the trucks.
  - Hung Christmas Wreaths and Banners on Merchant Street
  - Performed repairs around the Borough Building including fixing the jail cell doors and replacing burnt out light bulbs on the outside of the building.
  - Grass Cutting and maintenance of the parks, public facilities and lots is on-going.
  - Ongoing maintenance has been dedicated to filling pot-holes.
  - Sign maintenance is on-going, replacing missing signs and repairing damaged locations.
  - Active picking up residential yard waste debris that is called into Borough Office for pickup.
  - Foreman responded, marked and reported multiple PA-One Call requests.

- **Parks:** Mrs. Miller stated that this past weekend, with the assistance of volunteers from the Ambridge Regional Chamber of Commerce, family, her husband and friends, she decorated the Gazebo and PJ Caul Park. She stated that she would like authorization to purchase two holiday lasers at a cost not to exceed $300. There was no objection.

  Mrs. Caldarelli commended Mrs. Miller on decorating the Gazebo on her own time and she liked the light idea as well.

- **Engineer's Report:** NIRA Representative Suehr reported that a preconstruction meeting for the 2016 Road Program was conducted and notice to proceed was issued to the Contractor for work to start effective April 4, 2016.

- **Other Unfinished Business**

  Mrs. Drewnowski recognized Officer Dismuke and Sgt. Kleber for making an arrest of the individuals who were breaking into garages in October. She stated her garage was broken into, and with the use of her personal security camera footage, the officers were able to ascertain the needed evidence to make a speedy arrest.

  Mr. Mikulich wished everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. He also stated that the biannual Reorganization Meeting of Borough Council is scheduled for January 4, 2016 at 6:00PM.

- **Official Reports**

  1. **Motion to accept the Official Reports**; motion was made by Mrs. Drewnowski, seconded by Mrs. Caldarelli; motion carried unanimously

- **Adjournment –**

  Motion to adjourn was made by Mrs. Miller, seconded by Mr. Pucci; motion carried unanimously – meeting was adjourned at 8:10 PM

Respectfully submitted:

Joseph Kauer
Borough Manager / Secretary