

BOROUGH OF AMBRIDGE

MINUTES

Council Meeting: July 14, 2015
Ambridge Municipal Complex



- **Executive Session – Personnel Matters**
- **The July 14, 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 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.
- **Invocation** given by Ms. Barb Costa, Trinity School of Ministry
- **Pledge of Allegiance**
- **Presentations**
 1. Recognition of the Mr. Gene Pash for his 25 years of service at the Ambridge Regional Center and congratulating him on his upcoming retirement. President Mikulich presented Mr. Pash with a Proclamation signed by all of Council and Mayor.
 2. Mr. John Orndorff, - presentation of the Ohio River Trail On-Road Connector Plan. Mr. Orndorff, on behalf of the trail council, presented a proposal to Council regarding an on-the-road bike lane / trail that would go through Ambridge along Merchant Street, Duss Avenue and 11th Street that runs from Glenn Osborne Borough to Center Township. The plan prepared by Mackin Engineers included two proposals for Duss Avenue, either a dedicated bike lane or an option that includes share the road arrows with signage that also encompasses painted traffic lanes and on-street parking spots. He questioned Council as to what they would like to see included in the plan or removed from the plan in regards to Ambridge.
- **Citizen's Participation On/Off Agenda Items (5 minutes per speaker)**
 - **Mr. Grant Farmer, Engineer representing the property owner of 502 Wilson Avenue**, stated that the applicant has applied for a curb cut to park all of his vehicles off the street, currently they are parked on the road. He also stated that the applicant would like to cut the curb at a 45 degree angle, not totally remove the curb. Lastly, he stated that if approved, by removing the cars from the street, visibility at this intersection will be improved.
 - **Mrs. Betty Raymer, 1002 11th Street**, stated that in front of her house is a collapsed storm water catch basin. She stated that she accidently drove into the collapsed area, sustaining damage to her vehicle including damaged shocks and tires. She wanted to know when the catch basin is to be repaired. The

Borough Engineer informed her that the site is included in the recently awarded Inlet Repair contract and should be addressed very soon.

- **Mrs. Barb Costa, 1320 Church Street**, questioned the recommendations to remove some of the regulations pertaining to No Turn on Red. She stated that the current conditions cause traffic backups and should be addressed. The Police Chief reported that the recommendation is to keep some locations, however only put the restriction in place, Monday-Friday, 6AM to 6PM.
- **Mr. Ross McCoy, 1700 Duss Avenue**, questioned the process of returning a Fire Insurance Escrow deposit. The Borough Manager explained the process to Mr. McCoy and informed him that the funds being distributed to Mrs. Schneider is the balance of her insurance deposit that was being held by the Borough less any open taxes and municipal service fees.
- **Ms. Lorianne Burgess, 570 Merchant Street**, stated that she personally endorses the Ohio River Bike Trail proposal for Ambridge. She also made complaint about residents from the Maplewood rest home begging patrons along Merchant Street. The President of Council informed Ms. Burgess that the Borough will make contact with the rest home to advise them of the issue in hopes of correcting the matter.
- **Ms. Marlene Verygood, 652 Maplewood Avenue**, questioned if a new full-time police officer will be hired this year. She was advised that the Civil Service Commission is currently testing for full-time police officers.
- **Ms. Felicia Mycik and Mr. Ryan Donnelly, Ambridge Connection**, thanked the community and Council for their support with the recent Rotary Club car cruise that was held on Merchant Street. She stated that 80 cars attended and the event was very successful.
- **Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes**
June 9, 2015 Council Meeting

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

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

- **Treasurer's Report:** Mrs. Drewnowski reported the Treasurer's Report:

General Fund Analysis

\$1,075,760.99	General Fund Bank Account Balance as of: -(7/14/2015) -4:00 pm
\$101,851.74	All Outstanding Checks as of: -(7/14/2015) -4:00 pm
\$973,909.25	Available Balance as of: -(7/14/2015) -4:00 pm

<i>Totals are as follows:</i>	
General Fund Summary:	Deposits & Credits: \$243,415.44
	Debits: \$275,101.11
	-which include the following:
	<u>88 Checks</u> \$148,693.95
	<u>2 Payroll (s)</u> \$126,407.16



Other Fund Balances as of (7/14/2015) 4:00 pm	
\$850.00	Ambridge Fire Apparatus Replacement Fund
\$67,352.08	Grants/Special Funds
\$164,387.56	Liquid Fuels Fund
\$73,628.87	Escrow Disbursement Account
\$33,496.20	Recreation Fund
\$912,752.50	2015 Road Construction Fund
\$0.00	2015 PIB Note Sinking Fund
\$334,414.90	Sinking Fund
\$1,586,882.11	Total Other Funds Balances (Restricted Use)

- Borough Bills and Expenses**

Motion to Pay the Bills (Unpaid: \$123,871.68 / Paid: \$117,681.00) was made by Mrs. Drewnowski, 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			

- New Business - Items for Discussion:**

- Motion to grant the closure of Elm Road between Glenwood Drive and 3rd Street on Saturday, July 18, 2015 for the purposes of a neighborhood block party. Motion was made by Mrs. Miller, seconded by Mr. Cafarelli; motion carried unanimously.
- Motion to authorize the publication of the 2016 Borough Newsletter through Municipal Advertising Consultants. Motion was made by Mrs. Drewnowski, seconded by Mrs. Miller; motion carried unanimously.
- Motion to approve and grant a dedicated on-street handicapped parking space in front of 117 Maplewood Avenue as recommended by the Ambridge Police Department. Motion was made by Mrs. Caldarelli, seconded by Mrs. Miller; motion carried unanimously.
- Motion to approve and grant a dedicated on-street handicapped parking space in front of 822 Kerr Street as recommended by the Ambridge Police Department. Motion was made by Mrs. Miller, seconded by Mrs. Drewnowski; motion carried unanimously.
- Motion to approve the requested long-term road closures for the Borough of Ambridge Municipal Authority's on-going sanitary sewer improvement projects. Motion was made by Mr. McCoy, seconded by Mr. Cafarelli; motion carried unanimously.
- Motion to authorize the advertisement and public display of Ordinance No. 1274, an Ordinance of the Borough of Ambridge, County of Beaver, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania enacting into law

restrictions and penalties for the depositing of substances on the streets of the Borough of Ambridge. Motion was made by Mr. Cafarelli, 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			

- 7) Motion to adopt Resolution No. 2015-10, a Resolution of the Borough of Ambridge, County of Beaver, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania establishing fees for the razing of buildings and other structures in the Borough. 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			

- 8) Motion to authorize the Solicitor to prepare an Ordinance that would place restrictions and provide for No Turn on Red at various signalized intersections within the Borough of Ambridge as recommended by the Ambridge Police Department traffic study. Motion was made by Mr. McCoy, seconded by Mr. Cafarelli; Fire Chief Drewnowski stated that he disagrees with the Police Department's recommendation regarding the proposed changes at 11th Street and Duss Avenue. He requested that the record reflect that the traffic study does not reflect an endorsement of the Fire Chief. Roll call vote was taken:

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

- 9) Motion to authorize the disbursement of \$28,750.28 from the Fire Escrow Fund to Lawrence and Mary Ann Schneider; disbursement reflects fire insurance withholdings, after open taxes and municipal fees, from the damages sustained at 1633 Henrici Street. Motion was made by Mrs. Caldarelli, 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			

- 10) Motion to approve the opening of the Ambridge Skate Park as per the recommendation and risk control site visit of June 5, 2015 by McKee Risk Management, Inc. Motion was made by Mrs. Miller, seconded by Mrs. Drewnowski; Mr. Pucci questioned if the skate park is safe; Mr. Mikulich stated that there has been an independent review and inspection completed by the Borough's Insurance Carrier and they believe the park is safe for public use. Motion carried unanimously.

- 11) Consider action to (approve or deny) the application for a curb cut at 502 Wilson Avenue. *(Borough Engineer has recommended denial of the application due to non-compliance with Borough*

Ordinances.) Engineer Lemmon stated that both curb cuts for consideration need to be posted for ten days in order to ascertain public comment. In regards to 502 Wilson Avenue, he recommended that the application be denied and that they seek relief from the Zoning Hearing Board as their planned curb cut is less than 25 feet from an intersection and 25 feet from their other curb cut. Motion to recommend this application to the Zoning Hearing Board was made by Mrs. Drewnowski, seconded by Mrs. Miller; motion carried unanimously.

- 12) Consider action to (approve or deny) the application for a curb cut at 819 16th Street. (Borough Engineer has recommended approval of the application.) - No action was taken, the property is to be posted and this request will be brought back for the August meeting.
- 13) Motion to authorize the submission of a COPS Hiring Grant application to the United States Department of Justice that would provide funding assistance to hire two new full-time police officers. Motion was made by Mrs. Miller, 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			

- 14) Motion to authorize the execution of a Location Agreement authorizing the filming of TV Show - Friday Night Tykes within Walter Panek Park, motion was made by Mr. Pucci, seconded by Mr. McCoy; 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			

- 15) Motion to authorize the road closure of Beaver Road, between Duss Avenue and 5th Street on Friday, July 31, 2015 as requested by New Hope Community Church for a block party; motion carried unanimously.
- 16) Motion to authorize the execution of a Memorandum of Understanding authorizing the Beaver County Transit Authority to install a new bus shelter next to the Advanced Auto Parts Store at the corner of 11th Street and Merchant Street; motion was made by Mrs. Caldarelli, seconded by Mrs. Miller; motion carried unanimously.

- **Committee Reports**

- **Administration and Finance:** Mrs. Drewnowski reported that the Committee met on July 8, 2015, those present included herself, Mrs. Caldarelli, Mrs. Miller and the Borough Manager. She stated that they discussed the following:
 - Budget to Actual Review
 - Separation of Financial Duties in the Borough Office
 - Budget process will be starting earlier this year, 2016 will be a difficult budget year.

Mrs. Drewnowski made a motion to institute a spending freeze on all purchases over \$50 without securing approval from the Borough Manager, 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	No
Mrs. Drewnowski	Y	Mr. Mikulich	Y
Mr. McCoy	Y	Mayor D'Ambrosio	
Motion Passes			

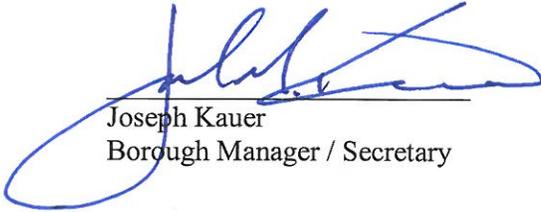
Mrs. Drewnowski stated that now approximately 25% of the assessed valuation of the Borough is tax exempt. She then made a motion requesting the Solicitor to research the probability of enacting a service fee on all tax exempt properties in Ambridge, seconded by Mr. Cafarelli; a roll call vote was taken:

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			

- **Code Enforcement Committee:** Mrs. Caldarelli reported that the new Borough Code Official is doing a good job and has been proactive. She reported that inspections are now underway as part of the Rental Operating License Program and that the Code Official and Borough Manager are currently working on establishing a list of recommended demolitions for County funding assistance.
- **Public Safety:** Mr. Pucci reported on the following items:
 - Police Lieutenant and Borough Manager prepared the 2015 COPS Hiring Grant Application – seeking funding for two new full-time police officers. Support letter endorsing our project has been received from Senator Pat Toomey.
 - Fire Insurance Billing Program received its first payment, \$850 earned from the fire service charge to insurance carrier of the property at 204 Park Road. The new Fire Apparatus Replacement Fund has been established and this first deposit has been deposited into the new bank account.
 - Seven applications have been received for the upcoming Police Civil Service Testing process. The Police Chief is working on setting up a testing site and scheduling the necessary exams.
- **Public Works:** Mr. Cafarelli reported on the following:
 - Public Works Crew continues to reconstruct storm-sewer catch-basins. They have made extensive repairs to the basins located at
 - 1) 14th Street going into the village.
 - 2) Merchant Street and Fourth Street
 - DPW will reconstruct a number of the catch basins that were to be part of the PIB Inlet; helping to make the current contract more affordable.
 - Crew has extensively cleaned up the public parking lot in the 700 block of Merchant Street. Similar repairs and improvements will be made to the remaining two public lots within the next month.
 - The surplus Ford F-150 sold for \$600 on Municibid with proceeds being deposited into the General Fund. The truck was picked up last week and has been dropped from the Borough's Insurance Policy.
 - Street Sweeping is running as scheduled.
 - Grass Cutting and summer 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. New One-Way signs have been posted in Oak Alley; all abutting residences have been notified of the direction change back to what is on the Borough books.
 - Crew trimmed the trees on Merchant Street within the Historic District.
 - Performed Parking Meter Maintenance replacing damaged meters in the Business District.

- Storm Clean Up after bad storms took down multiple public trees the week of July 6th. Thank you to the Fire Department for assisting the Road Crew.
 - Trimmed all of the trees in 8th Street Park, increasing visibility and removing low dead limbs.
 - 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 reported that the Committee met on July 8th, those present included Mr. McCoy, Mrs. Drewnowski, Manager Kauer and herself. She stated that the Committee is working on the preparations for the fall festival that is scheduled for October 3, 2015.
 - **Engineer's Report:** Engineer Lemon reported that a preconstruction meeting has been scheduled for July 27th to start the PIB Inlet Project.
- **Other Unfinished Business** – Mr. McCoy requested that in the next Borough Newsletter, the Borough include an article on how to report burnt-out street lamps to the Borough.
 - **Official Reports**
 1. **Motion to accept the Official Reports;** motion was made by Mrs. Caldarelli, seconded by Mr. Cafarelli; motion carried unanimously.
 - **Adjournment** –
Motion to adjourn was made by Mrs. Miller, seconded by Mr. Cafarelli; motion carried unanimously – meeting was adjourned at 8:40PM

Respectfully submitted:



Joseph Kauer
Borough Manager / Secretary

