

BOROUGH OF AMBRIDGE

MINUTES

Council Meeting: March 10, 2015
Ambridge Municipal Complex



I. Executive Session – Personnel Matters

II. The March 10, 2015 meeting of Ambridge Borough Council was called to order at 7:00PM within the Council Chambers of the Ambridge Municipal Complex.

III. Roll Call:

Present: Mr. Cafarelli
Mrs. Caldarelli
Mrs. Drewnowski
Mr. McCoy
President Mikulich
Vice President Iorfido- Miller
Mr. Pucci

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

Absent: Mayor D'Ambrosio

IV. Invocation given by Rev. Ron McKeon of the Church of the Savior.

V. Pledge of Allegiance

VI. Presentations

1. **Recognition of R&S Printing for over 46 Years of Business in Ambridge** – President Mikulich presented a Proclamation from Council and Mayor to Ms. Sharon Guerrieri and members of her family recognizing their business's success and long-tenure in Ambridge.
2. **Mr. Jack Manning (Town Center Associates) and Mr. Robert Nelson (Ambridge Downtown Development Council)** - presented to Council and the audience a presentation on their efforts to advance right sizing of the Central Business District on Merchant Street and needed zoning changes for the success and vibrancy of the community. After the presentation, Mr. Manning made a recommendation to Council to consider redistricting the façade improvement zone specifically targeting Merchant Street between 4th and 16th Street and to consider hiring a Planning Consultant to amend the zoning ordinance to reflect the right sizing concept and to push forward needed changes to make the best use of the buildings within the business district.

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

1. **Mr. Jim Hamilton, 1134 Maplewood Avenue**, presented information to Council regarding hazardous materials being hauled along the Norfolk Southern Railroad that runs the Borough's western border and he also expressed concerns regarding the frack-drilling of natural gas and the possible harmful side effects that this process may present amongst the community.
2. **Mr. Ross McCoy, 1700 Duss Avenue**, questioned the intent of Agenda Item No. 4, regarding the lease of the Chamber of Commerce Building. President Mikulich advised Mr. McCoy that no action will be taken upon this item at tonight's meeting.

3. **Ms. Rachel Miller, 1011 Beech Street**, presented concerns to Council regarding the parking along Beech Street. She stated that tenants from the Housing Authority property are parking on the “resident” side of the roadway and that additional signage is needed on the “resident” side of the street. The Council urged Ms. Miller to call the Police when tenants from the Housing Authority are not following the parking regulations.
4. **Mrs. Felicia Mycyk, Ambridge Connection**, thanked members of Council, the Mayor, Department heads and staff for their cooperation and support of the Ambridge Connection this past year. She stated that the Ambridge Connection is now 1 year old and has garnered much support by the community.

VIII. Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes

February 10, 2015 Council Meeting

Mrs. Caldarelli made the motion to accept the minutes, seconded by Mrs. Miller. 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			

IX. Treasurer’s Report

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

General Fund Analysis

\$678,967.76	General Fund Bank Account Balance as of: -3/10/2015 -4:00 pm
\$214,288.66	All Outstanding Checks as of: -3/10/2015 -4:00 pm
\$464,679.10	Available Balance as of: -3/10/2015 -4:00 pm

General Fund Summary:	<i>Totals are as follows:</i>	
	Deposits:	\$447,821.04
	Debits:	\$399,885.35
	-which include the following:	
	<u>83 Checks</u>	\$258,343.38
<u>2 Payroll (s)</u>	\$141,541.97	

Other Fund Balances as of 3/10/2015 4:00 pm	
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\$64,085.50	Grants/Special Funds
\$164,376.67	Liquid Fuels Fund

\$36,395.54	Escrow Disbursement Account
\$33,496.20	Recreation Fund
\$4,407.00	Sinking Fund
\$302,760.91	Total Other Funds Balances (Restricted Use)

X. Borough Bills and Expenses

Motion to Pay the Bills (Unpaid: \$277,935.86 / Paid: \$31,132.00) 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			

XI. New Business - Items for Discussion:

1. **Motion to approve the subdivision of the Ombres Estate Plan of Lots**, proposing to subdivide 1121 Merchant Street (parcel 11-04-531) into two separate lots. Motion by Mr. Cafarelli, 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			

2. **Motion to adopt Resolution No. 2015-3**, a Resolution of the Borough of Ambridge, County of Beaver, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania supporting the initiative to "Buy Ambridge First." Motion was made by Mrs. Drewnowski, 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			

3. **Motion to adopt Resolution No. 2015-4**, a Resolution of the Borough of Ambridge, Beaver County, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania fixing the salaries and wages to be paid to the administrative personnel for the calendar year 2015. 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 authorize the Borough Solicitor to prepare an Ordinance that would amend Section 110-18 (Demolition) of the Ambridge Borough Code of Ordinances** to provide additional requirements and specifications as it relates to the demolition of structures within the Borough of Ambridge. Motion was made by Mr. McCoy, 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			

5. **Motion to authorize the Borough Solicitor to prepare an Ordinance that would amend Chapter 310 (Zoning) of the Ambridge Borough Code of Ordinances to provide for sign regulations for the Commercial District as recommended by Town Center Associates. Motion was made by Mrs. Miller, 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 exonerate the Real Estate Tax Collector from the collection of Borough Real Estate Taxes for municipal property on Beaver Road identified as parcel 12-011-0129-000-1. Motion was made by Mr. McCoy, 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			

7. **Motion to authorize the submission of a grant application and five year funding plan to Community Development of Beaver County for the Merchant Street Streetscape Project (Downtown Phase, between 4th and 8th Streets). 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			

8. **Motion to authorize the submission of a grant application to the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection for technical assistance to update our solid waste and recycling contract specifications to be in accordance with Act 101 requirements. Motion was made by Mr. McCoy, 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			

9. **Motion to authorize the Ambridge Borough Police Department to conduct hiring eligibility testing for Part-time Police Officers. 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			

10. Consider action to authorize the temporary street closure and parking restrictions of Park Road, between 8th Street and 4th Street, from May 15 through May 17, 2015 for the annual Chamber of Commerce's Nationality Days Festival.

A motion to table this action was made by Mr. Cafarelli, seconded by Mr. McCoy until the Council can ascertain additional information relative to the comprehensive sanitary sewer project that is scheduled for construction the same time as Nationality Days; 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 appoint the following people to the applicable boards and terms:

- Mr. DeAunta'e Clark, Code Enforcement Officer, to the Board of Historical Review with a term to expire 12/31/2016.
- Mr. Steve Roberts, Real Estate Broker, to the Board of Historical Review with a term to expire 12/31/2018.
- Mr. Matthew Green to the Planning Commission with a term to expire 12/31/2018.
- Mrs. Jessica Whitacre to the Planning Commission with a term to expire 12/31/2018.
- Ms. Rosie Wise to the Shade Tree Commission with a term to expire 12/31/2019.

Motion was made by Mr. McCoy, 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			

12. Motion to appoint Borough Manager Joseph Kauer as the Delegate and Councilman Tony Cafarelli as the Alternate Member to the Beaver County Tax Collection Committee (Regional Earned Income Tax Board). Motion was made by Mrs. Drewnowski, seconded by Mr. Pucci; 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			

XII. Committee Reports

- i) **Administration and Finance:** Mrs. Drewnowski reported that the Committee met on March 5th, those present included herself, Mrs. Caldarelli and the Borough Manager. She stated that they discussed the following:

- Creation of the "Buy Ambridge First" program
- Progress being made by the Workers Compensation Safety Committee
- Graph of 2015 General Fund Expenditures per Department

- Review of the Budget vs. Actual Report
- The Borough Manager's participation with the live-stream interview on Ambridge Connection.

ii) **Code Enforcement Committee:** Mrs. Caldarelli reported that the Borough has submitted a grant request for \$38,000 to raze a dangerous building at 451 Merchant Street. She also stated that the demolition work at the former Rooks Bar on 4th Street has been delayed as the neighboring property has to complete repairs to their basement wall before the site can be backfilled.

Mrs. Caldarelli also reported that the Code Committee met on February 17th, in attendance included Mrs. Drewnowski, Mr. Pucci, the Borough Manager, Code Officer Clark, Fire Chief Drewnowski, Asst. Fire Chief Gottschalk and Chad Whitacre. She reported that at this meeting Mr. Whitacre gave a presentation on www.github.com/ambridge. Mrs. Caldarelli also reported that work is progressing with the Landlord / Tenant Computer Program, and that we are still conversing with Aldi's about the reuse of the Bottom Dollar Grocery Store on 11th Street as a grocery store.

Lastly, she reported on the Code Officer's activity for the past month including 41 Ordinance Violation Notices sent out, 1 citation issued, 3 permits issued and that the Code Officer is currently taking part in a course on fighting blight.

iii) **Public Safety:** Mr. Pucci reported that the new unmarked police cruiser has been received and is out being up-fitted with the necessary emergency equipment. He also reported that the Civil Service Commission is to meet on March 25th to discuss authorizing the testing for the hiring of new full-time police officers.

iv) **Public Works:** Mr. Cafarelli reported the following:

- Public Works Crew has been very busy this past month with Snow and Ice Removal. We have used 950 tons of Rock Salt to treat our roads to date. This cost approximately \$79,800.
- Salt spreader on the 5-ton dump truck broke and is beyond repair. The internal auger snapped. The DPW Foreman is currently shopping around quotes so that Council can consider replacing the spreader and plow on this truck for the 2015-16 winter season.
- DPW crew is currently out filling pot-holes.
- DPW crew on the down time has been repairing spare parking meters so that we can replace all of the damaged / broken meters on Merchant Street this spring.

v) **Parks:** Mrs. Miller reported that she is currently working with Mrs. Drewnowski on planning for this year's fall festival. Her goal is to make this year's event bigger and better. She also stated that the Council needs to make a decision as to our next step on improving the skate park. A gentleman in the audience who raised the initial concerns about the surface's safety stated that he will contact the Borough Manager to discuss what is needed to reopen the skate park.

vi) **Engineer's Report:** In Engineer Lemmon's absence, Engineer Dan Jovanovich reported that he has prepared a monthly report for Council. He stated that preliminary design is complete for the 2015 PIB Loan Road Program. It was discussed that a Vactor Truck will be in town the week of March 23rd to clean catch basins that are to be addressed under this road program.

The Engineer also reported that the Glenwood Dr. storm sewer repair will be addressed once the Asphalt Plants reopen for the season.

Mrs. Drewnowski questioned the engineer about the sidewalk conditions at 284 Wagner Street, the Engineer reported that the Borough's catch basin is in good condition and is not the cause of the sidewalk shifting. He confirmed that it is their belief that the sidewalk issue is the responsibility of the property owner.

XIII. Other Unfinished Business

Mr. McCoy expressed a desire that the road restorations after the Municipal Authority's sewer projects be replaced full-street and not a small saw-cut area. Mr. McCoy also commended the Fire Chief for being active going after grant funds to advance and upgrade the Fire Department's equipment. He stated that he is happy that all of the Borough Departments are cooperating and working together.

Mrs. Drewnowski commended the members of Borough Council for working together. She wanted the residents to know that all of the members have been working as one, attempting to address and fix the many issues facing the community. Mr. McCoy and Mr. Cafarelli commended Mrs. Drewnowski for keeping a close eye on the Borough's finances. She stated that the job of a Councilmember has been made a bit easier with the new Borough Manager.

Mrs. Miller asked that the Police Chief be included with the talks with the Chamber of Commerce regarding Nationality Days. She stated that she is concerned about Public Safety within the St. Mary's Parking Lot as the event is planned to be fenced in. Mrs. Caldarelli stated that the Borough has no responsibility with the event as the festival is being held on private property at St. Mary's and is sponsored by the Chamber of Commerce.

Mr. Mikulich reviewed the handout that was attached to the Agenda packet that shows how supporting small businesses have a large positive impact on the community. He also stated that the graph showing where the tax dollars go annually was attached to the Agenda, aiming to keep the community informed.

XIV. Official Reports

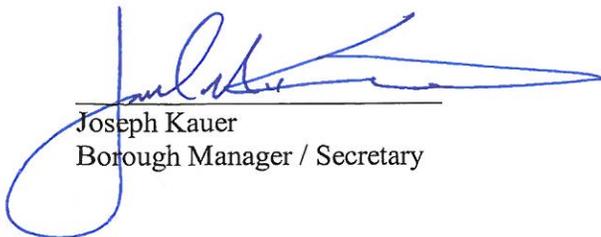
1. **Motion to accept the Official Reports;** motion was made by Mr. McCoy, seconded by Mrs. Miller; a roll call vote was taken:

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