

BOROUGH OF AMBRIDGE

MINUTES

Council Meeting: May 10, 2016

Ambridge Municipal Complex



- **Executive Session – Personnel and Legal Matters**
- **The May 10, 2016 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. Dunn
Mr. McCoy
Mrs. Miller
Mr. Mikulich

Also Present: Borough Manager Kauer, Solicitor Start, Borough Engineer Suehr, Chief Mann, Chief Gottschalk and Code Enforcement Officer Clark.

Absent: Mr. Cafarelli and Mayor D'Ambrosio

- **Invocation** given by Mrs. Barbara Costa of the Trinity School of Ministry.
- **Pledge of Allegiance**
- **Presentations**
 - **Recognition of the Ambridge Police Department – National Police Week / National Peace Officers Memorial Day, May 15, 2016.** Mr. Mikulich stated that in 1962, President John F. Kennedy signed Public Law 87-726 designating May 15 as Peace Officers' Memorial Day, and the week in which May 15 falls as National Police Week. Each year our nation loses between 140-160 law enforcement officers in the line of duty. National Police Week held May 11 – 17 each year in Washington, D.C. honors the service and sacrifice of U.S. law enforcement officers. The Ambridge Police Department consists of 11 full-time officers, 10 part-time officers and one K9. Each officer performs various specialty roles within the Department including MCSAP Truck Inspectors, School Resource Officer, K-9 Handler, and Community Oriented Police Officer. The APD responds to over 1,200 calls for service each month and is under the direction of Mayor Richie D'Ambrosio and Chief James Mann. This week he asked that everyone please take a moment to thank our officers while you see them out on patrol. Their service and sacrifice to the citizens of Ambridge is appreciated and valued.
- **Citizen's Participation On/Off Agenda Items (5 minutes per speaker)**

Mrs. Lorianne Burgess, 570 Merchant Street, stated that the Ambridge Police Department is always 100% professional and thanked them for their service. She stated that parking is becoming a problem on Merchant Street due to the new businesses in that block. She suggested that the Borough install directional signage to the four public parking lots in the downtown area. She also stated that she has seen some suspicious activity at the corner of 6th Street and Melrose Avenue. Chief Mann encouraged her to call the police every time you would see suspicious activity in the community. Mrs. Miller questioned if callers could remain anonymous? Chief Mann stated yes they can.

- **Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes**

April 12, 2016 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	Absent	Mr. McCoy	Y
Mrs. Caldarelli	Y	Mrs. Miller	Y
Mrs. Drewnowski	Y	Mr. Mikulich	Y
Mr. Dunn	Y	Mayor D'Ambrosio	
Motion Carried			

- **Treasurer's Report:**

President Mikulich reviewed the Treasurer's Report with Borough Council:

Treasurer's Report

May 12, 2016

Marilyn Sheleheda - Treasurer

General Fund Analysis

\$980,272.67	General Fund Bank Account Balance as of: -(May 12, 2016) -4:00 pm
\$22,586.53	All Outstanding Checks as of: -(May 12, 2016) -4:00 pm
\$957,686.14	Available Balance as of: -(May 12, 2016) -4:00 pm

General Fund Summary:	<i>Totals are as follows:</i>	
	Deposits:	906,866.29
	Debits:	\$536,527.27
	-which include the fol	
	93 Checks	\$164,477.38
	2 Payroll (s)	\$141,849.89
	Other Debits:	\$230,000.00 (transfer into Sinking) \$200.00 (NSF ck returned)

Other Fund Balances as of (May 12, 2016) 4:00 pm	
\$4,739.59	Ambridge Fire Apparatus Replacement Fund
\$82,519.90	Grants/Special Funds
\$184,691.10	Liquid Fuels Fund
\$46,256.38	Escrow Disbursement Account
\$29,522.91	Recreation Fund
\$687,720.45	2015 Road Construction Fund
\$0.00	2015 PIB Note Sinking Fund
\$334,707.09	Sinking Fund
\$7,515.38	Ambridge Borough Drug Investigation Fund
\$1,377,672.80	Total Other Funds Balances (Restricted Use)

Manager Kauer reported that the Borough has received its credit rating as part of the current on-going bond issuance. He stated that the Borough received an "A" rating from Standards and Poors

- **Borough Bills and Expenses**

Motion to Pay the Bills (Unpaid: \$88,420.38 / Paid: \$72,240.59) was made by Mr. McCoy, seconded by Mr. Dunn; - a roll call vote was taken:

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

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

1. Motion to adopt Resolution No. 2016-5, a Resolution of the Borough of Ambridge adopting and enacting policy identified as the Ambridge Borough Employee Handbook. Motion was made by Mrs. Miller, seconded by Mrs. Drewnowski. Mr. Mikulich stated that all of Council, Mayor, Solicitor, Department heads and Union Stewards have had a chance to review the handbook, receiving input from some members of Council and the Solicitor. A roll call vote was taken:

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

2. Motion to authorize the payment of \$501,202.74 to A. Folino Construction representing Pay Application No. 2 for the 2016 Road Program. Motion was made by Mrs. Drewnowski, seconded by Mr. McCoy; a roll call vote was taken:

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

3. Motion to authorize the disbursement of \$10,121.48 from the applicable Ambridge Employee Pension Plans to CIM Investment Management, Inc. for second quarter 2016 investment services (Police Pension: \$6,326.36, Firemen's Pension: \$2,839.07, Service Pension: \$920.04.) Motion was made by Mr. McCoy, seconded by Mrs. Miller; a roll call vote was taken:

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

4. Motion to approve a dedicated on-street handicapped parking space in front of the residence at 449 Duss Avenue as recommended by the Ambridge Police Department. Motion was made by Mrs. Drewnowski, seconded by Mrs. Caldarelli; motion carried unanimously.
5. Motion to authorize the advertisement and public display of Ordinance No. 1285, an Ordinance of the Borough of Ambridge, County of Beaver, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, amending Chapter 27 (Zoning) of the Borough Code of Ordinances, specifically amending portions of the Zoning Map by rezoning areas along a portion of Merchant Street from Commercial to new base districts (Community Business District, Midtown District and Gateway South District) and establishing provisions therefore; additionally establishing regulations pertaining to signs in all commercial districts; contingent on a favorable determination from the Beaver County Planning Commission. Motion was made by Mr. McCoy, seconded by Mrs. Caldarelli; the Borough Manager explained that this Ordinance has been in

development for over five years by the Downtown Development Committee. It will focus on two objectives, Right-sizing of our Business District on Merchant Street between 4th Street and 12th Street where it creates three new zoning districts that will help support the right type of businesses in the Downtown and the second aspect of this Ordinance is to create regulations for commercial signage. Mr. Mikulich echoed Mr. Kauer's comments and encouraged the Council to move forward. The Manager added that the proposed Ordinance will have to be reviewed by the Beaver County Planning Commission and that they have thirty days to respond back with their comments and input. A roll call vote was taken:

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

- Motion to grant a Certificate of Appropriateness for a sign permit for a new sign proposed on the Merchant Street façade, however denying the Certificate of Appropriateness for the sign permit for the banner sign on the 14th Street façade at 303 14th Street. Motion was made by Mr. McCoy, seconded by Mrs. Caldarelli; Code Officer Clark stated that the HARB agreed that the proposed sign on the Merchant Street side of the building was approved as it fits the character of the Historic District, however the sign proposed and already hung on the 14th Street side is not appropriate for the character of the district and should be modified. The applicant was advised to redesign that sign and present new plans back to the HARB. A roll call vote was taken:

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

- Motion to grant a Certificate of Appropriateness for façade improvements to 1415 Merchant Street based on the recommendation of the Historical Architectural Review Board. Motion was made by Mrs. Caldarelli, seconded by Mrs. Drewnowski; a roll call vote was taken:

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

- Committee Reports**

- Code Enforcement Committee:** Mrs. Caldarelli reported that in regards to the recent code letters sent out to property owners on Merchant Street that had property maintenance code violations, 19 properties have painted or made repairs, 6 are working with the Code Officer to bring the properties into compliance, two are condemned and 9 are receiving certified final notices.

She also reported that the Committee met with a group of citizens and members of the Planning Commission on May 4th to discuss urban agriculture within the Borough. She stated that the Committee needs to consider all residents in the Borough before a recommendation is made.

Mrs. Miller stated that it is nice to see the many buildings on Merchant Street being painted and cleaned up.

Mr. Dunn questioned a parcel in the 200 block of Park Road that has high grass. The Manager explained that the parcel is owned by Beaver County and that communication has been made with the

County Public Works Department to have the grass cut. Mrs. Caldarelli requested the citizens to feel free to report property maintenance complaints to the Borough Office.

- **Public Safety:** Chief Mann reported that the Drug Forfeiture Fund now has approximately \$7,400, and that the Department is waiting on a substantial check from the County. He stated that funds continue to be turned over to the District Attorney’s office and that we are still waiting on the County to audit the safety deposit box that contains older drug forfeitures. The Chief also added that drug arrests continue to be up within the Borough. Mrs. Miller stated that she is proud of the work the Chief and Department is doing to battle drug abuse within our community.

Chief Gottschalk reported that the Fire Department is still waiting to hear back from FEMA if the fire truck grant is awarded or not. He also added that equipment made possible by this year’s State Fire Grant is now coming in and being put into service.

Chief Mann introduced new Part-time Officer Mike Truskowski. Officer Truskowski reported that he is a graduate of Ambridge Area High School and is a current member of the United States Air Force. He stated that he has completed two tours of duty overseas and also serves as a part-time police officer in Baden and Conway.

- **Public Works:** Mr. Mikulich stated that members of Council need to finalize the list of roads that should be completed as part of the 2017 Road Program. He stated that we should have a decision made by July so the Engineer can design and prepare the project’s specifications. Mr. Mikulich also stated that filming of the Netflix TV Show “Mindhunters” is currently underway at the former Borough Building at 10th and Merchant Streets. He stated that the community should be proud that another movie is being filmed in town. It was reported that they are also filming at the Bridgetown Taphouse and Maple Restaurant.
- **Parks:** Mrs. Miller reported that the upper road in Panek Park has been paved. She also made a motion, seconded by Mr. McCoy to donate \$500 from the Recreation Fund to the Ambridge Fireworks Committee for the 2016 Independence Day Fireworks Show; a roll call vote was taken:

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

Mrs. Miller thanked Mrs. Marilyn Sheleheda and the Fireworks Committee for all of their hard work to bring back 4th of July Fireworks to town. Mr. Mikulich also thanked the Ambridge Volunteer Fire Department for also sponsoring the fireworks. He also encouraged the residents to take advantage of the free resident passes to Old Economy Village this year. He stated that all residents are eligible for the free pass and can get it by visiting the Old Economy Visitor’s Center.

- **Engineer’s Report:** The Engineer reported that all of the road work as part of the 2016 Road Program is complete with the exception of Church Street and line painting. He also reported that he is still working on the design work for the storm sewer outfall repairs that are needed under the Ambridge-Aliquippa Bridge.

- **Official Reports**

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

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

- **Other Unfinished Business**

Mrs. Miller questioned how many pets residents could have? Mr. Mikulich replied that the Code of Ordinances allow for two pets per residence. Mrs. Caldarelli stated that she does not believe that residents should have more than two pets within the Borough. Code Officer Clark stated that the Code Committee did discuss amending the Code to possibly allow more pets; however proposing residents would then have to register them annually. It was agreed to discuss this issue further in Committee.

Mrs. Drewnowski questioned Code Officer Clark on what is being done about feral cats within the Borough. Code Officer Clark reported that the Borough lends out traps to requesting residents, and then it is up to the resident to take the caught cat to the human society.

Mr. Mikulich reported that the annual Memorial Day Ceremony will be held on Monday, May 30th at PJ Caul Park. The program is available online on the Borough website.

- **Adjournment –**

Motion to adjourn was made by Mrs. Miller, seconded by Mrs. Drewnowski; motion carried unanimously – meeting was adjourned at 7:46 PM

Respectfully submitted:



Joseph Kauer
Borough Manager / Secretary