

BOROUGH OF AMBRIDGE

MINUTES

Council Meeting: August 9, 2016

Ambridge Municipal Complex



- **Executive Session – Personnel and Legal Matters – Did not meet.**
- **The August 9, 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
 - Mrs. Miller
 - Mayor D'Ambrosio
- **Also Present:** Borough Manager Kauer, Solicitor Start, Borough Engineer Suehr, Chief Mann, Chief Gottschalk
- **Absent:** Mr. McCoy, Mr. Mikulich and Mayor D'Ambrosio
- **Invocation** given by Mrs. Barbara Costa of the Trinity School of Ministry.
- **Pledge of Allegiance**
- **Presentations –** Mark C. Turnley, CPA, presented to Council the 2015 Audit Report and reviewed the 2015 financials. Mrs. Caldarelli questioned if the audit was failed with the County Clerk of Courts office, Mr. Turnley replied yes.
- **Citizen's Participation On/Off Agenda Items (5 minutes per speaker)**
Mrs. Bernice Robinson, 627 Glenwood Avenue, expressed concerns to Council that she feels that she is being harassed and followed. She claims that her house is wired and that her house has been vandalized. She did not state who she thinks is the source of her problems.

Mrs. Ann Ridley, 1137 Maplewood Avenue, thanked the Ambridge Police Department for their efforts with responding to a burglary at her residence. She stated that the APD responded quickly and was able to capture the burglar after a foot chase. She stated the officers were very compassionate and did a great job handling her needs through this matter.

Mr. Phil McCaffrey, 13th Street, thanked Borough Council for conducting a survey on possibly permitting chickens and bees in the Borough. He questioned what the responses were like? Mrs. Caldarelli advised him that we received approximately 50 positive responses with very few negative responses. She did state that she didn't feel the survey was a true representation of the full community of 7,100 residents. She added that with Ambridge being a more urban setting with homes very close, recent national cases of diseases, all of Council would have to vote to consider the request but she wasn't in support of it. Mr. Dunn requested the matter be placed on the next Agenda to see if there is formal interest to amend our Code of Ordinances to permit the chickens and bees.

Ms. Cheryl Leach, 534 Melrose Avenue, stated that she received a notice of Ordinance Violation from the Borough regarding high grass, weeds and a falling gutter at her property at 535 Melrose Avenue. She stated

that her husband is ill and requested Council to give her permission to not perform the repairs needed. She was advised that the Council cannot take any action and that she was given a notice of Ordinance Violation not a citation and that the work is necessary to be completed. She then made complaint about other properties on her street that had high grass. Mr. Kauer advised her that those properties on her block also received similar notices of Ordinance Violation.

Mr. James Eiswick, 154 Maplewood Avenue, expressed a concern to Council that he does not feel safe. He stated that he has seen drug deals in his community. He requested an increased police presence on Maplewood Avenue. Chief Mann questioned him if he has ever called the police when he sees the drug deals. Mr. Eiswick responded no. He was urged and encouraged to report these matters to the police immediately. Chief Mann stated that there is a specialized unit from the State Attorney General's office stationed at the Ambridge Police Station. He stated that their work is starting to pay off with taking many drug dealers off of the streets.

Ms. Lorianne Burgess, 570 Merchant Street, expressed concerns that at the corner of 4th Street and Route 65 there is vegetation on the corner that blocks motorists from seeing northbound traffic on Route 65. Mrs. Miller informed her that the Public Works will look at this corner and will clean it up.

- Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes
July 12, 2016 Council Meeting**

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

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

- Treasurer's Report:**

Vice President Miller reviewed the Treasurer's Report with Borough Council:

Treasurer's Report	
August 9, 2016	
Marilyn Shelebeda - Treasurer	
General Fund Analysis	
\$1,095,302.25	General Fund Bank Account Balance as of: -(August 9, 2016) -4:00 pm
\$111,045.67	All Outstanding Checks as of: -(August 9, 2016) -4:00 pm
\$984,256.58	Available Balance as of: -(August 9, 2016) -4:00 pm
General Fund Summary:	<i>Totals are as follows:</i>
	Deposits: \$427,576.94 (Total Includes transfer from Liquid Fuels Fund)
	Debits: \$311,562.54
	-which include the following:
	<u>72</u> Checks \$179,574.42 <u>2</u> Payroll (\$) \$131,988.12
Other Fund Balances as of (August 9, 2016) 4:00 pm	
\$5,165.83	Ambridge Fire Apparatus Replacement Fund
\$75,003.80	Grants/Special Funds
\$24,834.74	Liquid Fuels Fund
\$47,173.04	Escrow Disbursement Account
\$30,394.27	Recreation Fund
\$195,977.45	2015 Road Construction Fund
\$0.00	2015 PIB Note Sinking Fund
\$335,024.43	Sinking Fund
\$2,790,400.15	Ambridge Capital Project Fund 2016
\$7,522.51	Ambridge Borough Drug Investigation Fund
\$3,511,496.22	Total Other Funds Balances (Restricted Use)

- **Borough Bills and Expenses**

Motion to Pay the Bills (Unpaid: \$85,613.83 / Paid: \$52,534.29) was made by Mr. Dunn, seconded by Mrs. Drewnowski; - a roll call vote was taken:

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

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

1. Motion to adopt Ordinance No. 1285, an Ordinance of the Borough of Ambridge, Beaver County, 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. Motion was made by Mrs. Caldarelli, seconded by Mr. Cafarelli; a roll call vote was taken:

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

2. Motion to authorize the advertisement and public display of Ordinance No. 1288, an Ordinance authorizing the Borough of Ambridge to join with other local government units as a settlor of the Pennsylvania Local Government Investment Trust for the purpose of purchasing shares of the Trust. Motion was made by Mr. Dunn, seconded by Mr. Cafarelli; the Borough Manager explained that the Pennsylvania Local Government Investment Trust is similar to a bank for local governments and authorities. He stated that they offer higher interest rates than traditional banks and that participating in this program will allow us to invest the bond proceeds to the fullest. A roll call vote was taken:

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

3. Motion to authorize the advertisement and public display of Ordinance No. 1289, an Ordinance of the Borough of Ambridge, County of Beaver and Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, amending the Pension Plan applicable to certain firefighters of the Borough. Motion was made by Mr. Dunn, seconded by Mrs. Caldarelli; the Borough Manager explained that this Ordinance was created based on the recommendation of the plan's actuary. It will bring the plan into IRS tax compliance and will put all of the firefighter pension ordinances into one usable document. A roll call vote was taken:

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

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

11. Motion to authorize the disposition and sale of the surplus old phone system and flatbed trailer. Motion was made by Mr. Cafarelli, seconded by Mrs. Drewnowski; a roll call vote was taken:

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

12. Motion to authorize the following disbursements from the applicable pension plans to Feaster Pension Consulting, Inc. for 2016 consulting fees, (Police Pension Plan - \$1,700, Firemen's Pension Plan - \$1,500, Service Employees Pension Plan - \$1,600) Motion was made by Mrs. Drewnowski, seconded by Mr. Cafarelli; a roll call vote was taken:

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

13. Motion to authorize the disbursement of \$10,086.84 to CIM Investment Management, Inc. for third quarter 2016 services (Police Pension - \$6,345.63, Service Employees - \$906.81, and Firemen's Pension - \$2,834.40.) Motion was made by Mrs. Caldarelli, seconded by Mrs. Drewnowski; a roll call vote was taken:

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

14. Motion to authorize the disbursement of \$8,000 to Mockenhaupt Benefits Group from the applicable pension plans: \$4,000 – Service Employees Pension Plan and \$4,000 – Firemen's Pension Plan. Motion was made by Mrs. Drewnowski, seconded by Mrs. Caldarelli; a roll call vote was taken:

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

15. Motion to authorize the temporary road closure of Melrose Avenue between Duss Avenue and 5th Street on Saturday, August 20th for a block party requested by the Allison Park Church; motion was made by Mr. Cafarelli, seconded by Mrs. Caldarelli; motion carried unanimously.

16. Motion to authorize the temporary road closures of Merchant Street, 4th Street, 10th Street and Maplewood Avenue for the filming of the Netflix Series “Mindhunters” on August 22 through August 24, 2016. Motion was made by Mrs. Caldarelli, seconded by Mrs. Drewnowski; motion carried unanimously.

- **Committee Reports**

- **Code Enforcement Committee:** Mrs. Caldarelli reported that a five-year audit on the Borough’s compliance to the Uniform Construction Code was recently completed and we received documentation back that the Borough remains in compliance. She reported that 57 ordinance violation notices were sent out this past month and six permits were issued.

Mrs. Caldarelli also reported that the property at 12th and Merchant Street has remained in compliance with the court order to clean up the site. She reported that the Zoning Hearing Board will meet on September 20th to hear a variance request for a fence. Lastly, she reported that the final draft of the recommended zoning amendment ordinance has been completed.

Mrs. Miller commented that she is pleased with how many businesses have been fixing up their properties. She stated that it is great to see.

- **Public Safety:** Mrs. Drewnowski reported that the Committee met on July 22nd; in attendance was herself, Chief Gottschalk, Manager Kauer, Asst. Chief Larrick, and Firefighter Gorecki. The purpose of this meeting was to discuss the upcoming fire engine purchase.

Mrs. Drewnowski reviewed two scenarios with Council regarding the upcoming fire engine purchase. First, if the applied for FEMA grant is awarded, the grant will purchase a new quint / ladder truck replacing the snorkel truck and consider replacing the current Ariel truck with another ladder truck that has a pump on it. The second scenario is that if we do not receive the grant, replace the snorkel with a slightly used aerial with a pump on it, and purchase a slightly used pumper. The current Engine 2 will remain as a backup – reserve unit. No action will be taken until we hear if the FEMA grant is awarded or not.

- **Public Works:** Mr. Cafarelli reported the following:
 - Street sweeping is underway – biweekly.
 - Borough Electrician finished upgrading the streetlights on Merchant Street within the Historic District to LED lighting.
 - Crew trimmed all of the street trees along Merchant Street within the Historic District
 - DPW reviewed a demo Veermeer Wood Chipper on July 21st and seeks approval to purchase a Veermeer chipper using the DEP Grant.
 - Ongoing maintenance has been dedicated to filling pot-holes and repairs to alleys.
 - Line Painting of crosswalks, stop-bars, parking spots, etc., is underway during the overnight hours starting on Sunday, 8/7/16.
 - Equipment Maintenance:
 - No break-downs this month.
 - Sign maintenance is on-going, replacing missing signs and repairing damaged locations.
 - Grass cutting of public areas, parks, right-of-ways and abandoned properties is on-going.
 - Foreman responded, marked and reported multiple PA-One Call requests.
- **Parks:** Mrs. Miller reported that the Committee met last week, in attendance was herself, Manager Kauer and Councilman Dunn. She stated that the committee is working on sponsoring a Halloween Parade. She thanked Mrs. Felicia Mycyk for proposing the idea and starting the process for the event. She stated that it is planned for October 29, with a parade on Merchant Street starting at 14th Street, ending at 4th Street with a business trick or treat to follow.

Mrs. Miller recognized Attorney John Salopak for donating \$2,000 to the Borough’s Parks and Recreation Fund.

Lastly, it was reported that the Ambridge Regional Chamber of Commerce and the Parks and Recreation Committee have joined forces to have an Ambridge Fall Festival of Churches on September 23 and 24 in PJ Caul Park. She stated that a Tour of Churches will be held on September 23 and on the

24th a festival will be held in PJ Caul Park with Ambridge Churches having food booths and promoting their cultures on stage. The Parks and Recreation Committee will coordinate and offer all of the children's activities. She stated that they are looking for volunteers to help out that day.

- **Engineer's Report:** The Engineer reported that Columbia Gas has finished up their work in the project area on Church Street. He stated that he has reached out to our contractor for them to come back and repave Church Street between 11th and 14th Street. It is hoped to have this work completed before the next meeting. Engineer Suehr also reported that he is currently working on the specifications for the 2017 Road Program and that the Roof Replacement Project will be bid this month in advance of the September meeting as well.

- **Official Reports**

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

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

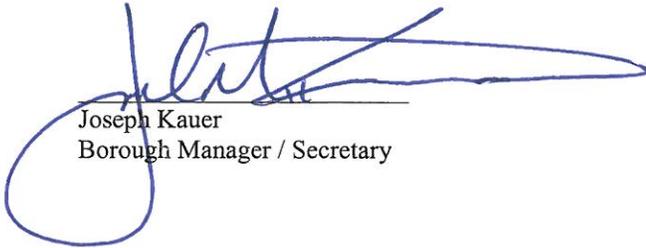
- **Other Unfinished Business**

None.

- **Adjournment –**

Motion to adjourn was made by Mrs. Drewnowski, seconded by Mrs. Caldarelli; motion carried unanimously – meeting was adjourned at 8:15 PM

Respectfully submitted:



Joseph Kauer
Borough Manager / Secretary