

BOROUGH OF AMBRIDGE

MINUTES

Council Meeting: November 7, 2016

Ambridge Borough Building



- **Executive Session – Personnel and Legal Matters**
- **The November 7, 2016 meeting of Ambridge Borough Council was called to order at 7:00PM within Council Chambers of the Ambridge Borough Building, 600 11th Street.**
- **Roll Call:**
Present:
 - Mr. Cafarelli
 - Mrs. Caldarelli
 - Mrs. Drewnowski
 - Mr. Dunn
 - Mr. McCoy
 - Mrs. Miller
 - Mr. Mikulich
 - Mayor D’Ambrosio
- **Also Present:** Borough Manager Kauer, Solicitor Start, Borough Engineer Suehr, Police Lt. Jameson, Chief Gottschalk, Code Officer Clark
- **Absent:** None
- **Invocation** given by Mrs. Barbara Costa of the Trinity School of Ministry.
- **Pledge of Allegiance**
- **Presentations –**
 - **Proclamation Recognizing the Service of Richard “Corky” Michalik.** Mr. Mikulich presented a Proclamation from Mayor and Council to Mrs. Deborah Michalik recognizing the service to the community of the late Richard Michalik.
- **Citizen’s Participation On/Off Agenda Items (5 minutes per speaker)**
 - **Mrs. Trish Digliado, 231 Merchant Street,** questioned the new Doctor’s office that is planned for the 400 Block of Merchant Street. She stated that she has heard that this facility will be a rehab treatment center for those recovering from drug addiction. Mrs. Digliado stated that she has been very active with efforts to help improve Downtown Ambridge and doesn’t believe that the addition of this Doctor’s office is in the best interest of improving our business district as it could potentially be located next to more family oriented businesses. The Borough Manager explained that an application for an Occupancy Permit has been received for a medical clinic at 422 Merchant Street. He stated that as applied for it is a permitted use within the Gateway South Zoning District. Solicitor Start also stated that the proposed use will have to abide by all of the zoning regulations put into effect for medical clinics.
 - **Ms. Joanne Trella, 832 Glenwood Avenue,** made complaint to Borough Council regarding tires that are being stored in a vacant lot on Melrose Avenue. She stated that they should be given notice to have them removed and the lot cleaned up. Ms. Trella also made a request for potholes in front of the post office to be filled.

Ms. Sarah Steadman, Ocean Properties, stated that she owns multiple properties in Ambridge Borough and would not want to see a Methadone Clinic on Merchant Street. The Manager responded that he has no knowledge of a Methadone Clinic opening on Merchant Street.

Mrs. Barb Costa, 1320 Church Street, stated that she is sad to see the resignation of DeAunta'e Clark as Code Enforcement Officer. She stated that she has been an active member of the Borough's Downtown Development Committee for over 12 years and the recent efforts of Mr. Clark to bring code compliance to our Downtown has been successful. She said it was with a heavy heart to see him leave us.

Ms. Connie McCrackin, 612 3rd Street, stated she has partnered with the Lazareth Center and the Woman Ministry Network to help women in need and has recently operated a women's home at 406 Glenwood Drive. She operated the facility as Haven for Hope, a 501 c3 non-profit organization. She has recently partnered with another woman's facility and wanted to transfer ownership to them. After reviewing the proposed use and transfer with the Borough Manager, he and the Zoning Officer denied their request based on the current half-way / three-quarter-way house regulations. She stated that the house has not been occupied by resident women for over one year. Ms. McCrackin sought an appeal of Borough Council to permit the use. Solicitor Start advised her that this is a legal matter and that the Borough Council will not address the matter, she is to appeal and direct her concerns to the Ambridge Zoning Hearing Board.

- **Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes
October 11, 2016 Council Meeting**

Mrs. Miller made the motion to accept the minutes, seconded by Mr. Dunn; a roll call vote was taken:

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

Motion carried.

- **Treasurer's Report:**

Mr. Mikulich reviewed the Treasurer's Report with Borough Council:

**Treasurer's Report
November 7, 2016**

Marilyn Sheleheda - Treasurer

General Fund Analysis	
\$431,362.64	General Fund Bank Account Balance as of: -(November 7, 2016) -4:00 pm
\$42,518.78	All Outstanding Checks as of: -(November 7, 2016) -4:00 pm
\$388,843.86	Available Balance as of: -(November 7, 2016) -4:00 pm

Totals are as follows:	
General Fund Summary:	Deposits: \$243,782.90
	Debits: \$908,992.52
	-which include the following:
	69 Checks \$771,769.05
	2 Payroll (s) \$137,223.47

Other Fund Balances as of (November 7, 2016) 4:00 pm	
\$3,219.41	Ambridge Fire Apparatus Replacement Fund
\$7,972.24	Grants/Special Funds
\$23,768.85	Liquid Fuels Fund
\$46,279.80	Escrow Disbursement Account
\$33,062.36	Recreation Fund
\$686.27	2015 Road Construction Fund
\$0.00	2015 PIB Note Sinking Fund
\$335,360.49	Sinking Fund
\$2,694,015.34	Ambridge Capital Project Fund 2016
\$7,680.60	Ambridge Borough Drug Investigation Fund
\$3,152,045.36	Total Other Funds Balances (Restricted Use)

- **Borough Bills and Expenses**

Motion to Pay the Bills (Unpaid: \$105,457.14 / Paid: \$42,173.53) was made by Mr. Dunn, seconded by Mr. McCoy; - a roll call vote was taken:

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

Motion carried.

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

1. Motion to authorize the advertisement and public display of the 2017 Budget – Plan A or Plan B. Motion was made by Mrs. Caldarelli, seconded by Mrs. Drewnowski to advertise the 2017 Budget Plan B; a roll call vote was taken:

Council	VOTE	Council	Vote
Mr. Cafarelli	Yes	Mr. McCoy	Yes
Mrs. Caldarelli	Yes	Mrs. Miller	Yes
Mrs. Drewnowski	Yes	Mr. Mikulich	Yes
Mr. Dunn	No	Mayor D'Ambrosio	

Motion carried.

2. Motion to authorize the payment of \$4,205.23 to A. Folino Construction, Inc., for Progress Payment Application No. 4 (FINAL) of the 2016 PIB Road Improvement Program. Motion was made by Mrs. Drewnowski, seconded by Mr. Cafarelli; a roll call vote was taken:

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

Motion carried.

3. Motion to authorize the disbursement of \$10,209.01 to CIM Investment Management, Inc. for 4th Quarter 2016 pension investment services, payable from the following pension plans: Police - \$6,422.49, Firemen's - \$2,868.73, Service Employee's - \$917.79. Motion was made by Mrs. Miller, seconded by Mrs. Drewnowski; a roll call vote was taken:

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

Motion carried.

4. Motion to authorize the disbursement of \$4,174 to Alex E. Paris Contracting Company, Inc. for subbase repairs performed on Park Road prior to road resurfacing work completed by the Ambridge Municipal Authority. Motion was made by Mr. Cafarelli, seconded by Mr. McCoy; a roll call vote was taken:

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

Motion carried.

- Motion to accept the resignation of Dennis Lopic from the Ambridge Historic Architectural Review Board. Motion was made by Mr. Cafarelli, seconded by Mrs. Miller; motion carried unanimously.
- Motion to accept the resignation of DeAunta'e Clark, Code Enforcement Officer effective November 10, 2016. Motion was made by Mr. Dunn, seconded by Mr. Cafarelli; motion carried unanimously. Mr. Mikulich thanked Mr. Clark for a job well done and directed the Manager to send a letter to Mr. Clark advising that his resignation has been accepted with regrets.
- Motion to authorize the Ambridge Fire Department to submit a FEMA Assistance to Firefighter's grant that would purchase new Self Contained Breathing Apparatus and station improvements. Motion was made by Mr. McCoy, seconded by Mr. Cafarelli; Chief Gottschalk reported that this grant would purchase 30 new Self Contained Breathing Apparatus. A roll call vote was taken:

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

Motion carried.

- Motion to authorize the advertisement of multiple upcoming advisory and authority board positions that are effective December 31, 2016. Motion was made by Mrs. Drewnowski, seconded by Mrs. Miller; Mr. Mikulich commented that this motion is for all upcoming board vacancies, a roll call vote was taken:

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

Motion carried.

- Motion to authorize Municipal Advertising Consultants to produce the 2017 Borough Newsletter. Motion was made by Mrs. Caldarelli, seconded by Mrs. Miller; Mrs. Drewnowski questioned if this is the same company who prepared the previous year's newsletters? The Borough Manager explained that it was, and that the only applicable cost to the Borough for the newsletter would be the postage and it is planned to be mailed out in early 2017. A roll call vote was taken:

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

Motion carried.

- Motion to authorize the advertisement for the position of part-time Firefighter / Code Enforcement Officer. Motion was made by Mrs. Caldarelli, seconded by Mrs. Drewnowski; a roll call vote was taken:

Council	VOTE	Council	Vote
Mr. Cafarelli	Yes	Mr. McCoy	Yes
Mrs. Caldarelli	Yes	Mrs. Miller	Yes
Mrs. Drewnowski	Yes	Mr. Mikulich	Yes
Mr. Dunn	No	Mayor D'Ambrosio	

Motion carried.

11. Motion to authorize the Solicitor to prepare an Ordinance that would dedicate the intersection of Central Lane at Church Street as a stop intersection on Central Lane as per the recommendation of the Public Safety Committee and a traffic study completed by the Ambridge Police Department. Motion was made by Mr. Cafarelli, seconded by Mrs. Miller; a roll call vote was taken:

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

Motion carried.

12. Motion to hire Alexis Korol as a probationary part-time police officer. Motion was made by Mr. Cafarelli, seconded by Mrs. Miller; a roll call vote was taken:

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

Motion carried.

13. Motion to hire Lucas Sedar as a probationary part-time police officer. Motion was made by Mrs. Miller, seconded by Mr. Cafarelli; a roll call vote was taken:

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

Motion carried.

14. Motion to hire Darren Jones as a probationary part-time police officer. Motion was made by Mrs. Miller, seconded by Mr. Cafarelli; a roll call vote was taken:

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

Motion carried.

Lt. Jameson introduced Officers Korol, Sedar and Jones to the Council and audience. Officer Korol thanked the Council and Mayor for the appointment and stated that she is excited to work in Ambridge. Officer Sedar thanked Council and Mayor as well and stated that he is an eight year veteran of the United States Air Force and is excited to give back to the community. Lastly, Officer Jones stated that he grew up in Ambridge and is excited to work in his hometown.

- **Committee Reports**

- **Code Enforcement Committee:** Mrs. Caldarelli reported that citations will be issued within the month for property owners who did not register their rental properties for the 2016-17 cycle. She also reviewed the contingency plan while the Borough is without a dedicated Code Officer. Code duties are to be split between the Firefighters and the Borough Manager. The Borough Manager explained the new program starting in 2017 that uses part-time firefighters for code enforcement. The Manager stated that in lieu of a dedicated full-time code enforcement officer, the position will be replaced with multiple part-time Firefighter / Code Enforcement Officers. This position will handle all nuisance / property maintenance code complaints as well serve as a second firefighter on duty during the daylight hours. He stated that by going this route the Borough could potentially save \$5,000, have Code Enforcement on the weekends, the fire station will then be staffed seven days a week and we'll have additional firefighter's on-duty during the working hours when the majority of the volunteer firefighters are at work.

Mrs. Drewnowski thanked the out-going Code Officer for his service and stated that he has done a great job at improving the community. She also thanked the Borough Manager for the new plan to restructure the Code Program.

- **Public Safety:** Mrs. Drewnowski reported that the Public Safety Committee met on November 1, 2016, present included: Chief Mann, Chief Gottschalk, Mr. McCoy, Mr. Dunn, Mayor D'Ambrosio, Manager Kauer and herself. She reported that in regards to the Police Department
 - (a) Have 3 applications for part-time officers; tested and interviewed; all from Ambridge.
 - (b) Losing 4 current part-time officers due to taking full time positions
 - (c) Vehicle 305-fixed the transmission for \$1,650.00; has 66,000 miles on it
 - (d) Instead of purchasing a new pick-up truck in 2017, now want a Ford Explorer-\$4,000 less on the lease
 - (e) No incidents during Trick or Treat
 - (f) Halloween parade was a great success-gave out 200 bags filled with candy, coloring books, pencils, etc. thanks to the \$1,000 grant awarded
 - (g) Community Oriented Police Officer Jason Seng will be at the December Council Meeting to update Council and the public on his efforts

Mrs. Drewnowski reported that in regards to the Fire Department:

- The new engine is being outfitted to our specifications; possible delivery date mid-January
- The new Ladder will soon also be started
- The existing Ladder is back in service and certified
- Open House was a big success; gave out almost 349 smoke/carbon monoxide detectors; remaining ones were distributed to residents; none left. A big thanks goes out to Dave Gorecki and Don Larrick, Jr. for all their organization of the event.
- Dave Gorecki and Don Larrick Jr. applied for and received a \$1,200 grant from FM Global Fire Prevention Grant Program. The money will be used to purchase a computer for pre-fire planning.
- Kudos to Dave and Donny, these two are the dynamic duo of finding, applying for, and being awarded grants for the fire department.
- The volunteers are in the process of getting designated as a 501(c)(3) organization

Mr. Dunn commented on the need for a do not enter sign to be placed on 3rd Street from Merchant to Maplewood.

- **Public Works:** Mr. Cafarelli reported on the following:
 - Curbside Leaf Collection is currently underway now, through December 9th (or the first significant snow fall.)
 - Public Works performed Streambank Stabilization work on French Point Creek behind Hazel Avenue. There was a section of creek bank that eroded and was very close to causing damage to a residence.
 - Repaired collapsed section of storm sewer at the corner of Hill Alley and 9th Street.
 - Fixed failing retaining wall at an abandoned property on Hill Alley that was causing a road hazard.
 - Ongoing maintenance has been dedicated to filling pot-holes and repairs to alleys.
 - New leaf collection box has been delivered and put into service.
 - Equipment Maintenance:

- F-650 Dump Truck (5-ton) – is at Imperial Truck & Body, the bed hoist is beyond repair, waiting on an estimate to fix.
- F-350 Salt Hopper is currently being serviced by Meiter’s for the 2016 Winter Season.
- Sign maintenance is on-going, replacing missing signs and repairing damaged locations.
- Cleaned up Merchant Street and assisted in the preparations for the Halloween Parade on October 29th.
- 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 stated that work is progressing with the project to add lighting to H&H Sports Courts. She stated that work should be completed within three weeks and that once the lights are on, they will be on a timer to go out at time of curfew.

Mrs. Miller reported that the Ambridge Regional Chamber of Commerce will be having it’s Christmas on Merchant Street event on Saturday, December 3rd. It will feature a parade and holiday events. She sought the assistance of the Public Works Department to help decorate PJ Caul Park for the holiday season.

- **Engineer’s Report:** Engineer Suehr reported that repairs to the broken storm-water inlet at the corner of Maplewood Avenue and 8th Street started today. He also reported that he gave preliminary plans to the 2017 Road Program to the Borough Manager for review.

Mr. Mikulich questioned recent street openings on Church Street and Kennedy Drive by Columbia Gas. The Manager stated that he talked recently to representatives from Columbia Gas; they pledged to have the restorations completed very soon.

- **Official Reports**

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

Council	VOTE	Council	Vote
Mr. Cafarelli	Yes	Mr. McCoy	Yes
Mrs. Caldarelli	Yes	Mrs. Miller	Yes
Mrs. Drewnowski	Yes	Mr. Mikulich	Yes
Mr. Dunn	Yes	Mayor D’Ambrosio	
Motion carried.			

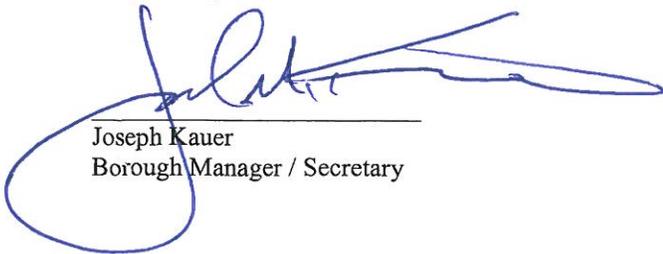
- **Other Unfinished Business**

Mr. Mikulich wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving and that on Friday, November 11th, Veteran’s Day; he invited everyone to the County’s Veteran’s Day Parade that will be held in Beaver. He stated that he is this year’s Master of Ceremonies. He thanked all of the veteran’s for their service. Lastly, Mr. Mikulich urged everyone to vote in tomorrow’s general election.

- **Adjournment –**

Motion to adjourn was made by Mr. McCoy, seconded by Mrs. Drewnowski; motion carried unanimously – meeting was adjourned at 7:55 PM

Respectfully submitted:



Joseph Kauer
Borough Manager / Secretary