

# BOROUGH OF AMBRIDGE MINUTES

Council Meeting: February 9, 2016  
Ambridge Municipal Complex



- **Executive Session – Personnel and Legal Matters**
- **The February 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  
Mr. McCoy  
Mrs. Miller  
Mr. Mikulich

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

Absent: Mayor D’Ambrosio

- **Invocation** given by Ms. Barb Costa, Trinity School of Ministry.
- **Pledge of Allegiance**
- **Presentations**
  - **Mr. John Orndorf, Ohio River Trail Council**, gave an update to the Council and community on the status of the North Shore Connector On-Road Bicycle Route Feasibility Study. He stated that for the plan to move forward it needs to be a joint muliti-municipal effort where all of the communities participate and adopt. He suggested that the communities continue to meet regarding this bike trail plan and adopt the concept of Complete Streets.
- **Citizen’s Participation On/Off Agenda Items (5 minutes per speaker)**
  1. **Mr. Michael Knecht, 1641 Church Street – Site Administrator of Old Economy Village**, stated that he supports the ongoing efforts and activity of the Borough Council regarding historic preservation and the historic district. He stated that 2016 is a significant year for Old Economy Village as it marks 100 years of state control of the facility. He stated that the ongoing efforts will have a positive impact on the district and will improve the area for the bicentennial of Old Economy Village in 8 years. Lastly, he added that the annual Easter Egg Hunt is March 26<sup>th</sup>.
  2. **Ms. Lorianne Burgess, 570 Merchant Street**, expressed a desire to Council for them to embrace the efforts of the Ohio River Trail Council and work with Mr. Ondorf to bring this amenity to Ambridge. She also questioned the design of the Merchant Street streetscape project and wanted to know if the property owners along Merchant Street could have the ability to provide their insight into its design. She was advised that we are currently working on securing the necessary project funding and that a formal design process is forthcoming. She was informed that the property owners will have an opportunity to submit their ideas and feedback.

3. **Mrs. Jessica Whitacre, 716 Park Road**, informed Council that the one-way signage on Park Road between 8<sup>th</sup> Street and 6<sup>th</sup> Street is inadequate as many times per day vehicles are traveling the wrong way. She suggested that additional one-way and do not enter signs be erected to help mitigate this issue. She was advised that the Borough Manager will investigate her concerns and will inform the Public Works Department.

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

Mrs. Drewnowski 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	Abstain
Mrs. Caldarelli	Y	Mrs. Miller	Abstain
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:

<b>Treasurer's Report</b>			
<b>February 9, 2016</b>			
Marilyn Sheleheda - Treasurer			
<b>General Fund Analysis</b>			
\$333,251.08	General Fund Bank Account Balance as of:	-(February 9, 2016)	-4:00 pm
\$1,547.96	All Outstanding Checks as of:	-(February 9, 2016)	-4:00 pm
<b>\$331,703.12</b>	<b>Available Balance as of:</b>	<b>-(February 9, 2016)</b>	<b>-4:00 pm</b>
<b>General Fund Summary:</b>	<b>Totals are as follows:</b>		
	<b>Deposits:</b>		<b>\$214,083.94</b>
	<b>Debits:</b>		<b>\$397,143.22</b>
	<b>-which include the following:</b>		
	<b>92 Checks</b>	\$260,189.97	
	<b>2 Payroll (s)</b>	\$136,953.25	
<b>Other Fund Balances as of (February 9, 2016) 4:00 pm</b>			
\$1,275.32	<b>Ambridge Fire Apparatus Replacement Fund</b>		
\$82,499.61	<b>Grants/Special Funds</b>		
\$4,408.22	<b>Liquid Fuels Fund</b>		
\$46,245.00	<b>Escrow Disbursement Account</b>		
\$33,649.57	<b>Recreation Fund</b>		
\$827,229.61	<b>2015 Road Construction Fund</b>		
\$0.00	<b>2015 PIB Note Sinking Fund</b>		
\$4,647.86	<b>Sinking Fund</b>		
\$5,664.59	<b>Ambridge Borough Drug Investigation Fund</b>		
<b>\$1,005,619.78</b>	<b>Total Other Funds Balances (Restricted Use)</b>		

- **Borough Bills and Expenses**

Motion to Pay the Bills (Unpaid: \$91,352.42 / Paid: \$27,977.58) was made by Mrs. Millier, seconded by Mr. Dunn; - a roll call vote was taken:

Council	VOTE	Council	Vote
Mr. Cafarelli	Y	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 authorize the advertisement and public display of proposed Ordinance No. 1284, an Ordinance of the Borough of Ambridge, County of Beaver, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, amending Chapter 27, Part 7, "H" – Historic District, of the Code of Ordinances of the Borough of Ambridge so as to add a section which provides a penalty for violation of said chapter. Motion was made by Mrs. Miller, seconded by Mrs. Caldarelli. The Borough Manager explained that this Ordinance would provide penalties should a property owner make exterior improvements to a structure located within the Historical District without first securing a Certificate of Appropriateness. A roll call vote was taken:

Council	VOTE	Council	Vote
Mr. Cafarelli	Y	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 grant and approve a Certificate of Appropriateness for the exterior renovations at 273 14<sup>th</sup> Street as recommended by the Historical Architectural Review Board. Motion was made by Mrs. Drewnowski, seconded by Mrs. Miller; a roll call vote was taken:

Council	VOTE	Council	Vote
Mr. Cafarelli	Y	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 execution of an Amendment to Lease and Cooperation Agreement for the Park and Ride Facility between the Borough of Ambridge, Port Authority of Allegheny County and Beaver County Transit Authority for the purposes of replacing and adding a new bus shelter at this location. Motion was made by Mrs. Miller, seconded by Mr. Dunn. Mrs. Caldarelli questioned are they adding an additional shelter or are they replacing the existing structure. She was advised by Mr. Mikulich that they are simply replacing the current structure, and reported that they will clean and maintain the facility as well. A roll call vote was taken:

Council	VOTE	Council	Vote
Mr. Cafarelli	Y	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 appoint Robert Gottschalk as Fire Chief, with Civil Service status, effective 1 April 2016. Motion was made by Mr. Cafarelli, seconded by Mr. Dunn; a roll call vote was taken:

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

5. Motion to appoint Donald Larrick, Jr. as Assistant Fire Chief effective 1 April 2016 in accordance with the Ambridge Civil Service Rules and Regulations. Motion was made by Mr. Cafarelli, seconded by Mr. McCoy; a roll call vote was taken:

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

6. Motion to hire Martin P. Zimmer as a part-time Police Officer / School Resource Officer effective 10 February 2016. 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	Y
Mrs. Caldarelli	Y	Mrs. Miller	Y
Mrs. Drewnowski	Y	Mr. Mikulich	Y
Mr. Dunn	Y	Mayor D'Ambrosio	
Motion Carried			

Chief Mann introduced Officer Zimmer to the Borough Council and audience. Officer Zimmer stated that he is a resident of Leet Township, graduate of Community College of Allegheny County, military veteran and a retired Allegheny County Police Detective. He stated that he previously served as Chief of Police in Crescent Township and recently received his School Resource Officer Certification.

Chief Mann then introduced Officer Cody Wisenor, who was hired at the January Council Meeting. Officer Wisner stated that he is a graduate of Moon Area High School and Robert Morris University, a resident of Crescent Township, and a volunteer Firefighter for Moon Township VFC.

7. Motion to authorize the sale and public auction of now surplus Police Cruiser No. 302 (2009 Ford Crown Victoria) using the online government auction service of [www.municibid.com](http://www.municibid.com) Motion was made by Mr. McCoy, seconded by Mrs. Drewnowski; motion carried unanimously.
8. Motion to authorize the submission of a Community Development Block Grant to the Beaver County Community Development Office seeking \$147,660 for the Merchant Street Demolitions Project. *(Note: Project proposes to raze the condemned structures at 418/420 and 439/441 Merchant Street.)* Motion was made by Mrs. Caldarelli, seconded by Mr. Dunn; a roll call vote was taken:

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

9. Motion to authorize the submission of a Keystone Historic Preservation Grant to the Pennsylvania Historic Museum Commission (PHMC) seeking \$12,500 for the development of a Practical Historic

Preservation Plan as recommended to the Borough within its most recent PHMC – Pennsylvania Certified Local Government Program Evaluation Report. Motion was made by Mr. McCoy, seconded by Mrs. Miller; a roll call vote was taken:

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

10. Motion to authorize Graham’s Tree Service to perform tree trimming and removal services throughout the Borough at the sites identified on their 28 January 2016 proposal at a cost not to exceed \$15,000. Motion was made by Mrs. Drewnowski, seconded by Mrs. Miller; a roll call vote was taken:

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

11. Motion to authorize the following payments from the applicable pension plans:
- CIM Investment Management, Inc. for 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter Services: Firemen’s Pension - \$2,861.52, Service Employees’ Pension - \$932.04, Police Pension - \$6,426.15.
  - Mockenhaupt Benefits Group for Act 205 Reporting and Actuarial Valuation Reports: Firemen’s Pension - \$4,216.25, Service Employees’ Plan - \$4,718.75.

Motion was made by Mrs. Drewnowski, seconded by Mr. McCoy; a roll call vote was taken:

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

12. Motion to authorize Saints Peter and Paul Ukrainian Catholic Church to hang a banner on the 11<sup>th</sup> Street Hang-Zone Fence for their upcoming Easter Bake Sale Event; motion was made by Mr. McCoy, seconded by Mrs. Caldarelli; motion carried unanimously.

• **Committee Reports**

- **Code Enforcement Committee:** Mrs. Caldarelli reported that a Code Committee Meeting was held on February 3<sup>rd</sup>; in attendance was herself, Mrs. Miller, Mr. Dunn, Manager Kauer, Asst. Chief Gottschalk, Firefighter Larrick and Code Officer Clark. She stated that the committee discussed securing the necessary clearances to add abandoned and condemned residential properties to the County demolition program. It was also reported that any commercial demolition on Merchant Street will require a grant request seeking Community Development Block Grant funds.

Mrs. Caldarelli also reported that a new fee has been established for Commercial Change of Occupancy Permits, an effort that cuts the current fee in half and will help attract new businesses to Ambridge. She also reported that Rental License Permits and Stickers are now being issued and inspections continue to be on-going. Lastly, it was reported in regards to the Merchant Street code sweep program, formal code notices to make the necessary repairs are to be sent to property owners in late March.

- **Public Safety:** Mrs. Drewnowski reported that a Public Safety meeting was held on February 3<sup>rd</sup>. Those present included: Joe Kauer; Bob Dunn; Mayor D'Ambrosio; Chief Mann; Lt. Brian Jameson; Robert Gottschalk; Donald Larrick Jr; and herself.

She stated that the Committee discussed Kennedy Drive and whether to split the one-way direction of Kennedy at 10th Street as brought up by Mr. Mikulich last month.

Police Department perspective:

Chief Mann is not in favor of this for the following reasons:

Traffic lights and flow of traffic from the bridge; there will be more traffic on Merchant Street; more traffic on 10th Street; it's a safety issue and will create more accidents. Lt. Brian Jameson expressed the same concerns as Chief Mann. He suggested that it be posted for local traffic only or possibly install speed bumps to slow down traffic. Mayor D'Ambrosio also said that he is not in favor of this for the same reasons and there will be major traffic congestion on 11th, on 10th and possibly 9th Streets.

Fire Department perspective:

Robert Gottschalk said the fire department visited Kennedy Drive. Between 10th to 11th Street on the odd numbered side there are 11 houses, 9 of them have garages with off street parking; on the even numbered side, there are 12 houses, with 11 of them having garages. He said if a fire engine has to go down 10th Street to respond and cars are parked on 10th, they won't be able to do it. There will be response issues; they can't go down Kennedy the wrong way because cars would be coming at them. With the additional traffic on Merchant St. and the buses, people will cut down 10th to get to Kennedy to get to Ohio River Blvd. If the Fire Department can't get down 10th and has to go to 9th St they would have to make a right turn (the wrong way in that block). There will be traffic backed up, with buses on Merchant Street stopped and not pulled over all the way; the Fire Dept. will not be able to get through. Donnie Larrick said that right now with people using Kennedy Drive to avoid Merchant St at peak times, traffic at 11th & Merchant is really bad now and will just get worse. If an accident should occur, they would have to force cars down Kennedy the wrong way and traffic will be backed up on the bridge. Donnie reminded everyone that the fire department drives the biggest equipment between police, fire, and the street department when in response to an emergency.

Councilman Dunn stated that he parked on Kennedy Drive and observed traffic. He said the most traffic is in the morning. Councilman McCoy suggested the idea of making no right turn from Kennedy Drive onto 8th Street as an alternative.

Possible scenarios that were brought up at the meeting that could occur as a result of changing the direction:

1. Firetrucks may not be able to get down 10th Street.
2. If this is done and there is an ambulance call between 10th and 11th, the ambulance will have to also go down 10th to turn onto Kennedy; if necessary to go to Sewickley Hospital, the ambulance would have to travel 11th Street to Merchant, to 8th Street to Route 65, taking more time.
3. If this is done, and no left turn onto the bridge was enacted, people who live on Kennedy who want to go across the bridge would have to turn right onto 11th Street, turn around, and then cross the bridge. Cars will ignore the no left turn from Kennedy.
4. If traffic is backed up from the bridge to Merchant St., with the no turn on red, people will start to take shortcuts through lower alley to get to 8th Street---New Alliance Credit Union customers have to come out that alley.
5. More traffic on Merchant Street means people parked on Merchant could have their mirrors knocked off.
6. There would be more traffic down 10th Street, which is two way, and with cars parked will create a hazard for emergency vehicles.
7. People who come across the bridge to go to the funeral home will have to go to Merchant, down 10th, make a left onto Kennedy.
8. Mirrors could still be knocked off in the blocks from 10th to 8th Street.

Survey results from residents and businesses on Kennedy Drive: 19 were in favor for personal reasons; 8 were against with valid reasons. A number of surveys were not returned. Maplewood Avenue residents were not polled. After listening to all the concerns at this meeting, a poll was taken as to who is in favor of reversing the direction:

Mr. McCoy-NO  
 Mr. Dunn-NO  
 Mayor D'Ambrosio-NO  
 Chief Mann-NO  
 Lt. Jameson-NO  
 Firefighter Robert Gottschalk-NO  
 Firefighter Donald Larrick-NO  
 Myself-NO

Therefore, the Public Safety Committee will not recommend changing the direction on Kennedy Drive between 10th and 11th Streets.

It was also discussed that Police Cruiser 302 has been taken out of service due the transmission. It is our oldest car with 90,000 miles on it. It would have cost \$2500 to rebuild it. The vehicle will be put up for auction as we discussed tonight. Need for new SRO at the high school due to Officer Smith leaving. The new officer will work during the scheduled school year only.

She also reported that Police Tasers are in horrific shape; past the life expectancy and this model is not made anymore. The new X-2 model costs \$1,066 and the X-26P costs \$900. No money was budgeted for their replacement this year. The police department has offered to pay for new Tasers themselves through a payroll deduction program. The Borough will pay for them upfront and be reimbursed by each officer prior to the end of this year. Mayor D'Ambrosio suggested we check with Congressman Rothfus' office to see if they can help offset the costs. She thanked the Chief and officers for offering to do this. The police department has gotten approximately 30 new chairs free of charge from the FBI. Thanks to Chief Mann and all who assisted with getting them. The Crime Watch Program is in the process of being redesigned.

It was also reported that Officer Jason Seng has been designated as the Community Police Officer; the details are still being worked out and more information is forthcoming, and that two more police officers are going to Weighmaster School.

In regards of the Fire Department, it was reported that the grant submitted by the fire department to FEMA for a new truck was received and is now up for Peer Review by FEMA. Three hundred million dollars has been allocated for grants by FEMA. The paid and volunteer fire departments applied for STATE grants and were just awarded: PAID: \$12,194 / VOL: \$12,600. This money will go toward new equipment.

Mrs. Drewnowski made a motion to authorize the Borough Manager to advertise for a part-time firefighter to replace Dave Gorecki since he has been hired as a full-time paid firefighter. At this time we have no part-time firefighters. Money is budgeted for this year for a part time firefighter. Motion was seconded by Mrs. Caldarelli; a roll call vote was taken:

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

- **Public Works:** Mr. Cafarelli reported on the following items regarding the Public Works Department:
  - Collection of Christmas Trees was through February 1st – a lot of trees have been collected throughout the community and sent to the County Compost Facility so that they could be recycled.
  - Crew has been busy with multiple snow call-outs, clearing the roadways and public sidewalks.
  - Prepared the site in Panek Park for the installation of the new swing set that was installed on January 29th.

- Borough Electrician fixed two damaged traffic signals this past month (8th and Duss and Merchant and Duss) both struck by tractor trailers. Both incidents have been turned into their insurance carriers for reimbursement to the Borough for the repairs.
  - Equipment Repairs this past month:
    - o Bucket Truck – getting body work completed at Holz Auto.
    - o Street Sweeper – brake line repair
    - o F-650 and F-550 Dump Trucks – state inspections
  - Ongoing maintenance has been dedicated to filling pot-holes.
  - Crew assisted the PD with removing the decals and radios out of the surplus police car that is to be sold. They also assisted the PD get new office furniture on Friday, February 5th that was donated to them by the FBI in Pittsburgh.
  - Secured a vacant building at 206 Park Road per request of the Code Enforcement Officer.
  - Sign maintenance is on-going, replacing missing signs and repairing damaged locations.
  - Foreman responded, marked and reported multiple PA-One Call requests.
- **Parks:** Mrs. Miller reported that the new expression swing set has been installed and the Public Works have mulched the area within Panek Park. She stated that the Committee also agreed to purchase a new rope climber and replace the old monkey bars also in Panek Park. It was also reported that we are still waiting to hear if the grant to replace the playground equipment at 8<sup>th</sup> Street will be awarded or not. It has been delayed as result of the state budget issue. Mrs. Caldarelli also commended Mrs. Miller for her efforts to raise the funds that purchased the new swing set.
  - **Engineer’s Report:** Engineer Suehr reported that he has submitted his monthly report to Council and made himself available to ask any questions.

- **Official Reports**

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

Council	VOTE	Council	Vote
Mr. Cafarelli	Y	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**  
None.

- **Adjournment –**  
Motion to adjourn was made by Mrs. Miller, seconded by Mr. Cafarelli; motion carried unanimously – meeting was adjourned at 8:05 PM

Respectfully submitted:



Joseph Kauer  
Borough Manager / Secretary