

# BOROUGH OF AMBRIDGE

## MINUTES

Council Meeting: July 12, 2016

Ambridge Municipal Complex



- **Executive Session – Personnel and Legal Matters**
- **The July 12, 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. Mikulich  
Mayor D'Ambrosio

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

Absent: Mr. McCoy and Mrs. Miller

- **Invocation** given by Mrs. Barbara Costa of the Trinity School of Ministry.
- **Pledge of Allegiance**
- **Presentations – None.**
- **Citizen's Participation On/Off Agenda Items (5 minutes per speaker)**  
**Mrs. Karen Garvey, 598 Wilson Avenue**, expressed her gratitude to the Mayor and Chief of Police for the Police Department's compassion and diligence in investigating the recent dog bite on 14<sup>th</sup> Street that involved her daughter. She remarked that she was grateful for their efforts to quickly resolve this matter and take this dangerous dog off the streets.

**Mr. Tom Friend, 511 Merchant Street**, thanked the Borough Council for the recent code enforcement efforts on Merchant Street that got many of the buildings cleaned up. He stated that the Borough should consider dedicating a bike lane on the sidewalks on Merchant Street as there is a problem with people riding their bicycles on the sidewalks. He presented a written plan to Council for their review and consideration.

- **Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes**

**June 14, 2016 Council Meeting**

Mrs. Caldarelli made the motion to accept the minutes, 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	Absent
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>July 12, 2016</b>
Marilyn Sheleheda - Treasurer
<b>General Fund Analysis</b>

\$979,287.85	General Fund Bank Account Balance as of: -(July 12, 2016) -4:00 pm	
\$7,012.51	All Outstanding Checks as of: -(July 12, 2016) -4:00 pm	
<b>\$972,275.34</b>	<b>Available Balance as of: -(July 12, 2016) -4:00 pm</b>	

<b>General Fund Summary:</b>	<i>Totals are as follows:</i>	
	Deposits:	\$230,348.00
	Debits:	\$303,596.23
	-which include the following:	
	75 Checks	\$172,892.20
2 Payroll (s)	\$130,704.03	

Other Fund Balances as of (July 12, 2016) 4:00 pm	
\$5,165.39	Ambridge Fire Apparatus Replacement Fund
\$74,997.45	Grants/Special Funds
\$184,805.57	Liquid Fuels Fund
\$46,264.09	Escrow Disbursement Account
\$29,027.84	Recreation Fund
\$195,913.16	2015 Road Construction Fund
\$0.00	2015 PIB Note Sinking Fund
\$334,914.53	Sinking Fund
\$7,520.04	Ambridge Borough Drug Investigation Fund
<b>\$878,608.07</b>	<b>Total Other Funds Balances (Restricted Use)</b>

- Borough Bills and Expenses**

Motion to Pay the Bills (Unpaid: \$140,064.58 / Paid: \$45,561.65) was made by Mr. Cafarelli, 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	Absent
Mrs. Drewnowski	Y	Mr. Mikulich	Y
Mr. Dunn	Y	Mayor D'Ambrosio	
Motion Carried			

- New Business - Items for Discussion:**

1. Motion to adopt Ordinance No. 1286, an Ordinance of the Borough of Ambridge relative to the establishment and maintenance of Police Employees' Pension, Annuity, Insurance and Benefit Fund or Funds, to amend certain provisions of the Pension Plan or Program applicable to the Police Employees. Motion was made by Mrs. Drewnowski, seconded by Mr. Dunn; the Borough Manager explained that this Ordinance was recommended by the Pension Actuary and will include all of the Police Pension amendments made over the past decade into one document and also bring the plan into IRS tax code compliance. A roll call vote was taken:

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

2. Motion to adopt Resolution No. 2016-7, a Resolution of the Borough of Ambridge entering into an agreement for Traffic Signal Improvements at the intersection of 8<sup>th</sup> Street and Duss Avenue with the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation. Motion was made by Mrs. Drewnowski, seconded by Mrs. Caldarelli; the Borough Manager explained that this Resolution authorizes the Manager and President of Council to execute a grant contract between the Borough and PENNDOT accepting a grant that will improve the traffic signal at 8<sup>th</sup> Street and Duss Avenue. A roll call vote was taken:

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

3. Motion to hire Mr. Dan Caul as a part-time firefighter / code enforcement officer. 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	Absent
Mrs. Drewnowski	NO	Mr. Mikulich	Y
Mr. Dunn	Y	Mayor D'Ambrosio	
Motion Carried			

4. Motion to authorize Ambridge Regional Chamber of Commerce's request to close Merchant Street and have No Parking Restrictions between 4<sup>th</sup> Street and 14<sup>th</sup> Street for a Festival of Churches Parade on Saturday, September 24<sup>th</sup> from 10AM and 11:30AM and on Saturday, December 3, 2016 between 10AM and 11:30AM for their Christmas on Merchant Street Parade; furthermore authorizing the use of PJ Caul Park for the following events:
- i. Festival of Churches, Friday 9/23/16 – 6:30PM to 10PM and Saturday, 9/24/16 – 10AM to 8PM.
  - ii. Autumn Ale Walk & Art in the Park – Saturday, 10/1/16, 12PM to 6PM
  - iii. Christmas on Merchant Street – Saturday, 12/3/2016, 12PM to 6PM

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	Absent
Mrs. Drewnowski	Y	Mr. Mikulich	Y
Mr. Dunn	Y	Mayor D'Ambrosio	
Motion Carried			

5. Motion to accept the PA DEP grant that would purchase a wood chipper, leaf collection box and 50% of a new dump truck and furthermore authorizing entering into an agreement with the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection for this project. Motion was made by Mr. Cafarelli, seconded by Mr. Dunn; the Borough Manager explained that this grant is worth \$77,400 and will pay 90% of the costs of a new wood chipper, leaf collection box and 50% of a new dump truck. A roll call vote was taken:

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

6. Motion to authorize the purchase of a JCB 3CX14 Backhoe Loader at the PA Contract price of \$85,310.73. (Note: purchase is made from the 2016 Bond Proceeds.) 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	Absent
Mrs. Drewnowski	Y	Mr. Mikulich	Y
Mr. Dunn	Y	Mayor D'Ambrosio	
Motion Carried			

7. Motion to authorize the Borough Engineer to prepare plans and project specifications for the 2017 Road Program as recommended by the Public Works Committee. (Note: project is to be made possible as part of the 2016 Bond Proceeds.) Motion was made by Mr. Cafarelli, seconded by Mrs. Caldarelli; Mr. Mikulich explained that this project will include approximately \$1,000,000 worth of paving in 2017. Mr. Mikulich questioned Mrs. Drewnowski to see if Dell Alley was included in the recommendation. She advised the upper portion from Lenz to Beaver was. The lower section will be considered should the project bids come in lower as storm sewer work will be needed in the lower area of Dell. She added that the Borough has a responsibility to the taxpayers to pave the alleys as they serve as many residents principal access to their homes. A roll call vote was taken:

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

8. Motion to authorize the Borough Engineer to prepare plans and project specifications for the Borough Building Roof Replacement Project. (Note: project is to be made possible as part of the 2016 Bond Proceeds.) Motion was made by Mr. Cafarelli, seconded by Mrs. Drewnowski; Mr. Cafarelli questioned the Borough Engineer as to when the project is anticipated to be completed. He was advised that it is planned to have this project completed before Winter 2016-17. A roll call vote was taken:

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

9. Motion to authorize the fund transfer of \$160,000 from the Ambridge Borough Liquid Fuels Fund to the General Fund. (Note: fund transfer provides funding to operate and maintain the Borough's street lights and traffic signals.) 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	Absent
Mrs. Drewnowski	Y	Mr. Mikulich	Y
Mr. Dunn	Y	Mayor D'Ambrosio	
Motion Carried			

10. Motion to authorize General Code Co. to perform update codification services to the Borough's Code of Ordinances that will update the code with recent legislation including Ordinance 1255 (Year 2013)

through 1284 (Year 2016) at a cost not to exceed \$4,390. 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	Absent
Mrs. Drewnowski	Y	Mr. Mikulich	Y
Mr. Dunn	Y	Mayor D'Ambrosio	
Motion Carried			

11. Motion to exonerate the Tax Collector and Tax Claim Bureau of outstanding real estate taxes on Borough owned parcels 12-003-0413-001-01-1, 09-005-0117-000-01-1, 12-003-0413-000-01-1, and 12-011-0129.000. Motion was made by Mrs. Drewnowski, seconded by Mrs. Caldarelli; the Manager explained that these three pieces of property are owned by the Borough and application has been sought through County Assessments to have them declared tax exempt. This action will exonerate the tax collectors from the collection of the balances outstanding before the tax exemption goes into effect. A roll call vote was taken:

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

12. Motion to authorize the temporary road closure of Elm Road, between Glenwood Drive and 3<sup>rd</sup> Street for a neighborhood block party on Saturday, July 16, 2016. Motion was made by Mr. Dunn, seconded by Mrs. Drewnowski; motion carried unanimously.
13. Motion to authorize the temporary road closure of Beaver Road, between 6<sup>th</sup> Street and Duss Avenue / 5<sup>th</sup> Street for a neighborhood block party on Friday, July 29, 2016. Motion was made by Mrs. Caldarelli, seconded by Mr. Dunn; motion carried unanimously.
14. Motion to authorize the advertisement seeking applicants for the vacant Ambridge Water Authority Board position that has a term that will expire December 31, 2016. 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	Absent
Mrs. Drewnowski	Y	Mr. Mikulich	Y
Mr. Dunn	Y	Mayor D'Ambrosio	
Motion Carried			

- **Committee Reports**

- **Code Enforcement Committee:** Mrs. Caldarelli reported that the Code Officer has been active with sending out many ordinance violation notices this past month, and reported that he attended safety training with the office staff. She also reported that final Rental Registration letters went out this past week.

Mrs. Drewnowski questioned the Code Officer as to the status of 717 22<sup>nd</sup> Street. She stated that the property owner did clean up the property earlier this year and now it is getting bad again. The Code Officer stated that he will review the property tomorrow and send out notice again if need be.

Mr. Mikulich stated that the appearance of the community is getting better and recognized Pastor Rick Thornhill from New Hope Church for their ongoing weekly efforts to clean up blocks of litter and

debris. Mr. Mikulich remarked that we all need to do our part to keep Ambridge clean, please do not litter.

- **Public Safety:** Mrs. Drewnowski reported that the Committee met on July 5<sup>th</sup>, in attendance was herself, Chief Mann, Mayor D' Ambrosio, Chief Gottschalk and Mr. Dunn. It was reported that the Committee discussed the Heroin epidemic and burnt out street lights within the community.

In regards to the Police Department, she reported that an arrest has been made with the recent daylight burglaries and of the robbery at the A+ store. She also reported that Officer Seng has started monthly Crime Watch meetings; they are meeting at 6PM on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of each month.

Mrs. Drewnowski also reviewed many locations for the new LED Streetlights to go. She requested the input of members of Council before a decision is made.

- **Public Works:** Mr. Cafarelli reported the following:
  - Committee met on June 21<sup>st</sup>, in attendance was Mr. Cafarelli, Mr. McCoy, DPW Foreman Ted Eberhardt, Engineer Suehr and Manager Kauer. The Committee reviewed the 2017 Road Program and finalized the proposed list of streets to be paved. They also reviewed proposals for the new backhoe and suggested purchasing a JCB backhoe at state contract prices.
  - Street sweeping is underway – biweekly.
  - Borough Electrician continues work to upgrade the streetlights on Merchant Street within the Historic District to LED lighting.
  - Ongoing maintenance has been dedicated to filling pot-holes and repairs to alleys.
  - Repaired storm sewer pipe and inlets on Church Street and within Panek Park.
  - Vactor truck was in town week of June 13<sup>th</sup> – crew cleaned out 34 catch basins and jetted problem storm lines.
  - Crew weeded tree pits and sidewalks along Merchant Street and removed dead trees and bent meter posts.
  - Municipal Authority gave the Borough their surplus backup generator from the old 4<sup>th</sup> Street pump station.
  - Equipment Maintenance:
    - Bucket Truck had lift cylinder repaired by A&H Equipment.
  - Sign maintenance is on-going, replacing missing signs and repairing damaged locations.
  - Crew prepared and cleaned up Panek Park - July 4<sup>th</sup> Fireworks Festivities.
  - Grass cutting of public areas, parks, right-of-ways and abandoned properties is on-going.
  - DPW crew participated in a safe lifting and defensive driving course offered by the Borough's Insurance Company on July 6<sup>th</sup>.
  - Crew mulched and dressed up the landscaping around the Borough Building.
  - Foreman responded, marked and reported multiple PA-One Call requests.

Mrs. Drewnowski also reported to Mr. Cafarelli that there is a small sinkhole located behind the sidewalk in front of 609 Glenwood Avenue. She requested it to be investigated.

Mr. Mikulich stated that the Public Works Department did a great job preparing Walter Panek Park for the July 4<sup>th</sup> Fireworks event.

- **Parks:** Mr. Mikulich stated that the Rotary Club's Car Cruise and Community Festival is Saturday, July 16 at PJ Caul Park and along Merchant Street. He encouraged the community to come out and participate.
- **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. He stated that the paving contractor wants to finish the work very soon, still waiting on the Gas Company to finish their work. Engineer Suehr also reported that he continues to monitor the storm sewer issue under the Ambridge – Aliquippa Bridge, it appears that it hasn't gotten any worse.

Mr. Cafarelli questioned the Engineer on the new sidewalks constructed on 4<sup>th</sup> Street by the Municipal Authority adjacent to their new pump station. He stated that they are 3' 6" wide and appear not to

follow the Borough's sidewalk specifications. Engineer Suehr stated that he will look into the matter and report back.

- **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	Absent
Mrs. Drewnowski	Y	Mr. Mikulich	Y
Mr. Dunn	Y	Mayor D'Ambrosio	
Motion Carried			

- **Other Unfinished Business**

Mr. Mikulich recognized County Commissioner Dan Camp that was in the audience. He thanked him for attending the meeting.

- **Adjournment –**

Motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Cafarelli, seconded by Mr. Dunn; motion carried unanimously – meeting was adjourned at 7:40 PM

Respectfully submitted:



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Joseph Kauer  
Borough Manager / Secretary