

BOROUGH OF AMBRIDGE
MINUTES
Council Meeting: July 9, 2019
Ambridge Borough Building



- **Executive Session – Personnel, Real Estate and Legal Matters**
- **The July 9, 2019 meeting of Ambridge Borough Council was called to order at 6:30PM within Council Chambers of the Ambridge Borough Building, 600 11th Street.**
- **Roll Call:**
Present:
 - Mr. Dunn
 - Mr. Flannery
 - Mr. McCoy
 - Mr. Mikulich
 - Mayor DrewnowskiAlso Present: Borough Manager Kauer, Solicitor Start, Chief Gottschalk, Chief Romutis and Engineer Suehr

Absent: Mr. Cafarelli, Mrs. Caldarelli, Mrs. Miller
- **Invocation** – the invocation was conducted by Mrs. Barbara Costa, Trinity School for Ministry.
- **Pledge of Allegiance**
- **Presentations**
 1. Recognition of Karen Frynkewicz, retiring Crossing Guard. Council and Mayor presented Mrs. Frynkewicz with a plaque recognizing her 13 years of service as a crossing guard stationed on Duss Avenue.
 2. Mr. Michael Knecht, Economy of Old & Ambridge of Today Bicentennial Steering Committee – Kickoff of 2024 Bicentennial presentation. He highlighted the history of Economy and Ambridge, explained the bicentennial steering committee and the goals for the celebration.
- **Citizen's Participation On/Off Agenda Items (5 minutes per speaker)**
 1. **Solicitor Richard Start** addressed Council and the Citizens regarding the recent news of Beemac Trucking developing a repair facility and parking lot for tractor trailers on New Economy Drive. He stated that the Borough received notice via certified mail on June 28th requesting a municipal response to zoning and planning compliance. The Solicitor stated that he understands that many are here tonight to discuss your concerns with this development, but urged them that there will be a more appropriate time and forum including planning commission and zoning hearings on this matter. He stated that it is his opinion that this development does not meet the zoning of the commercial zoning district and that the developer will have to seek relief to continue.
 2. **Mr. Nick Diamantis, 228 Locust Street**, made complaint about code enforcement; he stated that he too received an Ordinance Violation notice for his property. He stated that the firefighters were not professional when he met with them on Locust Street regarding complaints about 222 and 226 Locust.
 3. **Mr. Dennis Lopic, 1427 Church Street**, thanked Solicitor Start for addressing the Beemac Trucking issue. He stated that he received a copy of the proposed plan from Steve Roberts, HARB Chairman. He stated that this plan shows no visual barriers, tractor trailers parked up against homes, and only two means of egress on Merchant and 14th Streets. Mr. Lopic asked

that no permits be issued for this project and that no trailers be parked on this property. He urged members of the community to form a committee to address this issue.

- 4. **Mr. Mike Pellegrini, 229 Elm Road**, made complaint about the lack of Code Enforcement in the Borough. He said that blight needs addressed and recommended implementing a computer based complaint system for code enforcement.

Mr. Mikulich stated that code enforcement is very proactive; however some property owners are reluctant to comply and that the process is timely. Assistant Chief Larrick reviewed the code report for the past month highlighting the number of inspections completed, high grass letters sent and abated, and the number of ordinance violation letters sent out.

- 5. **Mr. Doug McCombie, 638 Maplewood Avenue**, complimented Council on his dealings with code enforcement; he stated that his recent complaints were quickly addressed. He questioned the zoning on requirements to make off-street parking with apartment buildings. Chief Gottschalk stated that off street parking needs to be constructed only when new units are created and a space per unit is required.
- 6. **Mrs. Lindsay Davis, 400 Merchant Street**, expressed concerns with streetscape construction. She stated that she does not have access to her business's lot and that a sinkhole and cracking are now forming in her parking lot. Manager Kauer explained that she only reached out to him earlier this morning and since then responded back to her that her ramp will be restored within the day and that the contractor will address all of her concerns.
- 7. **Mrs. Lorianne Burgess, 570 Merchant Street**, questioned the guarantee on the concrete work within the streetscape limits. The Manager explained that a maintenance bond guarantees the work for two years. She then stated what about the next 48 years?

- **Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes
June 11, 2019, Council Meeting**

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

Council	VOTE	Council	Vote
Mr. Cafarelli	Absent	Mr. McCoy	Yes
Mrs. Caldarelli	Absent	Mrs. Miller	Absent
Mr. Dunn	Yes	Mr. Mikulich	Yes
Mr. Flannery	Yes	Mayor Drewnowski	

Motion carried.

- **Borough Bills and Expenses**

Motion to pay the bills was made by Mr. Flannery, seconded by Mr. Dunn; a roll call vote was taken:

1.	General Fund	Unpaid: \$17,186.72	Paid: \$78,094.65
2.	2016 Capital Project Bond Fund	Unpaid: \$12,821.44	
3.	Grants / Special Project Fund	Unpaid: \$3,565.09	
4.	Recreation Fund	Unpaid: \$0.00	Paid: \$0.00
5.	Escrow Fund	Unpaid: \$135.00	
6.	Police Pension Fund	Unpaid: \$0.00	
7.	Service Employees Pension Fund	Unpaid: \$0.00	
8.	Firemen's Pension Fund	Unpaid: \$0.00	
9.	Drug Investigation Fund	Unpaid: \$0.00	
10.	Fire Apparatus Replacement Fund	Unpaid: \$0.00	

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Council	VOTE	Council	Vote
Mr. Cafarelli	Absent	Mr. McCoy	Yes
Mrs. Caldarelli	Absent	Mrs. Miller	Absent
Mr. Dunn	Yes	Mr. Mikulich	Yes
Mr. Flannery	Yes	Mayor Drewnowski	

Motion carried.

- Consent Agenda:**

Those matters included under the consent agenda are self-explanatory and are not expected to require further review or discussion. Items will be enacted by one motion. If discussion is desired by any member of Council, that item must be removed from the consent agenda and considered separately.

Items 1 through 3 listed on the Consent Agenda were accepted by unanimous vote; all were in favor.

1. Borough Financial Report - acknowledge receipt of the Borough Treasurer's Report.

Treasurer's Report
July 9, 2019

Marilyn Sheleheda - Treasurer

General Fund Analysis	
\$1,062,344.66	General Fund Bank Account Balance as of: -July 9, 2019 -3:00 pm
\$412,568.44	All Outstanding Checks as of: -July 9, 2019 -3:00 pm
\$649,776.22	Available Balance as of: -July 9, 2019 -3:00 pm

Totals are as follows:	
General Fund Summary:	Deposits: \$404,206.87
	Debits: \$549,825.22
	-which include the follow
	71 Checks, Transfers \$405,136.29
	2 Payroll (s) \$144,688.93

Other Fund Balances as of July 9, 2019 3:00 pm	
\$16,227.46	Ambridge Borough Drug Investigation Fund
\$679,850.58	Ambridge Capital Project Fund 2016-PLGIT Account
\$2,152.32	Ambridge Fire Apparatus Replacement Fund
\$11,668.59	Escrow Disbursement Account
\$12,814.99	Grants/Special Funds
\$218,419.76	Liquid Fuels Fund
\$35,406.71	Recreation Fund
\$412,694.19	Sinking Fund
\$1,389,234.60	Total Other Funds Balances (Restricted Use)

2. Authorize the closure of 4th Street on Saturday, August 17 from 2PM to 8PM between Park Road and Maplewood Avenue for an Eagles Club Fundraising Event.
3. Grant an on-street dedicated handicap parking space at 1909 Beaver Road as recommended by the Chief of Police.

New Business - Items for Discussion:

- A. Motion to adopt Resolution No. 2019-5, officially declaring the bicentennial of the Harmony Society founding of our present-day community, establishing a bicentennial planning steering committee, defining the committee's mission, vision statement, goals and scope of the celebration. Motion was made by Mr. Flannery, seconded by Mr. McCoy; a roll call vote was taken:

Council	VOTE	Council	Vote
Mr. Cafarelli	Absent	Mr. McCoy	Yes
Mrs. Caldarelli	Absent	Mrs. Miller	Absent
Mr. Dunn	Yes	Mr. Mikulich	Yes
Mr. Flannery	Yes	Mayor Drewnowski	

Motion carried.

- B. Motion to adopt Resolution No. 2019-6, authorizing participation in the certified local government program administered by the Pennsylvania State Historic Preservation Office. Motion was made by Mr. McCoy, seconded by Mr. Dunn; a roll call vote was taken:

Council	VOTE	Council	Vote
Mr. Cafarelli	Absent	Mr. McCoy	Yes
Mrs. Caldarelli	Absent	Mrs. Miller	Absent
Mr. Dunn	Yes	Mr. Mikulich	Yes
Mr. Flannery	Yes	Mayor Drewnowski	

Motion carried.

- C. Motion to advertisement Ordinance No. 1313, 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 of said Borough. Motion was made by Mr. Flannery, seconded by Mr. Dunn; Manager Kauer explained that this Ordinance will readjust the interest paid on pension contributions to a full-time police officer who would resign before he / she is vested. It historically has been 4%, and the recent rewriting of the Pension Plan in 2016, incorrectly had it at 3%. The Ordinance has been prepared by our Pension Plan Consultant and has been provided to the Police Union for their review and comment. A roll call vote was taken:

Council	VOTE	Council	Vote
Mr. Cafarelli	Absent	Mr. McCoy	Yes
Mrs. Caldarelli	Absent	Mrs. Miller	Absent
Mr. Dunn	Yes	Mr. Mikulich	Yes
Mr. Flannery	Yes	Mayor Drewnowski	

Motion carried.

- D. Motion to grant a curb cut at 710 Melrose Avenue on 7th Street for Good Samaritan Church as recommended by the Borough Engineer and Police Chief. Motion was made by Mr. Flannery, seconded by Mr. McCoy; Mr. Mikulich stated that he has concerns that if this curb cut would allow vehicles to exit onto 7th Street they would go the wrong way on 7th Street and also if vehicles are parked across the street on 7th Street, it would be tight preventing vehicles from safely exiting. He requested that this curb cut be granted with the contingency that it is an entrance only; all agreed. A roll call vote was taken:

Council	VOTE	Council	Vote
Mr. Cafarelli	Absent	Mr. McCoy	Yes
Mrs. Caldarelli	Absent	Mrs. Miller	Absent
Mr. Dunn	Yes	Mr. Mikulich	Yes
Mr. Flannery	Yes	Mayor Drewnowski	

Motion carried.

- E. Motion to renew the School Resource Officer Agreement with the Ambridge Area School District for the 2019-2020 School Year. Motion was made by Mr. Flannery, seconded by Mr. Dunn; Mr. Flannery stated that this agreement reflects the new school year and a 3% increase in the reimbursement to match the CBA 3% increase; a roll call vote was taken:

Council	VOTE	Council	Vote
Mr. Cafarelli	Absent	Mr. McCoy	Yes
Mrs. Caldarelli	Absent	Mrs. Miller	Absent
Mr. Dunn	Yes	Mr. Mikulich	Yes
Mr. Flannery	Yes	Mayor Drewnowski	

Motion carried.

- F. Motion to authorize the removal of the "No Turn on Red" sign on 8th Street (east direction) at Melrose Avenue as requested by the Mayor and Public Safety Committee. Motion was made by Mr. McCoy, seconded by Mr. Dunn; a roll call vote was taken:

Council	VOTE	Council	Vote
Mr. Cafarelli	Absent	Mr. McCoy	Yes
Mrs. Caldarelli	Absent	Mrs. Miller	Absent
Mr. Dunn	Yes	Mr. Mikulich	Yes
Mr. Flannery	Yes	Mayor Drewnowski	

Motion carried.

- G. Motion to adopt and implement the Police Department Commendations and Awards Policy. Mr. Mikulich stated that the policy explains the citations very well and if the policy is followed should work with no problems. Motion was made by Mr. Flannery, seconded by Mr. Dunn; a roll call vote was taken:

Council	VOTE	Council	Vote
Mr. Cafarelli	Absent	Mr. McCoy	Yes
Mrs. Caldarelli	Absent	Mrs. Miller	Absent
Mr. Dunn	Yes	Mr. Mikulich	Yes
Mr. Flannery	Yes	Mayor Drewnowski	

Motion carried.

- H. Motion to enter into agreement with Robinson Car Wash and Auto Detailing for police cruiser car washes at a price of \$2,296 for the period of August 1, 2019 to July 31, 2020. Motion was made by Mr. Flannery, seconded by Mr. Mikulich; Mr. McCoy questioned if this car wash is cheaper than who we previously partnered with? Mayor Drewnowski stated yes and that it provides for all vehicles to be washed once a week, detailed twice a year, and that this will save time as the officer on duty can simply run the car through the wash. A roll call vote was taken:

Council	VOTE	Council	Vote
Mr. Cafarelli	Absent	Mr. McCoy	Yes
Mrs. Caldarelli	Absent	Mrs. Miller	Absent
Mr. Dunn	Yes	Mr. Mikulich	Yes
Mr. Flannery	Yes	Mayor Drewnowski	

Motion carried.

- I. Motion to exonerate the Beaver County Tax Claim Bureau on the collection of real estate taxes for years 2015-2018 on parcel 11-006-0725 (937 Beaver Road) as the open taxes through 2018 reflect a structure that was razed in 2015, contingent on the Ambridge Area School District and County of Beaver also exonerating their real estate taxes for the same tax years. Motion was made by Mr. Flannery, seconded by Mr. Dunn; a roll call vote was taken:

Council	VOTE	Council	Vote
Mr. Cafarelli	Absent	Mr. McCoy	Yes
Mrs. Caldarelli	Absent	Mrs. Miller	Absent
Mr. Dunn	Yes	Mr. Mikulich	Yes
Mr. Flannery	Yes	Mayor Drewnowski	

Motion carried.

- J. Motion to exonerate the Beaver County Tax Claim Bureau on the collection of real estate taxes for year 2018 on Borough owned parcels on Henning Street, 533 Merchant St., 541 Merchant St., and 104 Park Road. Motion was made by Mr. Dunn, seconded by Mr. McCoy; a roll call vote was taken:

Council	VOTE	Council	Vote
Mr. Cafarelli	Absent	Mr. McCoy	Yes
Mrs. Caldarelli	Absent	Mrs. Miller	Absent
Mr. Dunn	Yes	Mr. Mikulich	Yes
Mr. Flannery	Yes	Mayor Drewnowski	

Motion carried.

- K. Motion to enter into agreement with Hancock Architecture to extend Streetscape on-site representation and construction management through July 31, 2019. Motion was made by Mr. Flannery, seconded by Mr. Dunn; a roll call vote was taken:

Council	VOTE	Council	Vote
Mr. Cafarelli	Absent	Mr. McCoy	Yes
Mrs. Caldarelli	Absent	Mrs. Miller	Absent
Mr. Dunn	Yes	Mr. Mikulich	Yes
Mr. Flannery	Yes	Mayor Drewnowski	

Motion carried.

- L. Motion to authorize All About Concrete to restore the recently excavated storm sewer repair areas on 5th Street and pour three concrete pads in 8th Park (1- new drinking fountain) and PJ Caul Park (2 – benches) at a cost not to exceed \$2,300. Motion was made by Mr. Dunn, seconded by Mr. Flannery; a roll call vote was taken:

Council	VOTE	Council	Vote
Mr. Cafarelli	Absent	Mr. McCoy	Yes
Mrs. Caldarelli	Absent	Mrs. Miller	Absent
Mr. Dunn	Yes	Mr. Mikulich	Yes
Mr. Flannery	Yes	Mayor Drewnowski	

Motion carried.

- M. Motion to authorize disbursement of \$149,624.40 to Baiano Construction for pay application 10 of the Merchant St. Streetscape Project. Motion was made by Mr. McCoy, seconded by Mr. Dunn; a roll call vote was taken:

Council	VOTE	Council	Vote
Mr. Cafarelli	Absent	Mr. McCoy	Yes
Mrs. Caldarelli	Absent	Mrs. Miller	Absent
Mr. Dunn	Yes	Mr. Mikulich	Yes
Mr. Flannery	Yes	Mayor Drewnowski	

Motion carried.

- N. Motion to hire Mr. Jason Rapko as a part-time police officer. Motion was made by Mr. McCoy, seconded by Mr. Dunn; a roll call vote was taken:

Council	VOTE	Council	Vote
Mr. Cafarelli	Absent	Mr. McCoy	Yes
Mrs. Caldarelli	Absent	Mrs. Miller	Absent
Mr. Dunn	Yes	Mr. Mikulich	Yes
Mr. Flannery	Yes	Mayor Drewnowski	

Motion carried.

- **Committee Reports**

- **Code Enforcement Committee:** no report.
- **Public Safety:** Mr. Flannery reported that the committee will be meeting later this month. Chief Gottschalk reported that the Fire Department is planning on hosting a Citizen's Fire Academy this year. The Academy will allow citizens to learn the aspects of the fire department in a hands-on fashion, with a goal of hopefully recruiting new volunteer firefighters. He also stated that the department created an "after the fire" guide to assist property owners on what to do next after an emergency to secure their property and belongings. Lastly, the Chief reported that Captain Gorecki recently applied for two grants, non-matching, for fire prevention equipment and fire hose.
- **Public Works:** no report.
- **Parks:** Mr. Mikulich reported that the Borough is working with the Chamber of Commerce to partner to have the Ribbon Cutting Ceremony for the Streetscape Project during the Fall Festival of Churches on September 28th.
- **Engineer's Report:** Engineer Suehr reported that he is working with the paving contractor to schedule the preconstruction meeting for the upcoming paving work in the downtown.

- **Official Reports**

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

Council	VOTE	Council	Vote
Mr. Cafarelli	Absent	Mr. McCoy	Yes
Mrs. Caldarelli	Absent	Mrs. Miller	Absent
Mr. Dunn	Yes	Mr. Mikulich	Yes
Mr. Flannery	Yes	Mayor Drewnowski	

Motion carried.

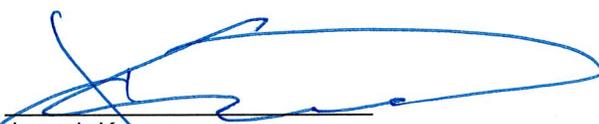
- **Other Unfinished Business**

Mr. Flannery stated that the Beaver County Council of Governments is hosting the annual "Rivers of Opportunity" conference on July 31 and August 1. He stated that it is open to anyone to attend and encouraged newly elected officials to attend it. Mr. Flannery stated that the topics range from planning to code enforcement.

- **Adjournment –**

Motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Flannery, seconded by Mr. Dunn; motion carried unanimously – meeting was adjourned at 7:50PM.

Respectfully submitted:



Joseph Kauer
Borough Manager / Secretary