

# BOROUGH OF AMBRIDGE

## MINUTES

**Council Meeting: October 9, 2018**

**Ambridge Borough Building**



- **Executive Session – Personnel, Real Estate and Legal Matters**
- **The October 9, 2018 meeting of Ambridge Borough Council was called to order at 7:00PM within Council Chambers of the Ambridge Borough Building, 600 11<sup>th</sup> Street.**

- **Roll Call:**

Present:

Mr. Cafarelli  
Mrs. Caldarelli  
Mr. Dunn  
Mr. Flannery  
Mr. McCoy  
Mrs. Miller  
Mr. Mikulich  
Mayor Drewnowski

Also Present: Borough Manager Kauer, Solicitor Start, Chief Gottschalk and Engineer Suehr

Absent: Chief Romutis (*Mayor Drewnowski commented that Chief Romutis is also an adjunct professor at the University of Pittsburgh and has class on Tuesday evenings this semester.*)

- **Invocation** – the invocation was conducted by Mr. Barbara Costa, Trinity School for Ministry.
- **Pledge of Allegiance**
- **Presentations**
  - None.
- **Citizen's Participation On/Off Agenda Items (5 minutes per speaker)**

Mr. Mikulich thanked everyone for their involvement with the Fall Festival of Churches including Kim Vilella, Bill Rohm, Stephanie Manos, the Public Works Crew, fellow members of Council, Ambridge Police Officers, the Borough Manager and Mrs. Miller and her family.

He highlighted the Friday night Historic Church Tour, thanking Representative Rob Matzie for sponsoring the buses. He also thanked Mrs. Barb Costa for a wonderful presentation at Trinity's Chapel on Merchant Street. Mr. Mikulich told an interesting story about a historic photo of this chapel being built by Mr. Cafarelli's father. Lastly, he stated that the Fall Festival was a great event and a wonderful time for all.

1. **Mrs. Felicia Mycyk, Ambridge Connection**, thanked Council for the support of their 3<sup>rd</sup> summer camp / pop-up event program. She stated that over 200 children participated in weekly events. She stated that borough staff participated and that they used the Borough Building and parks for the events. She thanked Mr. Mikulich for donating the water for the events. She passed out shirts, pictures and a thank you card for Council. She stated that everyone was a huge help and taking the time to spend with the kids makes a difference.

2. **Mrs. Barbara Costa, 1320 Church Street**, stated that Manager Kauer is the fifth Ambridge Borough Manager she has worked with. She stated that Kauer is a good Manager and expressed a desire to Council for his contract to be renewed.
3. **Mrs. Lorianne Burgess, 570 Merchant Street**, stated that she saw on Merchant Street today Mr. Mikulich, the Manager, Chief Romutis and the Mayor. She thanked Chief Romutis for connecting with the community. Mrs. Burgess then expressed dissatisfaction in the construction inspector. She stated that she hasn't received any letters or notifications.
4. **Ms. Joanne Trella, 832 Glenwood Drive**, stated that the Kennedy Drive sign at the corner of 8<sup>th</sup> Street reads "Kennedy St." and not "Drive". She stated that this should be corrected.
5. **Mrs. Maryanne Chambers, 600 Wilson Avenue**, stated that there is a tree located in a paper street between 598 and 600 Wilson Avenue. She stated that she has hired an attorney and that no parcel exists for this lot. She urged the Borough to enforce its tree maintenance ordinance. Mr. Mikulich informed her that this matter has been resolved and that the Borough will not take any action on this matter.
6. **Mr. Mike Rogers, 424 Merchant Street**, stated that Upper Alley between 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> Street lacks one-way signage. Mr. Mikulich informed him that Public Works will review the matter.
7. **Mrs. Marlene Verygood, 652 Melrose Avenue**, stated that last month she spoke to Council about an inoperable vehicle and motorcycle in the public parking lot in the 600 block of Melrose; she stated that nothing has been done about it. Mayor Drewnowski reported that he has spoken to the officer who handles abandoned vehicles multiple times about this matter and ensures it will be addressed.
8. **Mr. Doug McCombie, 638 Maplewood Avenue**, questioned what type of street trees will be planted on Merchant Street. Manager Kauer reported Ginkgo trees. He also stated that Council should consider creating a program to make tax delinquent properties available to purchase. Mr. Mikulich stated that most properties in the Borough do have owners. Mrs. Costa stated that the Downtown Development Committee has recently developed an Ambassador's Program that will connect vacant properties to interested investors. Lastly, he stated that the past couple of months there have been no public safety report and he stated that he would like to know what is going on within the Police and Fire Departments.

- **Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes  
September 11, 2018, 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	Yes	Mr. McCoy	Yes
Mrs. Caldarelli	Yes	Mrs. Miller	Yes
Mr. Dunn	Yes	Mr. Mikulich	Yes
Mr. Flannery	Yes	Mayor Drewnowski	
Motion carried.			

- **Borough Bills and Expenses**

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

1. General Fund	Unpaid:\$398,353.86	Paid: \$114,511.44
2. 2016 Capital Project Bond Fund	Unpaid: \$12,932.61	
3. Grants / Special Project Fund	Unpaid: \$29,223.34	
4. Liquid Fuels Fund	Unpaid: \$1,090.00	
5. Recreation Fund	Unpaid: \$258.73	Paid: \$2,165.00
6. Escrow Fund	Unpaid: \$2,057.70	
7. Police Pension Fund	Unpaid: \$1,700.00	
8. Service Employees Pension Fund	Unpaid: \$1,600.00	
9. Firemen's Pension Fund	Unpaid: \$1,500.00	
10. Drug Investigation Fund	Unpaid: \$0.00	

Mr.  
Mrs  
Mrs  
Mr.  
Mot

Council	VOTE	Council	Vote
Mr. Cafarelli	Yes	Mr. McCoy	Yes
Mrs. Caldarelli	Yes	Mrs. Miller	Yes
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.*

**Motion to approve Items 1 through 5 listed on the Consent Agenda was made by Mrs. Miller, seconded by Mrs. Caldarelli, motion carried unanimously.**

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

**Treasurer's Report  
(October 9, 2018)**

Marilyn Sheleheda - Treasurer

General Fund Analysis	
\$1,105,668.80	General Fund Bank Account Balance as of: -(October 9, 2018) -3:00 pm
\$1,723.02	All Outstanding Checks as of: -(October 9, 2018) -3:00 pm
<b>\$1,103,945.78</b>	<b>Available Balance as of: -(October 9, 2018) -3:00 pm</b>

<b>General Fund Summary:</b>	<i>Totals are as follows:</i>	
	Deposits:	\$342,872.58
	Debits:	\$365,304.05
	-which include the follow	
	73 Checks	\$214,506.00
2 Payroll (s)	\$150,797.45	

Other Fund Balances as of (DATE) 3:00 pm	
\$37,758.01	Ambridge Borough Drug Investigation Fund
\$1,160,671.06	Ambridge Capital Project Fund 2016-PLGIT Account
\$6,402.85	Ambridge Fire Apparatus Replacement Fund
\$10,945.37	Escrow Disbursement Account
\$81,878.39	Grants/Special Funds
\$5,250.56	Liquid Fuels Fund
\$34,966.54	Recreation Fund
\$341,260.76	Sinking Fund
<b>\$1,679,133.54</b>	<b>Total Other Funds Balances (Restricted Use)</b>

2. Authorize applying for a Certified Local Government grant that would seek \$18,750 (75% funding) to prepare the nomination report and application for the proposed Ambridge Commercial Historic District to the National Register of Historic Places.
3. Authorize the Ambridge Crime Watch to conduct their Halloween Bash within the Fire Station on Sunday, October 28, 2018 from 6PM to 9PM.
4. Ratify entering into agreement with American Rock Salt Co. through the State COSTARS program, for the purchase of Rock Salt at the price of \$80.59 per ton for the 18/19 winter season.
5. Authorize the closure of Beaver Road from 6<sup>th</sup> Street to Duss Avenue on Wednesday, October 31, 2018 from 5:30PM to 8:30PM for New Hope Church's Trunk or Treat Event.

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

- A. Motion to authorize the advertisement and public display of Ordinance No. 1309, an Ordinance of the Borough of Ambridge, amending the Ambridge Borough Code of Ordinances, amending Chapter 120 regarding curfews by changing a time of the curfew from 11:00PM and 6:00AM to 10:00PM and 6:00AM

and changing terms as well as a definitional change. Motion was made by Mrs. Miller, seconded by Mr. Flannery; a roll call vote was taken:

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

- B. Motion to authorize the advertisement and public display of Ordinance No. 1310, an Ordinance of the Borough of Ambridge, amending the Ambridge Borough Code of Ordinances, Article IV, Chapter 290, Section 34, entitled "Parking Prohibited At All Times in Certain Locations," so as to prohibit parking at all times on the east side of Locust Street from house number 121 to the terminus of Locust Street. Motion was made by Mr. Flannery, 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
Mr. Dunn	Yes	Mr. Mikulich	Yes
Mr. Flannery	Yes	Mayor Drewnowski	
Motion carried.			

- C. Motion to authorize payment of Progress Payment No. 1 to Sports & Recreation Associates, LLC in the amount of \$67,927.50 for the Ambridge Park Systems Improvement Project. Motion was made by Mrs. Miller, 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
Mr. Dunn	Yes	Mr. Mikulich	Yes
Mr. Flannery	Yes	Mayor Drewnowski	
Motion carried.			

- D. Motion to authorize the payment of the 2018 Minimum Municipal Obligations to the Borough Pension Funds: Police-\$228,149, Fire-\$10,200, Service Employees-\$61,277. Motion was made by Mr. McCoy, seconded by Mrs. Caldarelli; a roll call vote was taken:

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

- E. Motion to grant a Certificate of Appropriateness for commercial occupancy and signage at 1398 Merchant Street based on the recommendation of the Ambridge Historical Architectural Review Board. (Note: Applicant is Old Crow Coffee House) Motion was made by Mr. Flannery, 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
Mr. Dunn	Yes	Mr. Mikulich	Yes
Mr. Flannery	Yes	Mayor Drewnowski	
Motion carried.			

- F. Motion to grant a Certificate of Appropriateness for commercial occupancy at 1198 Merchant Street based on the recommendation of the Ambridge Historical Architectural Review Board. (Note: Applicant is Whimsical Sweetery, LLC) Motion was made by Mr. Flannery, 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
Mr. Dunn	Yes	Mr. Mikulich	Yes
Mr. Flannery	Yes	Mayor Drewnowski	
Motion carried.			

- G. Motion to renew a two-year employment agreement by and between the Borough of Ambridge and Borough Manager Joseph Kauer. 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
Mr. Dunn	Yes	Mr. Mikulich	Yes
Mr. Flannery	Yes	Mayor Drewnowski	
Motion carried.			

- H. Motion to appoint Mr. Lewis LeCerf to the Ambridge Zoning Hearing Board, as an alternate board member, with a term that is to expire December 31, 2019. Motion was made by Mrs. Caldarelli, seconded by Mr. Flannery; a roll call vote was taken:

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

- **Committee Reports**

1. **Code Enforcement Committee:** Mrs. Caldarelli commended Assistant Chief Larrick for the excellent monthly code report. She reported that multiple permits and citations have been issued this past month and that Commercial Fire Inspections are continuing. She also reported that work continues on the updates to the Borough's Historic Perseveration Ordinance by the consultant and that the HARB met on Monday of this week to take action on the two Certificates that were on the Council Agenda today. Mrs. Caldarelli reported that Dollar General on Merchant Street was given notice to reinstall the missing No Left Turn Sign and that the Fire Chief talked to their manager about litter in their lot. Lastly, it was reported that the Zoning Hearing Board will be meeting in November to hear an appeal for a property on 15<sup>th</sup> Street.
2. **Public Safety:** Mr. Flannery reported that he presented Fire Captain Gorecki with a letter of recognition for recently earning his bachelor's degree in Fire Science. He then read the letter to Council and the public. Mr. Flannery highlighted Fire Prevention activities that the Fire Department will be participating in this week. In regards to the Police Department, he stated that he recently met with Chief Romutis and reported that he is moving forward with implementing goals for the Department. He added that Chief Romutis's first thirty days has been very positive.

Mr. Caldarelli praised the Firefighters for all of their excellent hard work with both fire and code duties.

Mayor Drewnowski commented that all of the active volunteer firefighters now have Firefighter-1 certifications and that one probationary member is now in the Essentials to Firefighting class.

Mr. Mikulich thanked the Fire Department for their fire prevention week activities.

3. **Public Works:** Mr. Cafarelli reported on the following:
- Street sweeping for the year ended on Friday, October 5<sup>th</sup>
  - Curbside leaf collection is scheduled to start on Monday, October 22<sup>nd</sup> and run through December 7<sup>th</sup>
  - Grass cutting of Borough properties, lots, right of ways, and abandoned properties are currently underway.
  - Two temporary employees are working the afternoons with the Public Works Crew. They are Ambridge High School seniors working through Job Training of Beaver County, they started September 13<sup>th</sup>. All wages and insurances are paid 100% by Job Training.
  - Rebuilt a catch basin in Oak Alley behind the 9-1-1 Center on September 20<sup>th</sup>.
  - Crew built all of the new benches for the streetscape project and installed four of them including the new Rotary Club Bike Rack in PJ Caul Park.
  - Fall Festival of Churches prep and cleanup of the park, Merchant Street and around the four churches for the festival. Electrician worked with the Chamber and completed the necessary electrical work for the event as well.
  - Sign maintenance is on-going, replacing missing signs and repairing damaged locations.
  - Ongoing maintenance has been dedicated to filling potholes and repairs to multiple alleys.
  - Foreman responded, marked and reported multiple PA-One Call requests.

Mr. Mikulich thanked Electrician Tom Patrician and the Mayor for their work to provide electricity for the Fall Festival.

4. **Parks:** Mrs. Miller reported that the Fall Festival of Churches was a success and a growing event. She stated that donations paid for all of the costs of children's activities, and even made a \$180 profit. She thanked everyone who helped and participated including Kim Villella - Chamber President and her husband and daughter.

Mr. Mikulich stated that she did a great job.

5. **Engineer's Report:** Engineer Suehr reported that he inspected the outfall repair recently as there were high river stages. He stated that he is happy to report that nothing was disturbed and that the repair is holding up well.

In regards to the Parks Improvement Project, the Engineer informed Council that the concrete slab for the new picnic shelter was poured today. He also stated that the new playground equipment is scheduled to be delivered by the end of the month. At Panek Park he stated that the basketball court has been resurfaced and painted. He stated that outstanding work there consists of the fencing and some cleanup.

As for the MS4 Storm Sewer program, he stated that inspection of the outfalls will be taken care of this month.

Mr. Mikulich stated that the basketball courts look awesome; he stated that it is a huge improvement. He also stated that on September 30<sup>th</sup>, there was a nice article in the Post-Gazette about the progress being made to improve Ambridge. He stated that it is being seen by outsiders and people are talking about it.

- **Official Reports**

1. **Motion to accept the Official Reports;** motion was made by Mr. Flannery, 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
Mr. Dunn	Yes	Mr. Mikulich	Yes
Mr. Flannery	Yes	Mayor Drewnowski	
Motion carried.			

- **Other Unfinished Business**

Mr. Flannery reported that there will be a meet and greet with Chief Romutis on Thursday, October 12<sup>th</sup> from 6PM to 7PM at the Fire Station.

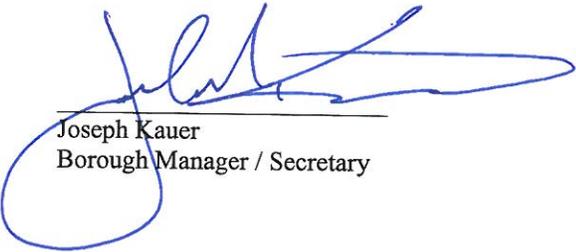
Mayor Drewnowski reported that Police Lt. Jameson was successful in securing a \$7,665 grant for the Borough that will pay for half of the costs to replace bulletproof vests for the full-time officers next year. He also stated that the Police Chief is working with the District Attorney to see if the Drug Enforcement Fund could be used to help us pay for a new police car next year.

Mr. Mikulich stated that budget meetings are scheduled for October 17 and 30, both at 5:30PM and that Trick or Treat is Wednesday, October 31<sup>st</sup> from 6PM to 8PM.

- **Adjournment –**

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

Respectfully submitted:



\_\_\_\_\_  
Joseph Kauer  
Borough Manager / Secretary