

BOROUGH OF AMBRIDGE
MINUTES
Council Meeting: September 10, 2019
Ambridge Borough Building



- **Executive Session – Legal and Personnel Matters**

- **The September 10, 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. Cafarelli
Mrs. Caldarelli
Mr. Dunn
Mr. Flannery
Mr. McCoy
Mrs. Miller
Mr. Mikulich
Mayor Drewnowski

Also Present: Borough Manager Kauer, Solicitor Madden, Chief Romutis and Engineer Suehr

Absent: Chief Gottschalk

- **Invocation** – the invocation was conducted by Mrs. Barbara Costa, Trinity School for Ministry.

- **Pledge of Allegiance**

- **Presentations**

1. Mr. Mark Turnley, CPA reviewed the 2018 Borough Audit Report.

Mr. Mikulich stated that the Merchant St. Streetscape Project construction is concluding. He stated that the remaining landscaping work is being completed this week. He thanked members of Council for their support, approval, cooperation and hard work to bring this project to fruition. Mr. Mikulich thanked Borough staff for their efforts with the project and also thanked the business owners who were affected during the construction. He stated that this coming Saturday is Celebrate Merchant Street, an event to help clean up buildings and areas within the project limits. To-date 80 volunteers have signed up.

- **Citizen's Participation On/Off Agenda Items (5 minutes per speaker)**

1. **Mr. Barbara Costa, 1320 Church Street**, stated that she has been a proud member of the Ambridge Downtown Development Committee since 2005. She reported that on Saturday, September 14th, 16 teams of volunteers have signed up to clean windows, buildings and areas on Merchant Street between 4th and 8th Streets. She stated that the event so far has six sponsors and thanked Council and the Manager for their assistance with the event.
2. **Mrs. Cathy Holler, 824 11th Street**, complained about the paving of Upper Alley behind her Merchant Street building. She stated that the paving contractor trespassed on her property and left asphalt crumbs on her parking pad. She also stated that they paved over the utility curb boxes in the alley. She wants her property cleaned up. Mrs. Holler also stated that her sewer vent on the front of her Merchant Street building was covered up during sidewalk construction. The Manager stated that this matter is still being investigated as our sources give a different report than Mrs. Holler's.

3. **Mr. Mark Pazanitta, 721 11th Street**, stated that Merchant Street really looks nice and believes the town is coming back to life. He stated that business owners appreciate the hard work that has been done to revitalize the downtown.

- **Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes
August 13, 2019, Council Meeting**

Mrs. Caldarelli made the motion to accept the minutes, 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.

- **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: \$75,570.96	Paid: \$36,364.61
2.	2016 Capital Project Bond Fund	Unpaid: \$0.00	
3.	Grants / Special Project Fund	Unpaid: \$6,351.26	
4.	Recreation Fund	Unpaid: \$0.00	Paid: \$1,600
5.	Escrow Fund	Unpaid: \$0.00	
6.	Police Pension Fund	Unpaid: \$1,700.00	
7.	Service Employees Pension Fund	Unpaid: \$2,332.50	
8.	Firemen's Pension Fund	Unpaid: \$1,500.00	
9.	Drug Investigation Fund	Unpaid: \$0.00	
10.	Fire Apparatus Replacement Fund	Unpaid: \$0.00	

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.

Items 1 through 4 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
September 10, 2019

Marilyn Shekhedra - Treasurer

General Fund Analysis		
\$939,929.81	General Fund Bank Account Balance as of:	-September 10, 2019 -3:00 pm
\$52,048.12	All Outstanding Checks as of:	-September 10, 2019 -3:00 pm
\$887,881.69	Available Balance as of:	-September 10, 2019 -3:00 pm

General Fund Summary:	<i>Totals are as follows:</i>	
	Deposits:	\$473,021.03
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	Debits:	\$484,251.74
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	-which include the follow	
	87 Checks	\$340,540.23
	2 Payroll (s)	\$143,711.51

Other Fund Balances as of September 10, 2019 3:00 pm	
\$16,370.35	Ambridge Borough Drug Investigation Fund
\$320,517.70	Ambridge Capital Project Fund 2016-PLGIT Account
\$12.71	Ambridge Fire Apparatus Replacement Fund
\$11,490.55	Escrow Disbursement Account
\$10,522.43	Grants/Special Funds
\$219,262.18	Liquid Fuels Fund
\$35,812.76	Recreation Fund
\$414,285.89	Sinking Fund
\$1,028,274.57	Total Other Funds Balances (Restricted Use)

2. Authorize the closure of Merchant Street between 16th and 4th Streets and New Economy Drive on Saturday, October 12, 2019 between 11AM and 12:30PM for the 2019 Beaver County Fire Prevention Parade.
3. Authorize the Beaver County Humane Society to hang event signs on the fence of the H&H Basketball Courts at the corner of 11th and Duss for their Haunted Trail fundraiser.
4. Authorize the Harmony Twp. VFD Ladies Auxiliary to hang event signs on the fence of the H&H Basketball Courts at the corner of 11th and Duss for their September 21st car cruise.

New Business - Items for Discussion:

- A. Motion to accept the 2018 Borough Audit Report as presented by Mark Turnley, CPA. Motion was made by Mr. Flannery, 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.

- B. Motion to approve Change Order No. 5 (final) to Baiano Construction in the amount of \$58,033.42 for paving of the three large crosswalk areas and covering voids in the phase 4 limits of the Merchant St. Streetscape Project. Motion was made by Mr. Flannery, 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
Mr. Dunn	Yes	Mr. Mikulich	Yes
Mr. Flannery	Yes	Mayor Drewnowski	

Motion carried.

- C. Motion to accept and adopt the 2020 Minimum Municipal Obligations to the Borough's Pension Plans: Police - \$232,038, Fire - \$20,812, Service Employees Defined Benefit - \$74,065, Service Employees Defined Contribution - \$15,752. 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.

- D. Motion to authorize publicly displaying all monthly official reports on the Borough's website. Motion was made by Mr. Flannery, 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 set the 2020 Budget Meeting for Tuesday, October 22, 2019 at 4:00PM. 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.

- F. Motion to accept the resignation of part-time Patrolman Austin Turner effective August 16, 2019. 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.

- **Committee Reports**

- **Code Enforcement Committee:** no report.
- **Public Safety:** Mr. Flannery reported that the Committee will be meeting this month and that he attended Emergency Management Coordinator Training this past week.

Mrs. Caldarelli questioned the status of police body cameras. Mr. Flannery stated that the Committee is still looking into them and is getting proposals. The Mayor stated that the department is also looking into grant programs to help make these possible. He also stated that the department is seeking consideration to apply for a COPS hiring grant that would hire two additional full-time officers.

Mayor Drownowski asked the Chief to give his monthly report. Chief Romutis reported that monthly Coffee with a Cop will be following this meeting, 7:30pm at the Library. He stated that the officers have been actively enforcing truck weight restrictions on the bridge. The Chief stated there is an issue with trucks driving the residential streets in the Historic District and urged the Council to consider completing a weight study so that restrictions can be formally put into effect. He also reported that all crossing guards participated in the annual training before school went back into session. Lastly, he reviewed crime statistics to-date and stated that there was one drug bust this past month at a repeat location.

Mrs. Caldarelli let Chief Romutis know that he can take the Teddy Bear bin and now distribute them during incidents to children.

Mrs. Miller stated that she believes all children should be protected at the school bus stops that have crossing guards, not just public school children. She requested Council to direct the Crossing Guards to stay at their posts until all private and charter school students board the buses or return home. Mr. Flannery stated that he will research the matter and the Public Safety Committee will discuss it.

Mr. Mikulich stated that parking on curbs and sidewalks throughout town is an issue, and offenders should be ticketed. He asked the Chief of Police if anything can be done about this, the Chief said yes.

- **Public Works:** Mr. Cafarelli reported the following:
 - Street-sweeping is underway every other week and increased in French Point Creek Watershed area. Street-sweeping ends for the year on October 4th. Curbside leaf collection starts on Monday, October 21st.
 - Streetscape Project: crew continues to install traffic signs, benches, trash cans, bike racks and sponsor plaques. They also repainted the existing metal traffic signal poles at the corner of 4th and Merchant Streets.
 - Grass Cutting is underway at Borough Properties, Parks, Right of Ways and Abandoned properties.
 - Line Painting: crew has been working the overnight hours repainting all crosswalks, stop bars, parking lines, arrows and directions stencils throughout town.
 - Park Maintenance: replaced damaged and worn-out swing seats at both 8th Street and Panek Park.
 - Electrician repaired the traffic signal at 8th and Rt. 65 on 8/21.
 - Crew continues to hang Military Troop Banners.
 - Crew mulched all of the landscape beds around the Borough Building
 - Equipment Maintenance:
 - Red 5-ton Dump Truck, alternator was replaced.
 - Old lawn tractor had a tune up at Town and Country on 8/23 – it was running bad.
 - Street-sweeper had an oil change and pony motor serviced on 8/27.
 - Sign maintenance is on-going, replacing missing signs and repairing damaged locations.
 - Ongoing maintenance has been dedicated to filling pot-holes and repairs to multiple alleys.
 - Foreman responded, marked and reported multiple PA-One Call requests.

Mr. Cafarelli questioned the Manager on the status of the street restoration of Rice Avenue at 8th Street. Manager Kauer stated that Columbia Gas informed him that they will restore the site with concrete per the Borough's specifications. Mr. Cafarelli also stated that there is an issue with burnt-out street lights not being addressed quickly enough. He stated that Duquesne Light needs to step up their work.

Mr. Mikulich thanked Fernando Bevalaqua for donating his time and labor to construct the brick pedestal that the streetscape dedication marker is mounted to in the downtown. He also stated that there was a problem with the UV coating on the sponsorship plaques in the streetscape project limits; he stated that all of the plaques are being redone at the manufacturer's expense. Mr. Mikulich stated that Mr. McCoy set policy years ago that we buy Ambridge first and that's what this project has done. All of the plaques were purchased from R&S Enterprises. Mr. Cafarelli echoed Mr. Mikulich's comments and stated that Mr. Bevalaqua did an excellent job with the pedestal.

- **Parks:** Mrs. Miller stated that work is underway planning the upcoming Fall Festival of Churches on September 28th. She reviewed the schedule of events for the children's activities and recognized the event sponsors.

Mr. Mikulich stated that help will be needed that day for the festival. He thanked Mrs. Miller's family for always volunteering. He also thanked Kim Villella for her help and hard work in making the festival a success. He stated that the plan for September 28th is: 10AM – streetscape dedication, 11AM – Fall Festival Parade, 11:30AM – Opening Ceremonies for Fall Festival, 12-6 – Fall Festival of Churches in PJ Caul Park, 4-Dusk – fireworks and entertainment in Panek Park.

- **Engineer's Report:** Engineer Suehr reported that paving work of Merchant Street, Upper Alley and the two municipal parking lots is complete, and that he is working on drafting the punch list. He stated that the project went very well.

- **Official Reports**

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

Motion carried.

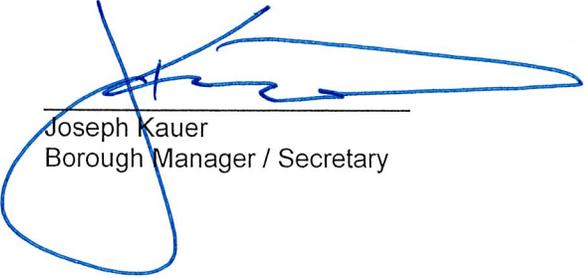
- **Other Unfinished Business**

Mr. Mikulich stated that Historic Church Tour is Friday, September 27th. He stated that Kim Villella does an excellent job organizing this event each year.

- **Adjournment –**

Motion to adjourn was made by Mrs. Miller, seconded by Mrs. Caldarelli; motion carried unanimously – meeting was adjourned at 7:40PM.

Respectfully submitted:



 Joseph Kauer
 Borough Manager / Secretary