

BOROUGH OF AMBRIDGE

MINUTES

Council Meeting: September 11, 2018
Ambridge Borough Building



- The September 11, 2018 meeting of Ambridge Borough Council was called to order at 7:00PM within Council Chambers of the Ambridge Borough Building, 600 11th Street.

- **Roll Call:**
Present:

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

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

Absent: Mr. McCoy and Chief Romutis

- **Invocation** – the invocation was conducted by Mrs. Barbara Costa, Trinity School for Ministry.
- **Pledge of Allegiance**
- **Citizen's Participation On/Off Agenda Items (5 minutes per speaker)**
 1. **Rev. James Hamilton, 1134 Maplewood Avenue**, reported on a gas explosion yesterday that happened in Center Township. He stated that this gas pipeline does run under waterways that lead to our reservoir. He also stated there is also another bulge forming from this pipeline in another area of Center Township. He called on Council to direct the Water Authority to inspect this pipeline to ensure there are no bulges under the reservoir or its tributary sources. Rev. Hamilton stated he is very concerned about his pipeline and our water source. Mr. Mikulich stated that Council shares his concerns and also have been reaching out to authorities about its implications and that the livelihood of over 40,000 citizens depends on this water source.
 2. **Mrs. Bobbie Boykins, 1004 11th Street**, expressed dissatisfaction to Borough Council that her request to have her block street-swept was never addressed. The Manager explained that the Public Works Committee did meet and study this request. It was reported back to Council that due to parking restrictions it could not be accomplished on a biweekly basis, but the street sweeper operator has been advised to sweep the street when he sees it free of parked cars and when he is in the area.
 3. **Mrs. Marlene Verygood, 652 Melrose Avenue**, questioned if the parking meters were going to stay within the municipal lots. Mr. Mikulich advised her, yes. He stated half will be for leases, half will be metered. She stated that the lot in the 600 block needs cleaned up and that a van with a flat tire in the lot needs removed. Lastly, she stated that the no left turn sign from Dollar General's lot is missing again. Mayor Drewnowski stated that he will look into that and that we'll make contact with Dollar General regarding these matters.
- **Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes**
August 14, 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	Absent	Mr. Mikulich	Yes
Mr. Flannery	Yes	Mayor Drewnowski	
Motion carried.			

August 30, 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	Absent	Mr. Mikulich	Yes
Mr. Flannery	Yes	Mayor Drewnowski	
Motion carried.			

• **Approval to ratify and pay the Bills and Expenses:**

- | | | |
|-----------------------------------|---------------------|-------------------|
| 1. General Fund | Unpaid: \$63,616.57 | Paid: \$18,510.37 |
| 2. 2016 Capital Project Bond Fund | Unpaid: \$12,808.84 | |
| 3. Grants / Special Project Fund | Unpaid: \$0.00 | |
| 4. Recreation Fund | Unpaid: \$0.00 | Paid: \$1,525.00 |
| 5. Escrow Fund | Unpaid: \$6,000.00 | |
| 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: \$1,304.00 | |

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	Absent	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 6 listed on the Consent Agenda. Motion was made by Mr. Flannery, seconded by Mrs. Miller; motion carried unanimously.**

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

Treasurer's Report

September 11, 2018

Marilyn Sheleheda - Treasurer

General Fund Analysis			
\$1,128,677.72	General Fund Bank Account Balance as of:	-(September 11, 2018)	-3:00 pm
\$2,271.35	All Outstanding Checks as of:	-(September 11, 2018)	-3:00 pm
\$1,126,406.37	Available Balance as of:	-(September 11, 2018)	-3:00 pm

Totals are as follows:				
General Fund Summary:	Deposits:		\$488,275.93	
	Debits:		\$267,604.86	
	-which include the fol			
	71 Checks	\$121,305.61		
	2 Payroll (s)	\$145,260.39		
	6 Debits	\$1,038.86		

Other Fund Balances as of (September 11, 2018) 3:00 pm	
\$6,189.83	Ambridge Fire Apparatus Replacement Fund
\$129,070.31	Grants/Special Funds
\$5,199.16	Liquid Fuels Fund
\$16,944.21	Escrow Disbursement Account
\$36,803.54	Recreation Fund
\$340,715.62	Sinking Fund
\$1,173,603.67	Ambridge Capital Project Fund 2016-PLGIT Account
\$38,715.38	Ambridge Borough Drug Investigation Fund
\$1,747,241.72	Total Other Funds Balances (Restricted Use)

2. Denial of an application for an on-street handicap parking space at 1802 Duss Avenue as the applicant has off street parking available.
3. Accept the resignation of Millie Vukelic from the Ambridge Nuisance Property Appeals Board effective August 23, 2018 as she no longer resides within the Borough.
4. Accept the resignation of part-time Police Officer Michael Vrbanic effective September 4, 2018.
5. Accept the resignation of part-time Police Officer Corey Kelley effective August 20, 2018.
6. Authorize the Ambridge Regional Chamber of Commerce to conduct is Festival of Churches Parade on Saturday, September 29, 2018 on Merchant Street starting at Henrici Street and ending at 11th Street, furthermore prohibiting on street parking within this area between 8AM and 12PM.

New Business - Items for Discussion:

- A. Motion to authorize payment of Progress Payment No. 1 and Final in the amount of \$141,355.13 to Stefanik's Next Generation Contracting Company, Inc., for the Repair of Ambridge Outfall SW-10 Project. Motion was made by Mr. Flannery, seconded by Mrs. Caldarelli; Mr. Flannery commented that the contractor did a spectacular job and that they worked very well with the businesses within the Port. Mr. Mikulich questioned how well the repair held up during recent high river stages, he stated that he will go down and see. A roll call vote was taken:

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

Motion carried.

- B. Motion to ratify contract and authorize the disbursement of \$6,000 to Tom Sipes Demolition Co., for the emergency demolition of 67 Laughlin Street, and further authorizing the Solicitor to file a lien against the property for the value of the work. Motion was made by Mr. Flannery, seconded by Mr. Dunn; Mr. Mikulich questioned Chief Gottschalk on the status of this project. Chief Gottschalk stated that the work was done satisfactorily, looks good and that he is aware of no issues. A roll call vote was taken:

Mr.
Mrs
Mrs
Mr.
Mot

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

- C. Motion to accept the 2019 Minimum Municipal Obligation (MMO) to the following pension plans: Police-\$239,614, Fire-\$16,206, Service Employees Defined Benefit Plan-\$66,532, Service Employees Defined Contribution Plan-\$15,314. 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	Absent	Mr. Mikulich	Yes
Mr. Flannery	Yes	Mayor Drewnowski	
Motion carried.			

- D. Motion to exonerate the tax collectors from the collection of real estate taxes on parcel 09-005-0117-000-01-1. (Note: Borough owned lot at 104 Park Road). Motion was made by Mrs. Caldarelli, 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	Absent	Mr. Mikulich	Yes
Mr. Flannery	Yes	Mayor Drewnowski	
Motion carried.			

- E. Motion to set the 2019 Budget Meetings for Wednesday, October 17, 2018, 5:30PM and Tuesday, October 30, 2018, 5:30PM (if needed.) Motion was made by Mr. Cafarelli, 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	Absent	Mr. Mikulich	Yes
Mr. Flannery	Yes	Mayor Drewnowski	
Motion carried.			

- **Committee Reports**

- **Code Enforcement Committee:** Mrs. Caldarelli reported that multiple permits were issued this month, high grass letters continue to be sent out, code sweeps are continuing and that rental inspections are going well. Mr. Mikulich stated that the monthly code report prepared by Assistant Chief Larrick is excellent, self-explanatory for the month's code activity.
- **Public Safety:** Mr. Flannery stated that Chief Romutis is getting acquainted with the Department and that the Committee will be meeting soon.
- **Public Works:** Mr. Cafarelli reported the following:
 - Street-sweeping is underway, operating every other week through October. Street-sweeper is also running one day a week on the special route near French Point Creek to provide extra sweeping where the DEP has required us to.
 - Grass Cutting of Borough Properties, Lots, Right of Ways and Abandoned Properties are currently underway.

- Crew completed line painting of all crosswalks and stop bars in preparation for back to school. Crew completed most of this work over the midnight hours to limit issues with traffic. They have also started to paint yellow curbs as well.
- Summer-help through the OVR program last day was August 17th.
- Crew completed the repair of the catch basin at Duss Avenue and 6th St.
- Fixed the lot next to 67 Laughlin Street that was damaged by the demolition contractor. Mainly restored ruts in the yard and trimmed damaged tree branches. Work was done on September 5th.
- Equipment Maintenance:
 - Bucket Truck is at A&H for hydraulic leak in the boom that needs repaired.
 - Street-sweeper had warranty repairs made to the pony motor and the damaged bumper from the May accident was replaced.
 - Crew completed the stake-bed body conversion on the F-350 pickup truck on August 30 and 31. Work was done in-house with help from Harmony Township DPW.
- 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.

Mrs. Caldarelli questioned what happened to the catch basin at 6th and Duss Avenue? Mr. Cafarelli stated that it collapsed and that the DPW crew rebuilt it. He stated that we are fortunate that our crew is able to do this work in house; we used to contract this type of work out.

Mr. Mikulich reported that the traffic signal at 3rd and 6th Streets at Merchant have both been removed this past month. He stated that both intersections are working well as stop-sign intersections.

Manager Kauer reported on the status of the streetscape project on Merchant Street. He stated that demolition continues of the sidewalks and curbs on the riverside of Merchant and that work is now underway building the new sidewalks, tree pits, light pole foundations in that area. He also stated that storm sewer work is about half done as well in this area. Mayor Drewnowski stated that he attended the recent construction progress meeting and stated that the Manager is doing a great job; he truly has the best interests of the Borough at heart. He stated he was pleased to learn that the contractor has experience doing streetscape projects. Mr. Cafarelli reported that both the contractor and architect built the Beaver Borough streetscape.

- **Parks:** Mrs. Miller reported that she has been busy with the planning of the Fall Festival of Churches that is coming up on September 29th. Mr. Mikulich reported that the new pavilion at 8th Street Park is under construction. He thanked the Recreation Committee for their hard work to make this possible.
- **Engineer's Report:** Engineer Suehr reported that the storm sewer outfall project is complete; the contractor did an excellent job. He also stated that the Park Improvements Project has started and that they also started work on the basketball courts at Panek Park. The Engineer stated that the playground equipment for 8th Street Park is delayed and that the existing play equipment will stay in place until the new equipment is ready to be installed. He added that the Park Project is moving along well. Mr. Cafarelli questioned if the new pavilion is going to be lit? Mr. Mikulich reported that it is, and that work is also being done in-house by our electrician.
- Mayor Drewnowski thanked and commended Lt. Jameson for serving as the Officer in Charge of the Police Department these past couple of months. He stated that Lt. Jameson did an excellent job.

The Mayor stated that in accord with the Pennsylvania Borough Code, the Mayor does not have the authority to hire or fire, which is the duty of Borough Council. He requested that the minutes note that he was not aware of the hiring of Interim Chief of Police, Mark Romutis, until 15 minutes before the special meeting. He asked for consideration in the future.

Mayor Drewnowski thanked the Manager for securing a grant from the Attorney General's office to purchase Halloween and Crime Prevention Supplies for the Police Department. He stated that since 2015, the Manager has secured \$2,490,000 in grants for the Borough.

- **Official Reports**

1. **Motion to accept the Official Reports;** 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	Absent	Mr. Mikulich	Yes
Mr. Flannery	Yes	Mayor Drewnowski	
Motion carried.			

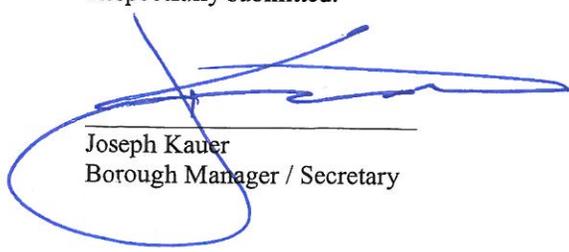
- **Other Unfinished Business**

None.

- **Adjournment –**

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

Respectfully submitted:



Joseph Kauer
Borough Manager / Secretary