

BOROUGH OF AMBRIDGE

MINUTES

Council Meeting: February 13, 2018
Ambridge Borough Building



- **Executive Session – Personnel and Legal Matters**
- **The February 13, 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
 - Mr. McCoy
 - Mr. Mikulich
 - Mayor Drewnowski
- Also Present: Borough Manager Kauer, Solicitor Start, Chief Gottschalk, Chief Mann and Engineer Suehr
- Absent: Mrs. Miller
- **Invocation** – the invocation was conducted by Mrs. Barbara Costa, Trinity School for Ministry.
- **Pledge of Allegiance**
- **Presentations** – Borough Council and Mayor presented a proclamation to Bob and Denise Dunn for their annual Christmas display and efforts that supported St. Jude's Children's Research Hospital.
- **Citizen's Participation On/Off Agenda Items (5 minutes per speaker)**
 1. **Mr. Tom Friend, 511 Merchant Street**, questioned Council regarding the trailers parked on Duss Avenue by Creekside Springs Water Company that he made complaint about last month. He is concerned that the trailers pose a danger to motorists at night and should have reflectors on them.
 2. **Ms. Lillian Peaff, 1325 N. Walnut Street**, expressed concerns to Council about dog owners not picking up after their dogs while out on walks. She stated that there is an issue with dog waste in the planting strip in the area of 15th Street and Lenz Avenue. She suggested that the planting strip be removed to take away the area for the dogs to do their business. Mr. Mikulich informed her that it is a crime to not pick up after your pets. She was encouraged to call the police if she witnesses this matter in the act in the future.
 3. **Mr. Fred Alexander, 401 Merchant Street** – Solicitor Start informed Mr. Alexander before he spoke, that his comments regard a matter that is part of ongoing litigation and that the Council is aware of his issue and will not make any comments relative to it tonight. Mr. Alexander read portions of an already prepared letter that summarized an issue he has with the Borough's Rental Property Registration Program and property he owns at 401 Merchant Street. He stated that he received multiple notices from Code Enforcement to register the property, he provided a letter to the Borough in 2017 stating that the building is under construction and not rental property but did not allow the code officers into the structure to verify. He stated that he was then cited for failing to

comply with rental registration and was fined by the District Court. He then met his five minutes for public comment and was asked to stop by Mr. Mikulich.

4. **Mrs. Non Alexander, wife of Fred Alexander, 401 Merchant Street**, stated that they do a nice job fixing up properties in town. Stated they are good people, who do all of the work themselves and haven't done a bad job so far.
5. **Mr. Stanley Williams, 70 15th Street**, informed Council that the owner of the Harmonist House at 13th Street and Church Street is making significant improvements to this building. He stated that he hopes to have the work done within six months.
6. **Mr. Mike Rogers, 424 Merchant Street, Apt. 8**, stated that the intersection of 4th Street and Route 65 should be a No Turn on Red intersection to prevent accidents. He also stated that the No Parking signs in the Upper Alley need to be replaced as they are not legible. Mr. Mikulich informed Mr. Rogers that we will update the signage. Mr. Rogers also stated that he has heard noises coming from 420 Merchant Street and believes parts of the building have collapsed. Chief Gottschalk informed him that the property owner has been cited for the rodent and property maintenance issues relative to 420 Merchant Street. The hearing is tomorrow.

- **Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes**

January 2, 2018, Council Meeting

Mr. McCoy made the motion to accept the minutes, 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	Absent
Mr. Dunn	Yes	Mr. Mikulich	Yes
Mr. Flannery	Yes	Mayor Drewnowski	

Motion carried.

January 9, 2018, Council Meeting

Mr. McCoy 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	Absent
Mr. Dunn	Yes	Mr. Mikulich	Yes
Mr. Flannery	Yes	Mayor Drewnowski	

Motion carried.

- **Treasurer's Report:**

Mr. Mikulich reviewed the Treasurer's Report with Borough Council:

Treasurer's Report (February 13, 2018)

Marilyn Sheleheda - Treasurer

General Fund Analysis

\$392,384.29	General Fund Bank Account Balance as of: -(February 13, 2018) -3:00 pm
\$104,218.46	All Outstanding Checks as of: -(February 13, 2018) -3:00 pm
\$288,165.83	Available Balance as of: -(February 13, 2018) -3:00 pm

General Fund Summary:	Totals are as follows:	
	Deposits:	\$276,700.35
	Debits:	\$512,683.34
	-which include the follow	
	82 Checks	\$268,609.76
	3 Payroll (s)	\$244,073.58

Other Fund Balances as of (February 13, 2018) 3:00 pm	
\$5,130.52	Ambridge Fire Apparatus Replacement Fund
\$76,798.31	Grants/Special Funds
\$22,381.71	Liquid Fuels Fund
\$13,819.00	Escrow Disbursement Account
\$29,709.46	Recreation Fund
\$38,361.73	Sinking Fund
\$1,179,364.15	Ambridge Capital Project Fund 2016-PLGIT Account
\$8,467.20	Ambridge Borough Drug Investigation Fund
\$1,374,032.08	Total Other Funds Balances (Restricted Use)

Motion to acknowledge receipt of the Borough Treasurer's Report was made by Mrs. Caldarelli, 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	Absent
Mr. Dunn	Yes	Mr. Mikulich	Yes
Mr. Flannery	Yes	Mayor Drewnowski	

Motion carried.

- Borough Bills and Expenses**

Motion to Pay the Bills (General Fund Unpaid: \$92,600.18 / Paid: \$74,690.27; 2016 Capital Project Bond Fund Unpaid: \$3,454.47, Recreation Fund Unpaid: \$0 / Paid: \$0) was made by Mr. Dunn, 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	Absent
Mr. Dunn	Yes	Mr. Mikulich	Yes
Mr. Flannery	Yes	Mayor Drewnowski	

Motion carried.

- New Business - Items for Discussion:**

- Motion to authorize the advertisement and public display of Ordinance No. 1302, an Ordinance of the Borough of Ambridge, Beaver County, Pennsylvania, relative to the establishment and maintenance of the 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. McCoy, seconded by Mr. Flannery; Mr. Mikulich stated that this Ordinance will establish a Deferred Vested Benefit for full-time Police Officers. A roll call vote was taken:

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

Motion carried.

2. Motion to authorize the advertisement and public display of Ordinance No. 1303, an Ordinance of the Borough of Ambridge, Beaver County, Pennsylvania, establishing and maintaining a municipal Police Pension Plan and to amend certain provision of the Pension Plan applicable to the Police of Ambridge Borough to add a deferred retirement option plan ("DROP"). Motion was made by Mrs. Caldarelli, 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	Absent
Mr. Dunn	Yes	Mr. Mikulich	Yes
Mr. Flannery	Yes	Mayor Drewnowski	

Motion carried.

3. Motion to authorize the advertisement and public display of Ordinance No. 1304, an Ordinance of the Borough of Ambridge, Beaver County, Pennsylvania, amending the Pension Plan applicable to certain firefighters of the Borough. Motion was made by Mr. McCoy, 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	Absent
Mr. Dunn	Yes	Mr. Mikulich	Yes
Mr. Flannery	Yes	Mayor Drewnowski	

Motion carried.

4. Motion to authorize applying for a Community Development Block Grant, seeking \$124,120 to make repairs to Storm Sewer Outfalls No. 7 and 8 that are located under the Ambridge-Aliquippa Bridge. Motion was made by Mr. Dunn, 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	Absent
Mr. Dunn	Yes	Mr. Mikulich	Yes
Mr. Flannery	Yes	Mayor Drewnowski	

Motion carried.

5. Motion to authorize applying for a FEMA Assistance to Firefighters Grant that would fund emergency radio upgrades within the Fire Department and also applying for a regional Assistance to Firefighters Grant that will purchase new Self Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBAs). Motion was made by Mr. Cafarelli, 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	Absent
Mr. Dunn	Yes	Mr. Mikulich	Yes
Mr. Flannery	Yes	Mayor Drewnowski	

Motion carried.

6. Motion to grant a dedicated on-street handicapped parking space in front of 440 Melrose Avenue as per the recommendation of the Ambridge Police Department. 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	Absent
Mr. Dunn	Yes	Mr. Mikulich	Yes
Mr. Flannery	Yes	Mayor Drewnowski	

Motion carried.

7. Motion to accept the resignation of part-time Patrolman Michael Scheers, effective 31 January 2018. Motion was made by Mr. McCoy, seconded by Mrs. Caldarelli; Mr. Mikulich requested that a letter be sent to Officer Sheers thanking him for his service; a roll call vote was taken:

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

Motion carried.

8. Motion to authorize the following disbursements from the applicable pension funds to CIM Investment Management for First Quarter 2018 services: Firemen's Fund: \$3,091.78, Service Employees Fund: \$1,045.01, Police Pension Fund: \$7,246.78. Motion was made by Mr. McCoy, 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	Absent
Mr. Dunn	Yes	Mr. Mikulich	Yes
Mr. Flannery	Yes	Mayor Drewnowski	

Motion carried.

9. Motion to authorize the disbursement of \$2,814.98 to Rhoades Law, LLC, for legal services provided to amend the Service Employees Pension Fund to create an Administrative Employees Defined Contribution Pension Plan. 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	Absent
Mr. Dunn	Yes	Mr. Mikulich	Yes
Mr. Flannery	Yes	Mayor Drewnowski	

Motion carried.

10. Motion to authorize the purchase of Welcome to Ambridge banners for the mid-town district of Merchant Street at a price not to exceed \$2,500 from R&S Enterprises. Motion was made by Mr. McCoy, 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	Absent
Mr. Dunn	Yes	Mr. Mikulich	Yes
Mr. Flannery	Yes	Mayor Drewnowski	

Motion carried.

11. Motion to authorize the execution of the Amendment to Architectural Services Agreement by and between the Borough of Ambridge and Hancock Architecture to provide project management and inspection services for the Merchant Street Streetscape Project. Motion was made by Mr. Cafarelli, seconded by Mr. McCoy; Manager Kauer explained that this agreement will provide a part-time construction manager on site during the streetscape project construction. He stated that this person will coordinate the project with affected businesses and property owners, and services are to be paid from the 2016 Capital Project Fund, savings from the 2017 road program; a roll call vote was taken:

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

Motion carried.

12. Motion to authorize the Committee to Clean and Beautify Ambridge to use the Fire Station for their annual Chili and Pierogi Cook-off on April 22, 2018 and to authorize them to hang event banners on the fence of the H&H Sports-courts Complex on 11th Street. Motion was made by Mr. Cafarelli, 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	Absent
Mr. Dunn	Yes	Mr. Mikulich	Yes
Mr. Flannery	Yes	Mayor Drewnowski	

Motion carried.

13. Motion to authorize Representative Robert Matzie to conduct a free paper shredding event at Walter Panek Park on Saturday, May 5, 2018 from 9AM to 3PM. Motion was made by Mr. Cafarelli, 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	Absent
Mr. Dunn	Yes	Mr. Mikulich	Yes
Mr. Flannery	Yes	Mayor Drewnowski	

Motion carried.

14. Motion to authorize the Ambridge Alliance Church to use the gazebo in PJ Caul Park on the fourth Sunday of each month starting Sunday, April 22, 2018 through September 23, 2018, between the hours of 11AM and 1PM for Sunday community services. Motion was made by Mrs. Caldarelli, seconded by Mr. Dunn; Mr. Flannery questioned if this event will interfere with any other community events? Manager Kauer explained that he has reached out to Mr. Sickles from the Rotary Club and he stated that Mr. Sickles stated that the event will not interfere with their concerts in the park. A roll call vote was taken:

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

Motion carried.

15. Motion to hire Mr. Patrick Steven Jennings, Jr., as a part-time police officer. Motion was made by Mr. Cafarelli, seconded by Mr. McCoy; Mayor Drewnowski stated that Mr. Jennings is currently also a

Military Police Officer at the 911th Air Force Base, and his schedule makes him available to fill a number of shifts here in Ambridge; a roll call vote was taken:

Council	VOTE	Council	Vote
Mr. Cafarelli	Yes	Mr. McCoy	Yes
Mrs. Caldarelli	Yes	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 he has met with both the Police and Fire Chiefs this past month; a Committee Meeting will be forthcoming.
- **Public Works:** Mr. Cafarelli reported that the committee met on January 19th, present was himself, Mr. Flannery, Manager Kauer, DPW Foreman Eberhardt, and Mayor Drewnowski.

Meeting Highlights

- Discussed Ice Storm that occurred January 14 and 15, came up with ways to mitigate ice storms in the future if similar conditions occur
- Problems with the Ice Storm were that a significant amount of ice accumulated before it transferred to snow.
- Temperatures were too low for salt to be effective. Salt is not as efficient under 20 degrees
- Rubber snow plow blades were not as effective clearing the ice.
- Expressed concerns with PENNDOT for snow removal on Rt. 989
- Agreed to purchase an emergency supply of Cinders to use in intersections if road-salt is not performing or effective.
- Agreed to purchase one steel snow-plow cutting bar to be set up and used on the newer streets if the rubber blades do not work in the future.
- Drafted and put out a press release on DPW Snow Operations, explaining how snow removal takes place in the Borough. This information was released the third week of January and is also still posted on the Borough website, www.AmbridgeBoro.org
- Made communication with PENNDOT regarding snow removal on Rt. 989.

Mr. Cafarelli also reported the following highlights from the Public Works Department:

- Crew has been busy with snow removal of streets and public sidewalks
- Emergency supply of cinders has been received should conditions occur when salt isn't that effective.
- Crew took down and put away all of the Christmas decorations from the Borough Building, Merchant Street and PJ Caul Park.
- Cleaned catch basins on January 12th throughout town.
- Equipment Maintenance:
 - Red Ford F-550 Dump Truck – Power Steering Line was fixed, truck was inspected and oil was changed.
 - Ford F-350 Pickup Truck – Front brakes were replaced, truck was inspected and oil was changed.
 - Flatbed conversion kit for Ford F-350 Pickup Truck was ordered, crew will switch out beds in-house in the spring.
- Sign maintenance is on-going, replacing missing signs and repairing damaged locations.
- Loading Zone Sign at Maple Restaurant was put in on January 22nd.
- Bank Street No Parking Signs have been installed – MoreFlavor has been billed for the sign work and for the costs associated with the Ordinance.
- Rt. 989 Truck Sign Route Signs have been improved by DPW, signs are posted at all locations directing trucks to northern Duss Avenue
- Crew is refurbishing the old German Street Name Signs for Church Street within the Historic District.

- 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 requested that a letter be sent from the Borough to Representative Matzie and Senator Vogel to direct PENNDOT to install over-head signage on 8th Street to mark the new turning lanes onto Route 65.

Mayor Drewnowski thanked Mr. Cafarelli for inviting him to attend the recent Public Works Committee Meeting. Mr. Mikulich stated that our Public Works crew does a great job, he has concerns about the long hours they work during severe snow storms.

- **Parks:** Mayor Drewnowski stated that he attended the last Parks and Recreation Committee Meeting. He stated that Mrs. Miller does a lot of work as part of this committee. He stated that she is always trying to get the best price on the best products for the town. The Mayor stated that at the last meeting, work has been focused on designing the improvements to be made at Panek Park and 8th Street Park this year.
- **Engineer's Report:** Engineer Suehr stated that he attended the last Parks and Recreation Committee Meeting and is currently working on development project specifications and bid documents for the Parks Improvement Project. He also reported that he is working with Hancock Architecture with the application to PENNDOT for a Highway Occupancy Permit that is needed at 8th Street for the Streetscape Project.

- **Official Reports**

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

Motion carried.

- **Other Unfinished Business**

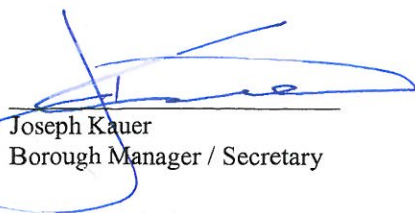
Mayor Drewnowski stated that he and Mr. Flannery attended the Downtown Development Committee on February 12th. He stated that lots of active citizens are involved to make Merchant Street better for business and the community. He reported that at this meeting, it was discussed that the new owner of 420 Merchant Street has applied for façade grant funding to improve this currently blighted building.

Mr. Mikulich stated that he attended the Historic District Economic Development Corporation Meeting on February 12th. He stated that the Historic District is currently planning their annual SpringFest Event. He also stated that an architect is interested in moving his businesses to the Historic District.

- **Adjournment –**

Motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Cafarelli, seconded by Mr. Dunn; motion carried unanimously – meeting was adjourned at 8:07PM.

Respectfully submitted:


Joseph Kauer
Borough Manager / Secretary