

BOROUGH OF AMBRIDGE

MINUTES

Council Meeting: January 12, 2016
Ambridge Municipal Complex



- **Executive Session – Personnel and Legal Matters**
- **The January 12, 2016 meeting of Ambridge Borough Council was called to order at 7:00PM within the Council Chambers of the Ambridge Municipal Complex.**

- **Roll Call:**

Present:

Mr. Cafarelli
Mrs. Caldarelli
Mrs. Drewnowski
Mr. Dunn
President Mikulich

Also Present: Borough Manager Kauer, Solicitor Start, Borough Engineer Lemmon, Engineer Suehr, and Code Enforcement Officer Clark.

Absent: Mayor D'Ambrosio, Mr. McCoy, Mrs. Miller, Chief Mann and Chief Drewnowski

- **Invocation** given by Ms. Barb Costa, Trinity School of Ministry.
- **Pledge of Allegiance**
- **Presentations**
 - **Recognition of Borough Engineer Frank Lemmon, P.E.** - members of Borough Council presented retiring Engineer Lemmon with a plaque thanking him and recognizing his nineteen years of service to the Borough.
- **Citizen's Participation On/Off Agenda Items (5 minutes per speaker)**

Mr. Mark Crano, 817 Beaver Road, requested that Ambridge residents have first option to purchase bonds as part of the Borough's 2016 Bond Issue. He stated that the bonds are a great investment opportunity for the citizens and that it could be a unique opportunity for them to take advantage of. Solicitor Start advised Mr. Crano that the Borough will advise our underwriter of this request.

Ms. Lorianne Burgess, 570 Merchant Street, questioned the status of the Ambridge Police Sub-Station that is located within the Chamber of Commerce Building on Merchant Street. She stated that the police seldom use this building and if they used it more, the increased police presence would have a positive impact at reducing crime on Merchant Street. President Mikulich advised her that the building will remain a police sub-station even with the new lease with the Ambridge Regional Chamber of Commerce. He also advised her that her concerns will be shared with the Mayor and Chief of Police to see if they would occupy this office more.

- **Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes**
December 8, 2015 Council Meeting

Mrs. Caldarelli made the motion to accept the minutes, seconded by Mr. Cafarelli. A roll call vote was taken:

Council	VOTE	Council	Vote
Mr. Cafarelli	Y	Mr. McCoy	Absent
Mrs. Caldarelli	Y	Mrs. Miller	Absent
Mrs. Drewnowski	Y	Mr. Mikulich	Y
Mr. Dunn	Abstain	Mayor D'Ambrosio	
Motion Carried			

January 4, 2016 Reorganization Meeting

Mr. Cafarelli made the motion to accept the minutes, seconded by Mrs. Caldarelli. A roll call vote was taken:

Council	VOTE	Council	Vote
Mr. Cafarelli	Y	Mr. McCoy	Absent
Mrs. Caldarelli	Y	Mrs. Miller	Absent
Mrs. Drewnowski	Y	Mr. Mikulich	Y
Mr. Dunn	Y	Mayor D'Ambrosio	
Motion Carried			

- Treasurer's Report:**

President Mikulich reviewed the Treasurer's Report with Borough Council:

Treasurer's Report January 12, 2016 Marilyn Shelehedra - Treasurer			
General Fund Analysis			
\$525,914.81	General Fund Bank Account Balance as of: -(January 12, 2016) -4:00 pm		
\$20,707.45	All Outstanding Checks as of: -(January 12, 2016) -4:00 pm		
\$505,207.36	Available Balance as of: -(January 12, 2016) -4:00 pm		
General Fund Summary:	<i>Totals are as follows:</i>		
	Deposits:		\$550,592.24
	Debits:		\$335,079.40
	-which include the following:		
	<u>58</u> Checks & Misc Debits	\$	\$127,613.07
	<u>3</u> Payroll (s)	\$	\$207,466.33
Other Fund Balances as of (January 12, 2016) 4:00 pm			
\$1,275.21	Ambridge Fire Apparatus Replacement Fund		
\$85,570.46	Grants/Special Funds		
\$4,406.86	Liquid Fuels Fund		
\$46,318.61	Escrow Disbursement Account		
\$36,033.00	Recreation Fund		
\$827,053.01	2015 Road Construction Fund		
	2015 PIB Note Sinking Fund		
\$4,627.50	Sinking Fund		
\$5,663.25	Ambridge Borough Drug Investigation Fund		
\$1,010,947.90	Total Other Funds Balances (Restricted Use)		

- Borough Bills and Expenses**

Motion to Pay the Bills (Unpaid: \$210,901.49 / Paid: \$41,754.45) was made by Mrs. Drewnowski, seconded by Mrs. Caldarelli; - a roll call vote was taken:

Council	VOTE	Council	Vote
Mr. Cafarelli	Y	Mr. McCoy	Absent
Mrs. Caldarelli	Y	Mrs. Miller	Absent
Mrs. Drewnowski	Y	Mr. Mikulich	Y
Mr. Dunn	Y	Mayor D'Ambrosio	

Motion Carried

- New Business - Items for Discussion:**

1. Motion to grant an on-street dedicated handicapped parking space in front of the residence at 118 Park Road as recommended by the Ambridge Police Department. Motion was made by Mrs. Drewnowski, seconded by Mrs. Caldarelli, a roll call vote was taken:

Council	VOTE	Council	Vote
Mr. Cafarelli	Y	Mr. McCoy	Absent
Mrs. Caldarelli	Y	Mrs. Miller	Absent
Mrs. Drewnowski	Y	Mr. Mikulich	Y
Mr. Dunn	Y	Mayor D'Ambrosio	

Motion Carried

2. Motion to review and approve the road closures requested by the Ambridge Municipal Authority. Motion was made by Mrs. Caldarelli, seconded by Mr. Dunn; a roll call vote was taken:

Council	VOTE	Council	Vote
Mr. Cafarelli	Y	Mr. McCoy	Absent
Mrs. Caldarelli	Y	Mrs. Miller	Absent
Mrs. Drewnowski	Y	Mr. Mikulich	Y
Mr. Dunn	Y	Mayor D'Ambrosio	

Motion Carried

3. Motion to authorize the temporary road closure of 14th Street, between Duss Avenue and Merchant Street, on Saturday, April 16, 2016 from 6:00AM and 4:00PM and on Friday, June 10, 2016 at 5:00PM through June 11, 2016 at 6:00PM for the Western PA Soap Box Derby. Motion was made by Mr. Cafarelli, seconded by Mrs. Drewnowski; a roll call vote was taken:

Council	VOTE	Council	Vote
Mr. Cafarelli	Y	Mr. McCoy	Absent
Mrs. Caldarelli	Y	Mrs. Miller	Absent
Mrs. Drewnowski	Y	Mr. Mikulich	Y
Mr. Dunn	Y	Mayor D'Ambrosio	

Motion Carried

4. Motion to set and adopt the 2016 Street Sweeping (April 4 – October 7) and Leaf Collection (October 24 – December 9) schedules. Motion was made by Mr. Cafarelli, seconded by Mrs. Drewnowski; a roll call vote was taken:

Council	VOTE	Council	Vote
Mr. Cafarelli	Y	Mr. McCoy	Absent
Mrs. Caldarelli	Y	Mrs. Miller	Absent
Mrs. Drewnowski	Y	Mr. Mikulich	Y
Mr. Dunn	Y	Mayor D'Ambrosio	

Motion Carried

5. Motion to accept the resignation of David Drewnowski as backup electrician. Motion was made by Mr. Cafarelli, with regret, seconded by Mr. Dunn; a roll call vote was taken:

Council	VOTE	Council	Vote
Mr. Cafarelli	Y	Mr. McCoy	Absent
Mrs. Caldarelli	Y	Mrs. Miller	Absent
Mrs. Drewnowski	Abstain	Mr. Mikulich	Y
Mr. Dunn	Y	Mayor D'Ambrosio	
Motion Carried			

Mr. Mikulich asked that a letter be sent to Mr. Drewnowski thanking him for his service and advising him that his resignation has been regrettfully accepted.

6. Motion to advertise the employment position of backup electrician, motion was made by Mr. Cafarelli, seconded by Mrs. Caldarelli; a roll call vote was taken:

Council	VOTE	Council	Vote
Mr. Cafarelli	Y	Mr. McCoy	Absent
Mrs. Caldarelli	Y	Mrs. Miller	Absent
Mrs. Drewnowski	Y	Mr. Mikulich	Y
Mr. Dunn	Y	Mayor D'Ambrosio	
Motion Carried			

7. Motion to suspend the rules of Borough Council to allow for the single vote for board appointments, should there be no opposition to the appointments. Motion was made by Mrs. Caldarelli, seconded by Mr. Dunn; a roll call vote was taken:

Council	VOTE	Council	Vote
Mr. Cafarelli	NO	Mr. McCoy	Absent
Mrs. Caldarelli	Y	Mrs. Miller	Absent
Mrs. Drewnowski	NO	Mr. Mikulich	Y
Mr. Dunn	Y	Mayor D'Ambrosio	
Motion Carried			

8. Motion to make the following board appointments:

- Reappoint Jeffrey Wood to the Historic Architectural Review Board with a five year term that would expire December 31, 2020.
- Reappoint Lois Guido to the Historic Architectural Review Board with a five year term that would expire December 31, 2020.
- Reappoint George Rhawn to the Zoning Hearing Board with a three year term that would expire December 31, 2018.
- Reappoint Barb Costa to the Zoning Hearing Board with a three year term that would expire December 31, 2018.
- Reappoint Michael J. Jackson to the Shade Tree Commission with a five year term that would expire December 31, 2020.
- Reappoint Tom Patrician to the Planning Commission with a four year term that would expire December 31, 2019.
- Reappoint Tim Kay to the Landlord-Tenant Appeals Board with a three year term that would expire December 31, 2018.

Motion was made by Mr. Dunn, seconded by Mrs. Caldarelli; a roll call vote was taken:

Council	VOTE	Council	Vote
Mr. Cafarelli	Y	Mr. McCoy	Absent
Mrs. Caldarelli	Y	Mrs. Miller	Absent
Mrs. Drewnowski	Y	Mr. Mikulich	Y
Mr. Dunn	Y	Mayor D'Ambrosio	

Motion Carried

9. Motion to authorize D'Andrea Plumbing and Construction to investigate and correct the collapsed storm sewer causing voiding under the concrete slabs at the intersection of Lenz Avenue and 17th Street at a cost not to exceed \$10,925. Motion was made by Mr. Cafarelli, seconded by Mr. Dunn; a roll call vote was taken:

Council	VOTE	Council	Vote
Mr. Cafarelli	Y	Mr. McCoy	Absent
Mrs. Caldarelli	Y	Mrs. Miller	Absent
Mrs. Drewnowski	Y	Mr. Mikulich	Y
Mr. Dunn	Y	Mayor D'Ambrosio	

Motion Carried

10. Motion to authorize the lease of Municipal Property at 562 Merchant Street to the Ambridge Regional Chamber of Commerce; motion was made by Mrs. Drewnowski, seconded by Mr. Dunn; a roll call vote was taken:

Council	VOTE	Council	Vote
Mr. Cafarelli	Y	Mr. McCoy	Absent
Mrs. Caldarelli	Y	Mrs. Miller	Absent
Mrs. Drewnowski	Y	Mr. Mikulich	Y
Mr. Dunn	Y	Mayor D'Ambrosio	

Motion Carried

Mr. Cafarelli questioned that after they occupy the building, will it serve as a Visitor's Center and Police Sub-Station? President Mikulich confirmed that it will stay as those uses.

11. Motion to authorize the 2016 Bond Issuance in the amount of \$2,790,000.00 with the following preliminary budget:

- (a) \$100,000 - Borough Building Roof Replacement
- (b) \$600,000 - New Fire Engine replacing the 1973 American LaFrance Snorkel
- (c) \$90,000 - Backhoe for Public Works Department
- (d) \$1,000,000 - Merchant Street Streetscape Project
- (e) \$1,000,000 - Road Resurfacing and Reconstruction throughout the Borough

Motion was made by Mrs. Caldarelli, seconded by Mrs. Drewnowski; a roll call vote was taken:

Council	VOTE	Council	Vote
Mr. Cafarelli	Y	Mr. McCoy	Absent
Mrs. Caldarelli	Y	Mrs. Miller	Absent
Mrs. Drewnowski	Y	Mr. Mikulich	Y
Mr. Dunn	Y	Mayor D'Ambrosio	

Motion Carried

President Mikulich stated that should the recently submitted FEMA Grant for a new fire engine be approved, those funds will be repurposed for additional road resurfacing work. Mrs. Drewnowski stated that borrowing funds is at an all-time low right now. She stated that these projects identified would probably be the same projects financed 3-4 years out, should we have paid the debt all off in 2018. It was her recommendation to borrow the funding now while interest rates are much lower than what is projected four years from now.

Mr. Cafarelli questioned the length of the bond issue; he was advised by President Mikulich that we are planning on this to be a 10 year bond issue. Mr. Mikulich also stated that this bond issue had to happen in order to restructure the Borough's debt. If we do not do anything, the annual debt payments are close to \$600,000 and would cause the Borough to continue to operate with a deficit. He thanked Mrs. Drewnowski and the Borough Manager for their efforts to bring about this bond issue consideration.

12. **Discussion - Kennedy Drive:** Consider making Kennedy Drive between 10th and 11th Street, one-way in a northbound direction. Mr. Mikulich stated that multiple residents and business owners have expressed concerns to him about the adverse effects that the traffic has had on them and requested the Borough consider redirecting the traffic elsewhere. It was decided to direct the Public Safety Committee to discuss and study this matter at its next meeting. Mr. Cafarelli suggested that the Committee also consider, if this moves forward, that a prohibition of No Left Turn onto 11th Street from Kennedy Drive be implemented. Mrs. Drewnowski requested the Borough Manager to survey the Kennedy Drive residents in advance of the February 3, 2016 Public Safety Committee Meeting. She also requested both the Police and Fire Departments to review this proposal in advance of the Public Safety Committee Meeting.

13. Motion to hire Mr. Cody Wisenor as a probationary part-time police officer, effective January 13, 2016. Motion was made by Mrs. Drewnowski, seconded by Mr. Dunn; a roll call vote was taken:

Council	VOTE	Council	Vote
Mr. Cafarelli	Y	Mr. McCoy	Absent
Mrs. Caldarelli	Y	Mrs. Miller	Absent
Mrs. Drewnowski	Y	Mr. Mikulich	Y
Mr. Dunn	Y	Mayor D'Ambrosio	
Motion Carried			

Mr. Mikulich stated that this hire is as result of three current part-time police officers finding employment elsewhere. He stated that this hire will replace all three that left.

- **Committee Reports**

- **Administration and Finance:** Mr. Mikulich stated that there is no Administration and Finance Committee in 2016. He stated that all members of Council are responsible for this Committee and its responsibilities moving forward. He also reported that \$330,000 was recently transferred from the Borough's Sinking Fund to our General Fund, basically serving as a 0% interest Tax Anticipation Loan for the Borough until early March. This fund transfer will help sustain operations until real estate taxes are received for the year.
- **Code Enforcement Committee:** No Report
- **Public Safety:** Mrs. Drewnowski stated that the Fire Department submitted a grant to FEMA seeking \$698,000 to purchase a new fire engine that would replace a fire engine of ours that is 43 years old. She stated the requests for project endorsement have been sent to Congressman Rothfus and Senators Casey and Toomey. She thanked Assistant Chief Gottschalk and Firefighter Larrick for their efforts to prepare this grant application.

Mrs. Drewnowski also reported that on January 9th, it was National Law Enforcement Appreciation Day. She encouraged everyone to say hello and thank our officer for their service when you see them.

- **Public Works:** Mr. Cafarelli reported on the following items regarding the Public Works Department:
 - Collection of Christmas Trees is ongoing through February 1st. Trees can also be dropped off at the Public Works Facility during the weekends.
 - Trucks are ready for winter operations – first winter call-out for snow / ice removal was on January 3rd.
 - Hydraulic repairs were made to the F-650 Dump Truck on January 6 at Diamondhead.
 - Ongoing maintenance has been dedicated to filling pot-holes.
 - DPW Crew is currently making extra traffic horses.
 - Sign maintenance is on-going, replacing missing signs and repairing damaged locations.

- Foreman responded, marked and reported multiple PA-One Call requests.
- **Parks:** No report.
- **Engineer's Report:** Engineer Suehr reported that he is working on calculating the costs to reconstruct / repave the proposed roads that have been suggested for the 2016 Bond Issue. Council suggested to the Engineer to add brick repairs on Maplewood Avenue between 11th and 12th Streets and also on 8th Street between Beaver Road and Pine Street.

Mr. Mikulich congratulated Mr. Suehr on recently passing the state's Professional Engineer's certification exam.

- **Official Reports**

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

Council	VOTE	Council	Vote
Mr. Cafarelli	Y	Mr. McCoy	Absent
Mrs. Caldarelli	Y	Mrs. Miller	Absent
Mrs. Drewnowski	Y	Mr. Mikulich	Y
Mr. Dunn	Y	Mayor D'Ambrosio	
Motion Carried			

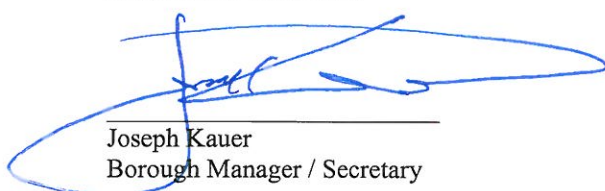
- **Other Unfinished Business**

Mr. Mikulich thanked Engineer Lemmon for his loyalty, presence and service. He wished him the best of luck in his upcoming retirement.

- **Adjournment –**

Motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Cafarelli, seconded by Mr. Dunn; motion carried unanimously – meeting was adjourned at 8:00 PM

Respectfully submitted:



Joseph Kauer
Borough Manager / Secretary