



BOROUGH OF AMBRIDGE
MINUTES
Council Meeting: March 12, 2019
Ambridge Borough Building

- **Executive Session – Personnel, Real Estate and Legal Matters**
- **The March 12, 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 Start, Chief Gottschalk, Chief Romutis and Engineer Suehr
- Absent: None.
- **Invocation** – the invocation was conducted by Mr. Barbara Costa, Trinity School for Ministry.
- **Pledge of Allegiance**
- **Presentations**
 1. Mayor Drewnowski presented a Proclamation to Patrolman John Chickos recognizing Police Canine Hector for his dedication and service to the Citizens of Ambridge as a member of the Ambridge Police Department. K9 Hector was recently retired from service in January. Patrolman Chickos gave a framed picture of Hector to the Council to display in Council Chambers.
 2. 2018 Police Department Year End Report – Chief Romutis presented statistics on last year’s police operations. He highlighted that the Department responded to 11,082 calls for service and that crime is down approximately 30% comparing it to 2017.
- **Citizen’s Participation On/Off Agenda Items (5 minutes per speaker)**
 1. **Mr. Mike Rogers, 424 Merchant Street**, requested Borough Council to increase the delay between red and green cycles at the signalized intersections on Route 65, both at 4th and 8th Streets. He stated that if the delay was increased, it could potentially improve the safety of those intersections.
 2. **Mrs. Kathy Sabol, 919 Pine Street**, made complaint to Borough Council about building inspection services from NIRA. She stated that NIRA harassed her, and that the process NIRA is using to enforce the Uniform Construction Code in regards to occupancy permits is not correct. Mr. Mikulich told Mrs. Sabol that Council recently discussed this matter and that the Code Committee will be considering alternative actions. Mrs. Sabol also complained about permit fees.
 3. **Ms. Kathy Carter, 801 Beaver Road**, questioned Council if they were going to resume police patrols in the County Housing projects in the Borough. Mr. Mikulich stated that Council is discussing it.

4. **Mrs. Lorianne Burgess, 570 Merchant Street**, questioned Council as to when the Police are going to patrol the village again. Mr. Mikulich questioned Mrs. Burgess, asking if she felt that everyone who lives in the village is a criminal that their neighborhood needs more of a police presence than anywhere else in town? Mrs. Burgess made complaint about the new playground equipment at 8th Street Park. She stated that it is intended for children ages 2-5, and that the new play equipment is boring. Mrs. Miller encouraged her to go to another park in town if her children are bored at 8th Street Park. Mrs. Burgess stated that the community needs play equipment for children older than 5.

- **Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes
February 12, 2019, Council Meeting**

Mr. Flannery made the motion to accept the minutes, 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.

- **Borough Bills and Expenses**

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

1.	General Fund	Unpaid: \$127,161.58	Paid: \$97,308.60
2.	2016 Capital Project Bond Fund	Unpaid: \$862.50	
3.	Grants / Special Project Fund	Unpaid: \$375.00	
4.	Recreation Fund	Unpaid: \$0.00	Paid: \$0.00
5.	Escrow Fund	Unpaid: \$0.00	
6.	Police Pension Fund	Unpaid: \$0.00	
7.	Service Employees Pension Fund	Unpaid: \$955.97	
8.	Firemen's Pension Fund	Unpaid: \$2,853.98	
9.	Drug Investigation Fund	Unpaid: \$6,907.22	

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 3 listed on the Consent Agenda was made by Mr. Flannery, seconded by Mr. Dunn, motion carried unanimously.

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

Mr.
Mrs
Mrs
Mr.
Mot

**Treasurer's Report
(March 12, 2019)**

Marilyn Sheleheda - Treasurer

General Fund Analysis	
\$532,860.53	General Fund Bank Account Balance as of: -(March 12, 2019) -3:00 pm
\$172,259.71	All Outstanding Checks as of: -(March 12, 2019) -3:00 pm
\$360,600.82	Available Balance as of: -(March 12, 2019) -3:00 pm

General Fund Summary:	<i>Totals are as follows:</i>	
	Deposits:	\$455,127.92
	Debits:	\$396,168.38
	-which include the follow	
	91 Checks	\$249,068.98
2 Payroll (s)	\$147,099.40	

Other Fund Balances as of (March 12, 2019) 3:00 pm	
\$16,354.10	Ambridge Borough Drug Investigation Fund
\$1,029,439.88	Ambridge Capital Project Fund 2016-PLGIT Account
\$7,755.77	Ambridge Fire Apparatus Replacement Fund
\$13,080.77	Escrow Disbursement Account
\$5,745.81	Grants/Special Funds
\$216,677.42	Liquid Fuels Fund
\$34,395.16	Recreation Fund
\$43,341.43	Sinking Fund
\$1,366,790.34	Total Other Funds Balances (Restricted Use)

2. Authorize an on-street handicap parking space at 1619 Church Street based on the recommendation of the Ambridge Police Department.

3. Authorize the advertisement of Request for Proposals for the Ambridge Commercial Historic District National Register of Historic Places Nomination Project.

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

A. Motion to approve the Subdivision of 1718 and 1798 North Walnut Street per the recommendation of the Ambridge Planning Commission and Borough Engineer. 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 authorize the disbursement of \$18,681.30 to Baiano Construction, Inc., for Payment Application No. 6 for the Merchant Street Streetscape Project. 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 enter into agreement with Kress Brothers Builders for the paving and painting of the Streetscape Project Parklet Wall at a cost not to exceed \$7,000. 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	Yes	Mr. Mikulich	Yes
Mr. Flannery	Yes	Mayor Drewnowski	

Motion carried.

- D. Motion to appoint Mr. Donald Burkhart to the Historical Architecture Review Board with a term that is to expire December 31, 2020. Motion was made by Mr. Dunn, 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.

- E. Motion to appoint Mr. Donald Burkhart to the Nuisance Property Appeals Board with a term that is to expire December 31, 2021. 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.

- F. Motion to appoint Mr. Ross McCoy to the Ambridge Shade Tree Commission with a term that is to expire December 31, 2023. 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	No
Mr. Dunn	Yes	Mr. Mikulich	Yes
Mr. Flannery	Yes	Mayor Drewnowski	

Motion carried, 6-1.

- G. Motion to appoint Ms. Nadine Palichat to the Ambridge Planning Commission with a term that is to expire December 31, 2022. Motion was made by Mr. Dunn, 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.

- H. Motion to contribute \$500 to the Ambridge Fireworks Committee for the annual Independence Day Celebration. 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.

- I. Motion to make a contribution to the Allegheny Land Trust to match the awarded grant project that will create a Conservation and Stewardship Plan for the Big Sewickley Creek Watershed. 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.

- J. Motion to authorize applying for a Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection grant seeking \$144,000 to make improvements to the Public Works facility, purchase a new truck and a leaf-vac trailer. 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.

- K. Motion to authorize applying for a Local Government Academy grant that would fund the wages of an intern to assist with Historic and Downtown Districts Community and Economic Development. 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.

• **Committee Reports**

- Code Enforcement Committee:** Mrs. Caldarelli reported that the Committee will be having a meeting in the next month to go over building permit fees assessed by NIRA. She also reported that rental property inspections are underway for the year, 47% of commercial properties have registered for their annual fire inspections, and 42 ordinance violation letters were sent out this past month. Mrs. Caldarelli also reported that there is an Electronic and Household Hazardous Waste Collection Event at the Borough Building on April 13th. That same day the Ambridge VFD is also having a cash-bash fundraiser. She encouraged the community to the support their event.
- Public Safety:** Mr. Flannery reported that the committee recently had a meeting with District Attorney David Lozier and discussed the DA's ESU-SWAT team, anti-drug task force, training his office offers and the possibility of forming an arson investigation task force.

It was also reported that there is a need for both additional part-time police officers and firefighter / code officers. It was agreed to run a joint advertisement seeking applicants. Mr. Flannery also

reported that police survey results have been supplied to all members of Council and that a policy to create police department awards is in the process of being developed.

Regarding vehicles, Mr. Flannery stated that the new police car is in and has to go to Ibis Tek for emergency upgrades and that the new Fire Squad is anticipated to be received in May. The next Public Safety Committee Meeting is March 19th.

3. **Public Works:** Mr. Cafarelli reported the following:
- Crew has been busy with winter maintenance activities of the roads and public sidewalks.
 - DPW has cutting out and removed all of the old Meter Posts from the commercial districts.
 - Streetscape Project – crew is refurbishing parking meters for the public lots and also painting the backs of signs that will be hung in the downtown
 - Crew has stripped and removed lettering and equipment from both surplus police cruisers that will be auctioned. They also picked up the new police car for the PD on 3/6 from C. Harper Ford.
 - Cleaned up wind storm damage on February 25th. Large tree came down at 334 Glenwood Drive. They also walked Merchant Street that week and picked up litter.
 - Crew completed storm drain repairs to the catch basin that is located within the DPW Yard, outside of the garage.
 - Equipment Maintenance:
 - o Red F-550 Dump Truck – hydraulic hose line replaced on 3/1/19
 - o F-650 (5-ton) Dump Truck is out right now for brake repairs.
 - 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 also reported that streetscape construction started this week. Mayor Drewnowski requested the street sweeper to be out sweeping areas before the actual sweeping season starts in April. Mr. Mikulich stated that the Public Works crew does that every spring.

4. **Parks:** Mrs. Miller reported that the committee met late last month and is working on preliminary plans for the Henning Street Playground. She stated that the Engineer is now developing a project budget and scope.

Mr. Mikulich stated that the committee did an excellent job with the recent improvements to both Panek and 8th Street Parks. He stated that the new playground equipment is standard equipment that could be found at any park in any town.

Mrs. Miller stated that the committee is trying to improve parks and recreation within the community. She reported that playground equipment is very expensive, highlighting the proposed concepts of the new playground on Henning Street to possibly include a splash pad and a playset that resembles Old Economy Village.

Mr. Mikulich reviewed the Troop Banner program with the community, showing a sample banner that is on display within Council Chambers. He stated that the program costs \$100 and includes one large street banner and two garden size banners for family. He added that this is a great program to honor our veterans and the banners will fly Memorial Day to Veterans Day.

Mr. Mikulich also announced that the Borough has been awarded Tree City USA status by the Arbor Day Foundation. He recognized the Shade Tree Commission and the Committee to Clean and Beautify Ambridge for this achievement.

5. **Engineer's Report:** Engineer Suehr reported that the plans and specifications for the Merchant Street Paving Project are now ready to be put out for bid. He stated that the project will have a start date of July 1. The Engineer also stated that he is working on developing a MS4 Program Binder for the Borough Office and that he recently assisted the Manager develop a scope and estimate for the DPW Yard Paving Project, Melrose Parking Lots Improvements Project and the Henning Street Playground Project. Engineer Suehr also informed Council that he reviewed and denied a curb cut application at

618 Beaver Road as the applicant did not increase the amount of off-street parking per the requirements of the Ordinance.

Lastly, the Engineer stated that he has been reviewing a land development plan at the Duss Avenue Waste Management facility that will construct a natural gas filling station.

- **Official Reports**

1. **Motion to accept the Official Reports;** motion was made by Mrs. Miller, 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.


- **Other Unfinished Business**

None.

- **Adjournment –**

Motion to adjourn was made by Mrs. Caldarelli, seconded by Mrs. Miller; motion carried unanimously – meeting was adjourned at 7:20PM.

Respectfully submitted:



Joseph Kauer
Borough Manager / Secretary