

BOROUGH OF AMBRIDGE
MINUTES
Council Meeting: May 14, 2019
Ambridge Borough Building



- **Executive Session – Personnel, Real Estate and Legal Matters**
- **The May 14, 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 Romutis, Chief Gottschalk and Engineer Suehr
- Absent: None.
- **Invocation** – the invocation was conducted by Mr. Barbara Costa, Trinity School for Ministry.
- **Pledge of Allegiance**
- **Presentations**
 - Recognition of and Presentation to Ambridge Veterans Service Center / Troop Banner Program. Borough Council presented Ann Baran and Eleanor Smith from the Veteran’s Office with a check in the amount of \$720 made possible by the sale of the Troop Banners. Mr. Mikulich stated that the Borough was able to dedicate \$10 from each banner sold to the Veteran’s Service Center.
 - Mr. Steve Roberts, Chairman of the Ambridge Downtown Development Committee presented information on the Merchant St. Ambassador Program and updated the Council that the Committee is working on scheduling their “Celebrate Merchant Street” Cleanup Event for later this summer.
- **Citizen’s Participation On/Off Agenda Items (5 minutes per speaker)**
 1. **Mr. Mike Rogers, 424 Merchant Street**, questioned the status of his request to make the intersection of 4th Street and Route 65 as a No Turn on Red. Mr. Mikulich stated that he wasn’t familiar with his request, but did tell him that his request to extend the delay between red-yellow and green delays on the traffic signal have been extended by PENNDOT.
 2. **Mr. Doug McCombie, 638 Maplewood Avenue**, stated that the downtown is looking very good and stated that he appreciates the Council’s efforts. He questioned what was being built on New Economy Drive – Council explained a storage building. He then questioned the status of the senior citizen apartment building that was previously proposed for New Economy Drive; Mr. Mikulich told him that their financing wasn’t approved. He then questioned the Mayor on the status of getting a grocery store in town; the Mayor responded that he is still working on it. Mayor Drewnowski stated that he plans to reach out to Aldi’s after the Baden Dollar General Store opens hoping that they reconsider opening the Aldi’s Store on 11th Street.

3. **Ms. Cathy Holler, 824 11th Street**, questioned why outside contractors doing construction in the Borough, both paving and streetscape work, block access to properties without advanced notice. She stated that last year Youngblood Paving only gave one day notice for paving on 11th Street and she was out of town, luckily her car was not parked on the street. Regarding the Streetscape Project, she stated that she was not given ample notice of the upcoming work and claims that the previous street tree caused foundation damaged to her building. She also complained about the conditions of curb on 11th Street and stated that all of the curb should have been replaced not just sections. Lastly, Mrs. Holler questioned the status of the old benches from Merchant Street; Mr. Mikulich informed her that they will be put back.
4. **Mr. Nick Diamantis, 228 Locust Street**, made complaint about the condition of the properties at 226 and 224 Locust Street. He stated that 224 has been unoccupied for some time and that both properties have overgrown weeds. Mr. Diamantis also stated that both properties wouldn't pass inspections and make the street look bad.

- **Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes
April 9, 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 Mrs. Miller, seconded by Mr. Dunn; a roll call vote was taken:

1.	General Fund	Unpaid: \$91,851.32	Paid: \$55,916.43
2.	2016 Capital Project Bond Fund	Unpaid: \$12,811.81	
3.	Grants / Special Project Fund	Unpaid: \$3,250	
4.	Recreation Fund	Unpaid: \$0.00	Paid: \$0.00
5.	Escrow Fund	Unpaid: \$1,350	
6.	Police Pension Fund	Unpaid: \$7,337.61	
7.	Service Employees Pension Fund	Unpaid: \$999.86	
8.	Firemen's Pension Fund	Unpaid: \$3,024.58	
9.	Drug Investigation 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.

Motion to approve Items 1 through 7 listed on the Consent Agenda was made by Mr. Flannery, seconded by Mr. McCoy, motion carried unanimously.

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

**Treasurer's Report
(May 14, 2019)**

Marilyn Sheleheda - Treasurer

General Fund Analysis	
\$1,253,536.21	General Fund Bank Account Balance as of: -(May 14, 2019) -3:00 pm
\$99,773.08	All Outstanding Checks as of: -(May 14, 2019) -3:00 pm
\$1,153,763.13	Available Balance as of: -(May 14, 2019) -3:00 pm

Totals are as follows:	
General Fund Summary:	Deposits: \$1,169,055.09
	Debits: \$439,948.17
	-which include the follow
	83 Checks \$285,412.59
	2 Payroll (s) \$154,535.58

Other Fund Balances as of (May 14, 2019) 3:00 pm	
\$16,162.99	Ambridge Borough Drug Investigation Fund
\$974,294.52	Ambridge Capital Project Fund 2016-PLGIT Account
\$3,326.72	Ambridge Fire Apparatus Replacement Fund
\$13,642.91	Escrow Disbursement Account
\$25,193.80	Grants/Special Funds
\$217,551.90	Liquid Fuels Fund
\$34,400.91	Recreation Fund
\$345,490.04	Sinking Fund
\$1,630,063.79	Total Other Funds Balances (Restricted Use)

2. Authorize the Ambridge Crime Watch to use PJ Caul Park, Thursday evenings, starting June 20, 2019 through August 8, 2019 for Movies in the Park.
3. Authorize the closure of Merchant Street between 8th and 14th Streets and the use of PJ Caul Park on Saturday, July 20th from 10AM to 5PM for the Ambridge Rotary Club Car Cruise and further authorize the disbursement of \$250 towards event dash plaques.
4. Grant a dedicated on-street handicap parking space at 1701 Lenz Avenue as recommended by the Ambridge Police Department.
5. Grant a dedicated on-street handicap parking space at 601 Beaver Road, Apt. 2, as recommended by the Ambridge Police Department.
6. Authorize the Ambridge American Legion to use PJ Caul Park on Monday, May 27th for the annual Memorial Day Ceremony.
7. Authorize the closure of 14th Street and New Economy Drive on June 8, 2019.

New Business - Items for Discussion:

- A. Motion to approve the Land Development Plan of Phase 2 of the Harmony Storage Facility at 1201 New Economy Drive, as recommended by the Borough Engineer, Ambridge Planning Commission and Beaver County Planning Commission. 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	Yes
Mr. Dunn	Yes	Mr. Mikulich	Yes
Mr. Flannery	Yes	Mayor Drewnowski	

Motion carried.

- B. Motion to approve the Land Development Plan of a Compressed Natural Gas Vehicle Fueling Station at the Waste Management Facility, 2097 Duss Avenue, as recommended by the Borough Engineer, Ambridge Planning Commission and Beaver County Planning Commission. 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 adopt Resolution No. 2019-3, a Resolution of the Borough of Ambridge authorizing the application for Greenways, Trails and Recreation Program Funding for the Henning Street Park Development Project. Motion was made by Mrs. Miller, 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.

- D. Motion to hire Dennis Baker as a part-time Firefighter / Code Enforcement Officer. Motion was made by Mr. Cafarelli, seconded by Mrs. Miller; Chief Gottschalk introduced Firefighter Baker. Firefighter Baker stated that he has been a firefighter for 23 years, also works as a part-time Firefighter for the City of McKeesport and is currently the Baden Fire Chief. He stated that he has family who live in town, have a Firefighter 2 and Fire Inspector Certification, and added that he looks forward to working here. 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 hire Jordan Turner as a part-time Firefighter / Code Enforcement Officer. 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.

Chief Gottschalk introduced Firefighter Turner. Firefighter Turner stated that he recently joined the Ambridge VFD, lives here in town. He stated that he also works part-time for the West Ridge Fire Department outside of Erie, PA, and that he also looks forward to working here. Chief Gottschalk stated that he knows both firefighters, both are excellent candidates and will be great additions to the Department.

- F. Motion to enter into agreement with Reed Oil Company for the purchase of Diesel Fuel at Pittsburgh OPIS Rack Average Price, plus \$0.04 per gallon as they were the lowest responsible

bid received by the Beaver County Council of Governments. 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.

- G. Motion to enter into a Preventive Maintenance Agreement with Tudi Mechanical Systems for the service of the Borough Building HVAC system at a cost of \$1,968 per year. 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.

- H. Motion to award contract in the amount of \$180,908.04 to Youngblood Paving, Inc., for the 2019 Road Paving Program which includes Merchant Street between 4th and 8th Streets, the two Merchant Street Municipal Parking Lots, and accept Bid Alternate No. 1 to repave Upper Alley between 5th and 6th Streets. 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.

Mr. Kauer stated that the bid came in lower than budget which made it possible to include Bid Alternate 1 into the project.

- I. Motion to exonerate the Beaver County Tax Claim Bureau from the collection of 2015 to 2019 delinquent real estate taxes on Beaver County owned property identified as 12-006-0101.012 (property located behind the 9-1-1 Center.) Motion was made by Mrs. Caldarelli, seconded by Mr. McCoy; the Manager explained that the balance outstanding is under \$500 on public property owned by the County; 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 hire Chayme Richard Churchick as a part-time Police Officer. 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.

Chief Romutis introduced Officer Churchick, he stated that he is from Rochester and works part-time in Conway. He stated that he graduated last year from the Police Academy. Chief Romutis stated that Office Churchick comes to Ambridge with high recommendations from the other Police Chiefs and has passed the necessary tests.

- **Committee Reports**

- **Code Enforcement Committee:** Mrs. Caldarelli reported on permits that have been issued and stated that proactive code sweeps are continuing.
- **Public Safety:** Mr. Flannery reported that the committee met recently, he commended both Chiefs stating that the meetings have been very productive and accomplishing. The Mayor concurred with Mr. Flannery's comments.

Mr. Flannery reported that with the Fire Department they recently were inspected by the ISO. He stated that the FEMA grant for the new SCBA air packs is still pending and that the Chief and Manager are working on a contingency plan should the grant be denied. He stated that the Committee agrees with the recent police and fire hires. The Committee also discussed fireworks regulations, all departments are working together to be proactive on the issue before the summer holidays.

Regarding the Police Department, Mr. Flannery reported that the Committee is working on soliciting a request for proposals for towing services. He stated there is a need for alternate crossing guards. Mr. Flannery also reported that Coffee with a Cop was held today at the Chamber Office with Chief Romutis. He also stated that the Committee will be working on reviewing police policies soon and fire policies later this year. Lastly, he reviewed vandalism issues in the downtown.

Mrs. Miller requested the Police monitor the parks and enforce that they are closed at dusk. She is hoping to keep vandalism under control.

Mayor Drewnowski stated that there is now a dry erase board in the Police Station with daily reminders on issues such as park curfew enforcement on it.

Chief Romutis reviewed the monthly Police Chief's Report. He highlighted a dynamic drug raid that was conducted in April on 14th Street that was made possible by citizen's complaints. The Chief also showed Council a photo of drugs that were recently confiscated on a traffic stop.

Mr. Mikulich commended the firefighters for their work with the recent ISO certifications. He thanked the firefighters and stated that he hopes that the Borough gets a better rating to improve everyone's fire insurance rates.

- **Public Works:** Mr. Cafarelli reported the following:
 - Street-sweeping is underway every other week and increased in French Point Creek Watershed area.
 - Grass Cutting is underway at Borough Properties, Parks, Right of Ways and Abandoned properties.
 - Electrician is working on electric service and lights at 8th Street Park and Pavilion.
 - Crew added playground mulch to 8th Street Park Play Equipment
 - 12 new picnic tables have been stained and installed within the new 8th Street Park Pavilion.

- Streetscape Project – crew is hanging new traffic signage in the completed project areas and is refurbishing parking meters for the municipal parking lots. They soon will be installing benches and trash cans in the project area.
- Shade Tree Maintenance – contractor has been performed tree removal and trimming work, he started on April 30th.
- New Street Trees – 10 new street trees were planted on 8th, 13th and 14th Streets on May 4th with the assistance of volunteers from the Committee to Clean and Beautify Ambridge.
- Crew hung the new Military Troop Banners on 11th and 8th Streets.
- Crew continued to install catch-basin nets in designated catch basins per the MS4 Plan requested by the DEP in the French Point Creek Watershed.
- Equipment Maintenance:
 - Street Sweeper Inspected – didn't need anything.
 - Truck 1 – F-550 Inspected – didn't need anything.
 - Skid-Steer door has been repaired.
- 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. Mikulich informed the citizens that the tree work currently underway throughout the town is being done by Duquesne Light and was not work done by the Borough's tree contractor. He stated that the Duquesne Light work is excessive and as result the Borough removed trees from 8th Street that were pruned too much making them unhealthy and unsightly. He stated that our contractor follows arbor society standards and that the Borough is also working to replace the trees.

- **Parks:** Mrs. Miller reported that the committee met today and worked on the Henning Street Park Plan. She stated that preliminary design includes a splash pad, fencing similar to the 9-1-1 Center, pavilion, playground equipment and paved parking area.
- **Engineer's Report:** Engineer Suehr reported that he recommends awarding the paving contract to Youngblood Paving for the work on Merchant Street and Upper Alley. He also stated that he prepared the concept plan for the Henning Street Park and that he completed review of two land development plans that Council approved tonight. He also stated that regarding last year's Park Project, he is working with the contractor to finish punch list items.

Mr. Mikulich questioned that start of the paving work? Mr. Suehr stated that he is working to schedule the preconstruction meeting and the goal is to have the work start by July 1st.

Mr. Mikulich reported that Merchant Street between 5th and 6th Streets will be closed next week for the installation of electrical conduit and the brick crossings. He stated that there will be two other similar closures in the coming weeks in the 700 and 400 blocks. Mr. Mikulich stated that the goal is to have the streetscape work done by June, depending on the weather and conditions.

- **Official Reports**

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	Yes	Mr. Mikulich	Yes
Mr. Flannery	Yes	Mayor Drewnowski	

Motion carried.

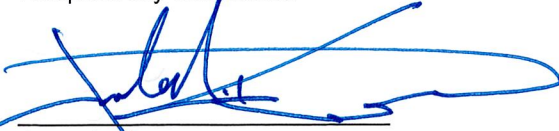
- **Other Unfinished Business**

Mrs. Caldarelli reported that she has started a Teddy Bear Collection Program to collect teddy bears that the Police and Fire Departments can give to kids at emergencies, hopefully aiming to help the child through the trying time. She stated that there is a collection box in the Borough Building lobby.

- **Adjournment –**

Motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Flannery, seconded by Mrs. Miller; motion carried unanimously – meeting was adjourned at 7:35PM.

Respectfully submitted:



Joseph Kauer
Borough Manager / Secretary