

BOROUGH OF AMBRIDGE

MINUTES

Council Meeting: January 6, 2020

Biannual Reorganization

Ambridge Borough Building



- **Oath of Office:** Mayor David Drewnowski gave the oath of office and swore in newly elected members of Council: Mr. Dunn, Mr. Gill, and Mrs. Tessaro.
- **The January 6, 2020 meeting of Ambridge Borough Council was called to order at 4:00PM within Council Chambers of the Ambridge Borough Building, 600 11th Street.**

- **Roll Call:**

Present:

Mr. Cafarelli
Mr. Dunn
Mr. Flannery
Mr. Gill
Mrs. Miller
Mr. Mikulich
Mrs. Tessaro
Mayor Drewnowski

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

Absent: Chief Romutis and Engineer Suehr

- **Invocation** – the invocation was conducted by Rev. Kua Apple.
- **Pledge of Allegiance**
- **Presentations** – none.
- **Citizen's Participation On/Off Agenda Items (5 minutes per speaker)**
 1. **Ms. Jodi Gill, 909 11th Street**, stated that she has received copies of Solicitor Start's monthly invoices via a Right to Know request and Start's invoices provide no breakdown of his fees and hours worked. She stated that this is a violation to his professional responsibilities. Ms. Gill also stated that his invoices contained information that he spent hours talking to the defense attorney for James Mann. She urged Council to not reappoint Mr. Start as Solicitor, as many other municipalities have made this decision to terminate him as well, Ambridge should too.

I. New Business

1) Reorganization of Ambridge Borough Council:

- **Nomination and Election of Council President**

Mayor Drewnowski called for nominations of Council President:

Mrs. Miller nominated Mr. Mikulich, Mikulich accepted.

Mr. Gill nominated himself and accepted.

Mayor closed nominations and were voted in order nominated:

Mr. Mikulich-

Council	VOTE	Council	Vote
Mr. Cafarelli	Yes	Mrs. Miller	Yes
Mr. Dunn	Yes	Mrs. Tessaro	No
Mr. Flannery	Yes	Mr. Mikulich	Yes
Mr. Gill	No	Mayor Drewnowski	

Mikulich received 5 yes votes, majority of Council, becoming President of Council.

- Nomination and Election of Council Vice President**

Mayor Drewnowski called for nomination of Council Vice President:

Mrs. Tessaro nominated Mr. Gill, Gill accepted.

Mr. Dunn nominated Mrs. Miller, Miller accepted.

Mayor closed nominations and were voted in order nominated:

Mr. Gill-

Council	VOTE	Council	Vote
Mr. Cafarelli	Yes	Mrs. Miller	No
Mr. Dunn	No	Mrs. Tessaro	Yes
Mr. Flannery	No	Mr. Mikulich	No
Mr. Gill	Yes	Mayor Drewnowski	

Mr. Gill did not receive the majority vote, vote was 3-Yes / 4- No.

Mrs. Miller-

Council	VOTE	Council	Vote
Mr. Cafarelli	Yes	Mrs. Miller	Yes
Mr. Dunn	Yes	Mrs. Tessaro	Yes
Mr. Flannery	Yes	Mr. Mikulich	Yes
Mr. Gill	No	Mayor Drewnowski	

Mrs. Miller received majority vote of 6-yes / 1-no, and was elected Vice President.

- Nomination and Election of Council President Pro Tem**

Mayor Drewnowski called for nomination of Council President Pro Tem:

Mr. Gill nominated Mrs. Tessaro, Tessaro accepted.

Mr. Dunn nominated Mr. Cafarelli, Cafarelli accepted.

Mayor closed nominations and were voted in order nominated:

Mrs. Tessaro-

Council	VOTE	Council	Vote
Mr. Cafarelli	No	Mrs. Miller	Yes
Mr. Dunn	No	Mrs. Tessaro	No
Mr. Flannery	Yes	Mr. Mikulich	No
Mr. Gill	Yes	Mayor Drewnowski	

Mrs. Tessaro did not receive the majority vote, vote was 3-Yes, 4-No.

Mr. Cafarelli-

Council	VOTE	Council	Vote
Mr. Cafarelli	Yes	Mrs. Miller	Yes
Mr. Dunn	Yes	Mrs. Tessaro	Yes
Mr. Flannery	Yes	Mr. Mikulich	Yes
Mr. Gill	Yes	Mayor Drewnowski	

Mr. Cafarelli received unanimous vote and was elected President Pro Tem.

After Council Reorganization was completed the Mayor turned the meeting and gavel over to the newly elected President of Council, Mr. Mikulich.

2) BIENNIAL REORGANIZATION ACTIONS:

Mr. Gill made a statement that he cannot accept these appointments with the exception being the Borough Manager. He stated that there should be requirements for Borough appointments, including that resumes and qualifications should be provided to Council before a vote is taken to appoint; therefore, he cannot decide on these appointments.

Mayor Drewnowski questioned if a former appointment to a board, such as the Water Authority Board, doesn't that qualify you in of itself? Mr. Gill stated that the Borough needs a definition of what their job is. The Mayor stated that he understands his point, but a previous board member knows what the job is.

- a) Motion to reappoint Joseph Kauer as the Borough Manager / Secretary. Motion was made by Mrs. Miller, seconded by Mrs. Tessaro, a roll call vote was taken:

Council	VOTE	Council	Vote
Mr. Cafarelli	Yes	Mrs. Miller	Yes
Mr. Dunn	Yes	Mrs. Tessaro	Yes
Mr. Flannery	Yes	Mr. Mikulich	Yes
Mr. Gill	Yes	Mayor Drewnowski	

Motion carried.

- b) Motion to reappoint NIRA Consulting Engineers as the Borough Engineer. Motion was made by Mr. Flannery, seconded by Mr. Dunn; a roll call vote was taken:

Council	VOTE	Council	Vote
Mr. Cafarelli	Yes	Mrs. Miller	Yes
Mr. Dunn	Yes	Mrs. Tessaro	Yes
Mr. Flannery	Yes	Mr. Mikulich	Yes
Mr. Gill	No	Mayor Drewnowski	

Motion carried.

- c) Motion to reappoint Richard Start, Esq., from the law firm Amato, Start & Associates as Borough Solicitor. Motion was made by Mrs. Miller, seconded by Mr. Dunn; a roll call vote was taken:

Council	VOTE	Council	Vote
Mr. Cafarelli	Yes	Mrs. Miller	Yes
Mr. Dunn	Yes	Mrs. Tessaro	No
Mr. Flannery	Yes	Mr. Mikulich	Yes
Mr. Gill	No	Mayor Drewnowski	

Motion carried.

- d) Motion to reappoint Middle Department Inspection Agency (MDIA) as the Borough's third-party Uniform Construction Code inspection firm. Motion was made by Mr. Flannery, seconded by Mrs. Miller; a roll call vote was taken:

Council	VOTE	Council	Vote
Mr. Cafarelli	Yes	Mrs. Miller	Yes
Mr. Dunn	Yes	Mrs. Tessaro	Yes
Mr. Flannery	Yes	Mr. Mikulich	Yes
Mr. Gill	Yes	Mayor Drewnowski	

Motion carried.

- e) Motion to establish the 2020 Borough Council Meeting Schedule as the second Tuesday of each month at 6:30PM. Motion was made by Mr. Flannery, seconded by Mr. Cafarelli; a roll call vote was taken:

Council	VOTE	Council	Vote
Mr. Cafarelli	Yes	Mrs. Miller	Yes
Mr. Dunn	Yes	Mrs. Tessaro	Yes
Mr. Flannery	Yes	Mr. Mikulich	Yes
Mr. Gill	Yes	Mayor Drewnowski	

Motion carried.

- f) Motion action to appoint Ed Dzubak to the Ambridge Water Authority Board of Directors with a term that would expire December 31, 2024. Motion was made by Mrs. Miller, seconded by Mr. Dunn; a roll call vote was taken:

Council	VOTE	Council	Vote
Mr. Cafarelli	Yes	Mrs. Miller	Yes
Mr. Dunn	Yes	Mrs. Tessaro	Yes
Mr. Flannery	Yes	Mr. Mikulich	Yes
Mr. Gill	No	Mayor Drewnowski	

Motion carried.

- g) Motion to appoint Robert Hare to the Ambridge Municipal Authority Board of Directors with a term that would expire December 31, 2024. Motion was made by Mr. Flannery, seconded by Mrs. Miller; a roll call vote was taken:

Council	VOTE	Council	Vote
Mr. Cafarelli	Yes	Mrs. Miller	Yes
Mr. Dunn	Yes	Mrs. Tessaro	Yes
Mr. Flannery	Yes	Mr. Mikulich	Yes
Mr. Gill	No	Mayor Drewnowski	

Motion carried.

- h) Motion to appoint Tom Patrician to the Ambridge Planning Commission with a term that would expire December 31, 2023. Motion was made by Mr. Flannery, seconded by Mr. Dunn; a roll call vote was taken:

Council	VOTE	Council	Vote
Mr. Cafarelli	Yes	Mrs. Miller	Yes
Mr. Dunn	Yes	Mrs. Tessaro	Yes
Mr. Flannery	Yes	Mr. Mikulich	Yes
Mr. Gill	No	Mayor Drewnowski	

Motion carried.

- i) Motion to appoint Barbara Knecht to the Ambridge Zoning Hearing Board as an Alternate Member with a term that would expire December 31, 2022. Motion was made by Mr. Flannery, seconded by Mr. Dunn; a roll call vote was taken:

Council	VOTE	Council	Vote
Mr. Cafarelli	Yes	Mrs. Miller	Yes
Mr. Dunn	Yes	Mrs. Tessaro	Yes
Mr. Flannery	Yes	Mr. Mikulich	Yes
Mr. Gill	No	Mayor Drewnowski	

Motion carried.

- j) Motion to appoint Joseph Hlista to the Ambridge Board of Code Appeals with a term that is to expire December 31, 2024. Motion was made by Mr. Flannery, seconded by Mrs. Miller; a roll call vote was taken:

Council	VOTE	Council	Vote
Mr. Cafarelli	Yes	Mrs. Miller	Yes
Mr. Dunn	Yes	Mrs. Tessaro	Yes
Mr. Flannery	Yes	Mr. Mikulich	Yes
Mr. Gill	No	Mayor Drewnowski	

Motion carried.

- k) Motion to reappoint WesBanco and PLGIT as the Borough Depositories. Motion was made by Mr. Flannery, seconded by Mr. Dunn; a roll call vote was taken:

Council	VOTE	Council	Vote
Mr. Cafarelli	Yes	Mrs. Miller	Yes
Mr. Dunn	Yes	Mrs. Tessaro	Yes
Mr. Flannery	Yes	Mr. Mikulich	Yes
Mr. Gill	Yes	Mayor Drewnowski	

Motion carried.

- l) Motion to reappoint Mark Crano as the Borough Mechanical Device Fee Collector. Motion was made by Mr. Dunn, seconded by Mrs. Miller; Mr. Gill questioned if it is a conflict of interest for Mr. Dunn to vote on this matter as Mr. Crano is his brother-in-law. Mr. Mikulich, stated no. A roll call vote was taken:

Council	VOTE	Council	Vote
Mr. Cafarelli	Yes	Mrs. Miller	Yes
Mr. Dunn	Yes	Mrs. Tessaro	Yes
Mr. Flannery	Yes	Mr. Mikulich	Yes
Mr. Gill	No	Mayor Drewnowski	

Motion carried.

- m) Motion to reappoint the Beaver County Times as the official newspaper of record to advertise official Borough business and public notices in. Motion was made by Mr. Flannery, seconded by Mrs. Tessaro; a roll call vote was taken:

Council	VOTE	Council	Vote
Mr. Cafarelli	Yes	Mrs. Miller	Yes
Mr. Dunn	Yes	Mrs. Tessaro	Yes
Mr. Flannery	Yes	Mr. Mikulich	Yes
Mr. Gill	Yes	Mayor Drewnowski	

Motion carried.

- n) Motion to reappoint Mark C. Turnley, CPA, as the Borough Auditor. Motion was made by Mr. Flannery, second by Mrs. Miller; a roll call vote was taken:

Council	VOTE	Council	Vote
Mr. Cafarelli	Yes	Mrs. Miller	Yes
Mr. Dunn	Yes	Mrs. Tessaro	Yes
Mr. Flannery	Yes	Mr. Mikulich	Yes
Mr. Gill	Yes	Mayor Drewnowski	

Motion carried.

- o) Motion to reappoint Mr. Rudolph J. Hlista to the position of Vacancy Board Chairman. Motion was made by Mr. Cafarelli, seconded by Mr. Flannery; a roll call vote was taken:

Council	VOTE	Council	Vote
Mr. Cafarelli	Yes	Mrs. Miller	Yes
Mr. Dunn	Yes	Mrs. Tessaro	Yes
Mr. Flannery	Yes	Mr. Mikulich	Yes
Mr. Gill	Yes	Mayor Drewnowski	
Motion carried.			

- p) Motion to follow Robert's Rules of Order for the conduct of Council Meetings, except in those instances where Robert's Rules are inconsistent with the laws and Constitution of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. Motion was made by Mr. Flannery, seconded by Mr. Cafarelli; Mrs. Tessaro questioned when would this happen? Mr. Mikulich stated that this doesn't happen very often, and that the Borough follows the Pennsylvania State Borough Code. A roll call vote was taken:

Council	VOTE	Council	Vote
Mr. Cafarelli	Yes	Mrs. Miller	Yes
Mr. Dunn	Yes	Mrs. Tessaro	Yes
Mr. Flannery	Yes	Mr. Mikulich	Yes
Mr. Gill	Yes	Mayor Drewnowski	
Motion carried.			

- **Other New Business**

- a) Motion to adopt Resolution No. 2020-1, a Resolution of the Borough of Ambridge, County of Beaver, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, declaring an emergency due to recent exposure of a dangerous condition to the health and safety of the Borough's citizens. (*Declaring the structure at 418/420 Merchant Street an eminent danger in order to seek grant funding to demolish.*) Motion was made by Mr. Flannery, seconded by Mrs. Miller; a roll call vote was taken:

Council	VOTE	Council	Vote
Mr. Cafarelli	Yes	Mrs. Miller	Yes
Mr. Dunn	Yes	Mrs. Tessaro	Yes
Mr. Flannery	Yes	Mr. Mikulich	Yes
Mr. Gill	Yes	Mayor Drewnowski	
Motion carried.			

Mr. Mikulich announced his Committee appointments:

- Public Works: Mr. Cafarelli - Chair, Mr. Flannery, Mr. Gill
- Public Safety: Mr. Flannery – Chair, Mr. Dunn, Mr. Gill
- Recreation: Mrs. Miller - Chair, Mr. Dunn, Mr. Cafarelli
- Code Enforcement: Mrs. Tessaro - Chair, Mr. Gill, Mr. Dunn
- Library Board Appointment: Mrs. Tessaro
- Ambridge Regional Chamber of Commerce Appointment: Mr. Gill
- Beaver Co. Council of Governments: Mr. Flannery

Mr. Flannery suggested that the Committees could work on establishing job descriptions for each board appointed position.

- **Adjournment**

Motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Flannery, seconded by Mr. Cafarelli; motion carried unanimously – meeting was adjourned at 4:30PM.

Respectfully submitted:



 Joseph Kauer
 Borough Manager / Secretary