

BOROUGH OF AMBRIDGE

MINUTES

Council Meeting: February 9, 2021

Live Meeting – Council Chambers – 6:30pm



- **Call to Order/ Roll Call**

Present: Mr. Cafarelli
Mr. Dunn
Mr. Flannery
Mr. Gill
Mrs. Miller
Mr. Mikulich
Mayor Drewnowski

Also Present: Borough Manager Leone, Chief Gottschalk and Solicitor Start via phone call.

Absent: Mrs. Tessaro - Excused, Chris Suehr - Engineer

- **Invocation** - Mrs. Barb Costa, Trinity School for Ministry
- **Pledge of Allegiance**
- **Executive Session** – concerning personnel matters.
- **Agenda** – F consideration to employ a part time police officer – no objections.
- **Public Comment on/off Agenda Items (5 minutes per speaker)**

Anne Bacher – Spoke of bond costs, Mr. Leone explained we will not know the fees until we know the amount because it's a percentage – the costs come out of the refi, Mr. Mikulich commented it's usually around 7%. She also asked about school board on our Boro website – where can she find board members. Mr. Mikulich commented that she should call the Ambridge School Admin Office and ask if there is a website or a link. Mr. Mikulich stated that the school board is a separate entity.

Ted – 97 -12th St. – Spoke of the new trash collector – starts at 5am and complaint about not picking up all trash. They skipped them many times. Mr. Mikulich commented that another meeting is schedule. Mr. Cafarelli and Mrs. Miller commented also. Mr. Leone stated that the collection took a step backwards because of inclement weather. He suggested not to post on Facebook but to email him – manager@ambridgeboro.org – Mr. Ted commented about after calling the Boro a whole week, there is still garbage laying on the street. Mrs. Miller commented she is disgusted by the whole ordeal. Mr. Cafarelli commented that they assured him that they would do better.

Stan Williamson –15th St. - Made comments on the new garbage company.
 Also – 11th across from the Library - Free lunch every Friday – Noon until 2pm.
 He commented that Duke McCoy had eye surgery, feeling well.

- **Approval of Previous Meeting's Minutes – January 12, 2021**

Motion made by Mr. Flannery, seconded by Mr. Gill . No questions or corrections.

Council	Vote		Council	Vote
Mr. Cafarelli	Y		Mrs. Miller	Y
Mr. Dunn	Y		Mrs. Tessaro	Absent
Mr. Flannery	Y		Mr. Mikulich	Y
Mr. Gill	Y		Mayor Drewnowski	

Motion carried.

- **Approval to ratify and pay the Bills and Expenses:**

1. General Fund Unpaid: \$55,303.74 Paid: \$98,212.41
2. Grants / Special Project Fund Unpaid: \$1,418.55
3. Recreation Fund Unpaid: \$0.00 Paid: \$0.00
4. Escrow Fund Unpaid: \$0.00
5. Police Pension Fund Unpaid: \$0.00
6. Service Employees Pension Fund Unpaid: \$0.00
7. Firemen's Pension Fund Unpaid: \$0.00
8. Drug Investigation Fund Unpaid: \$0.00
9. Fire Apparatus Replacement Fund Unpaid: \$0.00

Motion to pay the bills made by Mr. Flannery, seconded by Mrs. Miller.
 Mr. Gill asked about an invoice on page 1 & 2, driver’s license renewal for \$148.50 – Mr. Leone stated it’s for a CLD license.
 Roll call was taken:

Council	Vote		Council	Vote
Mr. Cafarelli	Y		Mrs. Miller	Y
Mr. Dunn	Y		Mrs. Tessaro	Absent
Mr. Flannery	Y		Mr. Mikulich	Y
Mr. Gill	Y		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 1 Items listed on the Consent Agenda.**
 1. Borough Financial Report - acknowledge receipt of the Borough Treasurer's Report.

Treasurer's Report

February 9, 2021

Marilyn Sheleheda - Treasurer

General Fund Analysis

\$345,282.20	General Fund Bank Account Balance as of:	-February 9, 2021 -3:00 pm
\$108,773.42	All (including todays checks) Outstanding Checks as of:	-February 9, 2021 -3:00 pm
\$236,508.78	Available Balance as of:	-February 9, 2021 -3:00 pm

General Fund Bank Summary:	<i>Totals that cleared the bank are as follows:</i>	
	Deposits:	\$524,143.88
	Debits:	\$509,650.97
	<i>-which include the following:</i>	
	<u>72</u> Checks	\$354,636.41
<u>2</u> Payroll (s)	\$155,014.56	

Other Fund Balances as of February 9, 2021 3:00 pm	
210.00	Ambridge Bicentennial 2024 Fund.
\$332.82	Ambridge Borough Drug Investigation Fund
\$3,939.31	Ambridge Fire Apparatus Replacement Fund
\$174,702.29	Escrow Disbursement Account
\$1,444.46	Grants/Special Funds
\$5,053.02	Liquid Fuels Fund
\$35,866.16	Recreation Fund
\$27,744.51	Sinking Fund
\$249,292.57	Total Other Funds Balances (Restricted Use)

Marilyn Sheleheda -Treasurer

February 9, 2021

Respectfully Prepared & Submitted to Ambridge Borough Council

All in Favor of accepting the Consent Agenda and accept the Treasurer Report Motion carried.

New Business

A. Consider action to approve Resolution No.2021-1

A Resolution establishing fees for the filing of applications, permits, and licenses for the borough in 2021.

Motion made by Mrs. Miller, seconded by Mr. Cafarelli.

Mr. Leone states that on page 1 in regard to Amusement Licenses because of the hardship that some of the establishments experienced during Covid – Council made consideration to reduce the prices. Mr. Flannery suggested maybe some consideration to reduce fees for some items and the businesses will get some relief. Juke Boxes and Dart Games only. Mr. Leone agreed. Mr. Leone mentioned that any reduction will also have an adverse effect on the Borough as well.

The next item that Mr. Leone wanted Council to consider a change is the Park Fees increased. The staff in the office suggested that it should be adjusted to \$50.00 to residents and \$75.00 for non-residents and \$25.00 for a key. The next item on page 7, the police department fees and police contract fees. It would increase to \$93.44 per hour per officer and \$20.00 per hour for vehicle. Those amounts would reflect what the Borough pays out for these details. Mr. Mikulich clarified that those new fees would cover the Borough's actual costs. Mr. Leone states it's for time and a half for the officer's time, Borough's portion of the pension, insurances, taxes, workers comp. The section of A thru H are the MDIA increased rates. Also on page – 2 – would reflect the new contracted garbage rate with the new company. Mr. Gill commented that everyone took a beating on the amusement machines. Mr. Cafarelli commented that businesses are just hanging on today. Mr. Mikulich commented that people have asked him to give clubs a break on these fees. Mr. Mikulich asked if Council agrees on the recommendations on the Pool tables and Dart games at ½ year fees. Everyone in agreement – we will make those changes.

Council	Vote		Council	Vote
Mr. Cafarelli	Y		Mrs. Miller	Y
Mr. Dunn	Y		Mrs. Tessaro	Absent
Mr. Flannery	Y		Mr. Mikulich	Y
Mr. Gill	Y		Mayor Drewnowski	

Motion Carried.

B. Consider action to approve Resolution No. 2021-2

A resolution of the Council of the Borough of Ambridge, Beaver County, Pennsylvania, (1) Appointing a Financial Advisor, A Bond Counsel, and an Underwriter in regards to a bond or note issue Inter Alia to fund Capital Projects and to refund and restructure prior debt; (2) Authorizing execution of a financial advisor contract and acknowledgement of an underwriter's disclosure letter; and (3) authorizing the making of credit rating and bond insurance applications.

Motion made by Mr. Flannery, seconded by Mr. Cafarelli.

Question raised by Mr. Gill. Mr. Leone explained that it will be refinanced at a lower rate and possibly extend the time on the bond. We will not be able to complete this until August. We can decide after they present us with different options. Mr. Mikulich commented that we may get a lower rate and if we lock it in now instead of waiting it will save us money.

Council	Vote		Council	Vote

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

Motion Carried.

C. Consider action to authorize the purchase of a 2021 Dodge 5500 Crew Cab Chassis Fire Department Rescue Truck from Four Guys at price not to exceed \$185,000.00.

Motion made by Mrs. Miller, seconded by Mr. Flannery.

Mr. Gill asked a question – which truck will this be replacing. Chief Gottschalk commented that it will be replacing a couple of trucks and he further explained the situation with the trucks that are going to be replaced. Mr. Leone explained it’s not a grant, it will be covered under the capital projects refinance. We sold the one truck and one trailer. Mr. Leone’s recommendation to Council would be to refinance in August, which would save us all the interest. Mr. Flannery asked the Fire Chief how many calls a month – 4 or 5, would that be a fair number. Chief Gottschalk commented that would be an average. Mr. Flannery commented that the big trucks would not be able to go up on Pine St or some of the other narrow streets.

Council	Vote		Council	Vote
Mr. Cafarelli	Y		Mrs. Miller	Y
Mr. Dunn	Y		Mrs. Tessaro	Absent
Mr. Flannery	Y		Mr. Mikulich	Y
Mr. Gill	Y		Mayor Drewnowski	

Motion carried.

D. Consider action in naming the Council Chamber's in recognition to Council President Michael Mikulich for his 30 + years of service to the Borough and Community.

Motion made by Mr. Dunn, seconded by Mr. Flannery.

Mr. Leone read aloud Mr. Mikulich’s Bio.

Mr. Gill commented that Mr. Mikulich deserves this honor.

Council	Vote		Council	Vote
Mr. Cafarelli	Y		Mrs. Miller	Y
Mr. Dunn	Y		Mrs. Tessaro	Absent
Mr. Flannery	Y		Mr. Mikulich	Y
Mr. Gill	Y		Mayor Drewnowski	

Motion carried.

E. Consider action in naming Conference Room 105 in recognition to Council Member Tony Cafarelli for his 20 + years of service to the Borough and Community.

Mr. Leone read aloud Mr. Cafarelli’s Bio.

Motion made by Mr. Gill and seconded by Mr. Mikulich.

Council	Vote		Council	Vote
Mr. Cafarelli	Y		Mrs. Miller	Y
Mr. Dunn	Y		Mrs. Tessaro	Absent
Mr. Flannery	Y		Mr. Mikulich	Y
Mr. Gill	Y		Mayor Drewnowski	

Motion carried.

F. Consider action to hire Part Time Police Officer Dan Pretchett, conditional offer of employment contingent on physical and psychological testing.

Motion made by Mr. Flannery, and seconded by Mr. Dunn. No questions.

Council	Vote		Council	Vote
Mr. Cafarelli	Y		Mrs. Miller	Y
Mr. Dunn	Y		Mrs. Tessaro	Absent
Mr. Flannery	Y		Mr. Mikulich	Y
Mr. Gill	Y		Mayor Drewnowski	

Motion carried.

Committee Reports

1. Public Safety Committee

Mr. Flannery commented that it’s been busy for everyone and they have not met for a meeting, however, he would like the Police Chief and the Fire Chief to be included in a joint meeting with the Council Committee. He would also like the Mayor there as well.

2. Mayor's Report

Mr. Drewnowski wanted to thank Council for hiring the part timer. We lost one of our part timers and he wanted to thank the Police Chief for his efforts to seek some part time help.

3. Code Committee

Mr. Mikulich commented the snow removal tickets that Code Dept wrote, mostly on Merchant and Duss Ave. Mr. Leone made comments that we have to be vigilant and we don’t want a law suit where the Borough would be dragged into it. There were some vacant properties that need to be compliant. Either sell their building or rent it out, that is the goal. Some cleaned their sidewalk with just a phone call. Some did not and they received the ticket. It’s not for the revenue, it’s for the safety.

4. Public Works Committee

Mr. Cafarelli commented that he wants to set up interviews for seasonal part time parking enforcement officer. Mr. Leone commented that Feb. 8th was the closing date for applicants. He will advise Mr. Cafarelli when he sets up the interview. Mr. Cafarelli commented on some complaints he received about Ambridge

not plowing/salting Duss Ave – he stated that from Rt. 65, up 8th St and down Duss Ave to 24th St. belongs and is maintained by PennDot. We have never plowed/salted Rte. 989.

Mr. Mikulich commented that we need to set up another meeting with Waste Management. He also asked the Solicitor to check the contract with Waste Management and if the Borough has grounds to fine them, or what our recourse would be. Mr. Start commented that we need proof. Mr. Mikulich commented to the audience that if they can take pictures and send them to the Borough, it would be a big help.

Mr. Mikulich commented about the Heart & Soul grant. He commented that we have 4 applicants to run that committee. Mr. Gill will be the chairman along with Mr. Cafarelli and Mr. Mikulich will also be on the committee.

Mr. Mikulich commented also about the Parking Enforcement Officer. It’s been a struggle to dedicate a police officer to this detail. Mr. Cafarelli will be the chairman and Mr. Mikulich and Mr. Gill will be on that committee. Council feels a Parking Enforcement will be the best way to handle street sweeping. He asked Chief DeLuca and the Mayor to be present for meetings and interviews.

5. Parks and Recreation Committee

Mr. Miller had not report.

6. Engineer's Report

1. **Merchant Street (and Municipal Lots) Resurfacing (02-226-83)**

- Per Manager and Public Works request, I have contacted prospective contractors for quotes on the work to repair the sinkage on Merchant@ Eighth Street (See attached). I requested a response by Friday, February 12. Several have contacted me and indicated that they would respond with a quote.

2 **Henning Street Playground Project (02-233-83)**

- Provided Manager with Detailed Certified Budget Estimate for Henning Park funding.

Miscellaneous:

- Retrieved information on Dollar General Loading Zone parking restriction signs on Merchant so they could be replaced (removed by Streetscape Project).
- Provided Manager with suggestions for pavement markings and signage to slow traffic inAlley behind St. Mary's Church (on Melrose). Provide ballpark estimate of basic traffic study required for physical alterations for traffic calming.

- **Official Reports** - Motion to accept Official Reports.
Motion to accept all official reports by Mr. Gill, Mr. Dunn seconded it

Council	Vote		Council	Vote
Mr. Cafarelli	Y		Mrs. Miller	Y
Mr. Dunn	Y		Mrs. Tessaro	Absent
Mr. Flannery	Y		Mr. Mikulich	Y
Mr. Gill	Y		Mayor Drewnowski	

Motion carried.

- **Other Unfinished Business**

PSAB magazine recognized Old Economy in this month. It is difficult to get into that magazine and we should be proud that we are highlighted.

- **Adjournment**

Motion to adjourn made by Mr. Cafarelli, seconded by Mr. Flannery.

All were in Favor.

NEXT MEETING OF BOROUGH COUNCIL: Regular Meeting: **3/09/2021** - 6:30PM