

# BOROUGH OF AMBRIDGE

## MINUTES

Council Meeting: December 14, 2021

Live Meeting – Council Chambers



- **Roll Call:**

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

Also Present: Borough Manager Leone, Chief DeLuca, Chief Gottschalk and Solicitor Start via phone, Nira Engineer James Brunner.

Absent: None.

Mr. Mikulich asked for a moment of silence for the people who suffered during the tornados in the breadbasket of our country.

- **Pledge of Allegiance**

- **Executive Session** was held by Council prior to the meeting to discuss legal and personnel matters.

Mr. Mikulich stated that they are going to change up the agenda to presentations for Kasper Funeral Home up and presentations to Council members down below if Council approves so they Kasper Funeral Home people do not have to stay for the whole meeting. No objections by any Council members.

- **Public Comment on/off Agenda Items (5 minutes per speaker)**

John F. Venn – 715 -19<sup>th</sup> St

The spoke of the 19<sup>th</sup> St collapsing. Cars are swerving to avoid the sink hole. There is a sewer line that runs across there and this summer it was down an inch and now it's about 3 inches. It needs to be looked at and it's not good. His neighbors had some sewer issues the last few months and he is sure it's all related. He also commented about the Dollar General, wanted to know what is going on with it because it was supposed to start in October. Mr. Leone comment that the developer has speculated that the property will close before the end of the year.

David L. Bell – 860- 15<sup>th</sup> St

He spoke about him being the Chairman on the Ambridge Water Authority. He asked about the members whose term is up this year Tom Klinsky and he used to work for the Water Authority, and he would like the Council to reconsider him for re-appointment. Also, some members of Council were asking what is the contingency plan for the water supply if something would happen to the A & A bridge. He stated that a contingency plan – they have an agreement with Westview Water that should anything happen they would open the lines to receive their water. They have done that in the past for short periods when working on AWA lines but not for a long period. Nira has done a study about the lifetime of a man-made reservoir, and we are in about 70 years. They have talked about this study in their meetings. They talked about drilling a well beneath the river – it wouldn't be river water it would be water from beneath the river in the ground. They have also talked about taking the 24-inch pipe that

now comes above ground and across the bridge to underneath the river – at the bottom of the river so to speak. They are taking all these options into consideration. If the county puts a new bridge up further up in the valley or making our A & A bridge a foot or bicycle bridge only.

Mr. Gill asked the cost of the tunnel under bridge. Mr. Bell doesn't have that dollar figure in his head.

Mr. Mikulich asked about the wells Ambridge used to have, are they still viable? Mr. Bell stated no, the DEP made the AWA cut and cap those lines, those wells pulled a lot of magnesium out of them and very difficult to purify. He also thanked the outgoing elected officials, Mr. Mikulich, Mr. Flannery and Mr. Drewnowski for their service to the community.

Barbara Knecht – 1641 Church St.

She has been active with the Rotary Club for about 5 years and the Ambridge Rotary Club has just celebrated their 100-year anniversary. They have submitted a request to Council which was in your packets to let the Rotary Club have a shed and provide them with electric for this shed to keep their donated medical equipment stored. This equipment is donated by people who don't need it any longer and the Rotary can then give it to someone who might need it and otherwise can't get it.

JoEllen Rudolph – 1026 Melrose Ave.

There was a question about who does she contact when items (trash) in the alley. Mr. Mikulich asked her to call the Borough office. She also asked about Public Works making noise at 4:00am. Mr. Leone stated Public Works is not there at 4:00am – she said someone was making noise at 4am. Mr. Mikulich offered her a solution – we have a noise ordinance, and she can call the police and let them investigate who and where the noise is coming from.

- **Presentation to The Kasper Funeral Home presented by Mr. Gill.**

**Whereas;** the Ambridge Borough Council and Mayor desire to recognize the long-time business establishments within Ambridge and who have been a great asset to the community by adding to the exceptional quality of life through superior services offered, and:

**Whereas;** Since 1943, Walter and Margaret Kasper tirelessly and with heartfelt condolences, helped the residents of Ambridge and surrounding communities with the final resting requests of loved ones.

**Whereas;** after her husband Walter's death in 2005, Margaret carried on the family business and continued to be a full-time business owner until 2008 when she continued as semi-retired partner.

**Therefore;** be it proclaimed by the Ambridge Borough Council and Mayor posthumously celebrate the Kasper family's longstanding success and support to their community.

- **Presentations: Mr. Mikulich read the plaque for Mayor Drewnowski and Councilman Flannery for 18+ years of Service. Mrs. Miller read the plaque for Mr. Mikulich.**

Mayor thanked the people of Ambridge for electing him.

Mr. Flannery thanked everyone in Ambridge.

Mr. Mikulich thanked the Joanne Trella, Karen Ivancik, Kim, Kristen and Marilyn and commented about all the managers and Council people who he served with all these years. He especially thanked Edward "Idy" Iorfido and his wife Joann Iorfido – they took him under their wing and showed him the ropes, and their daughter Tina Iorfido Miller. All the boards in the Borough and all the Council members and the solicitor Rick Start. His heartfelt thanks to everyone and God bless everyone.

Mr. Leone commented that last week we re-named the Ambridge Council Chambers after Mr. Mikulich for 33 years as an elected official and if you would take a minute to look at it when you leave the chambers. He also wanted to thank Mr. Mikulich for his service to his county.

- **Approval of Previous Meeting’s Minutes**

November 9<sup>th</sup> meeting

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

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. 7 - 0

- **Approval to ratify and pay the Bills and Expenses:(For the month of October)**

- |                                     |                     |                   |
|-------------------------------------|---------------------|-------------------|
| 1. General Fund                     | Unpaid: \$81,442.20 | Paid: \$39,610.97 |
| 2. Grants / Special Project Fund    | Unpaid: \$41,709.90 |                   |
| 3. Recreation Fund                  | Unpaid: \$0.00      | Paid: \$0.00      |
| 4. 2021 Capital Note                | Unpaid: \$11,471.00 |                   |
| 5. Escrow Fund                      | Unpaid: \$0.00      |                   |
| 6. Police Pension Fund              | Unpaid: \$0.00      |                   |
| 7. Service Employees Pension Fund   | Unpaid: \$0.00      |                   |
| 8. Firemen’s Pension Fund           | Unpaid: \$0.00      |                   |
| 9. Drug Investigation Fund          | Unpaid: \$0.00      |                   |
| 10. Fire Apparatus Replacement Fund | Unpaid: \$0.00      |                   |

Motion made by Mrs. Tessaro, seconded by 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	Yes		Mayor Drewnowski	

Motion Carried. 7 -0

- **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 for November 2021.  
Mr. Mikulich asked if all in favor say Aye, opposed No.

All in Favor: 6 Yes – 1 No (No vote Mr. Gill)

**Treasurer's Report**

**December 14, 2021**

Marilyn Sheleheda - Treasurer

<b>General Fund Analysis</b>	
\$322,404.70	General Fund Bank Account Balance as of: -December 14, 2021 -3:00 pm
\$67,273.10	All (including today's checks) Outstanding Checks as of: -December 14, 2021 -3:00 pm
<b>\$255,131.60</b>	<b>Available Balance as of: -December 14, 2021 -3:00 pm</b>
<b>General Fund Bank Summary:</b>	<b>Totals that cleared the bank are as follows:</b>
	<b>Deposits: \$891,800.81</b>
	<b>Debits: \$1,121,063.96</b>
	<b>-which include the following:</b>
	<u>61</u> <b>Checks</b> \$822,336.78
<u>3</u> <b>Payroll (s)</b> \$298,727.18	
<b>Other Fund Balances as of December 14, 2021, 3:00 pm</b>	
\$5,301.02	Ambridge Bicentennial 2024 Fund.
\$2,744.76	Ambridge Borough Drug Investigation Fund
\$25,092.55	Ambridge Fire Apparatus Replacement Fund
\$345,460.73	American Rescue Plan Act 2021
\$82,585.77	Escrow Disbursement Account
\$38,003.57	Grants/Special Funds
\$3,908.80	Liquid Fuels Fund
\$35,895.96	Recreation Fund
\$327,880.55	Sinking Fund
\$5,001,900.70	2021 Notes Capital Program
<b>\$5,868,774.41</b>	<b>Total Other Funds Balances (Restricted Use)</b>

Marilyn Sheleheda -Treasurer  
December 14, 2021

• **New Business**

- A. Consider Action to adopt RESOLUTION NO. **2021-5**, Beaver County 2021 Hazard Mitigation Plan. Motion made by Mr. Flannery, seconded by 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	Yes	Mayor Drewnowski	

Motion Carried. 7-0

- B. Consider action to adopt ORDINANCE NO. 1323, Safeguarding the public health and ensure that consumers are provided food that is safe, unadulterated, and honestly presented.  
 Motion made by Mrs. Tessaro and seconded by Mr. Dunn.  
 Mr. Gill asked about unadulterated – what does it mean. Mr. Mikulich stated it means that it will not be contaminated.

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. 7-0

- C. Consider action to Adopt the 2022 Proposed Budget  
 Motion made by Mr. Dunn and seconded by Mr. Cafarelli  
 Mr. Cafarelli asked how many years since we raised taxes. Mr. Mikulich said 17 years.

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. 6 – 1

- D. Consider action to Adopt RESOLUTION NO. 2021-6 providing for the imposition and levy of taxes at the same rate as the tax that was levied in the fiscal year 2021.  
 Motion made by Mr. Gill and seconded by Mr. Dunn.  
 Mrs. Tessaro asked about the resolution number not matching her agenda. Mr. Leone stated that the Council members that are here received a revised agenda and he apologized that he did not send her one via email.

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. 7- 0

- E. Consider action to Accept the Early Retirement Package for Fire Chief Rob Gottschalk to become effective April 30<sup>th</sup>, 2022.

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

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. 7- 0

Mr. Gill voted yes but with Union’s approval.

- F. Consider Acton to promote Assistant Fire Chief Donnie Larrick Jr. to the Position of Fire Chief effective May 1<sup>st</sup>, 2022.

Motion made by Mrs. Miler, seconded by Mr. Gill

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. 7 - 0

- G. Consider Acton to promote Dave Gorecki to the Position of Assistant Fire Chief effective May 1<sup>st</sup>, 2022, pending results by the noncompetitive civil service exam.

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

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. 7-0

- H. Consider Action to approve the Tree Care Proposal for the removal of 4 trees at the recommendation of Public Works Superintendent from Graham’s Tree Service in the amount of \$4,000.

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

Mr. Mikulich asked about these trees – this is a bid to remove certain trees recommended by our Public Works Foreman and this is a bid to remove just those trees and grind the stumps.

Mr. Leone commented yes, and there was \$15,000.00 in the budget but we only spent \$11,000.00 and these are dead and it’s a safety precaution. So we ask that Council authorize it.

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.

- I. Rotary request for shed placement in Borough rear parking lot near dumpsters. (*see attached letter*)  
 Motion made by Mrs. Miller, seconded by Mrs. Tessaro  
 Question was asked if they we're giving them electric – Mr. Leone commented yes, at some point we will have our electrician put in electric.  
 Mr. Cafarelli asked about size. Mr. Knecht commented that they are trying to figure it out now.

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. 7 -0

- J. Consider Action to Adopt RESOLUTION NO. **2021-7** fixing the salaries and wages paid to the non-union personnel for the calendar year of 2022.  
 Motion made by Mr. Flannery, seconded by Mrs. Tessaro

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. 7 – 0

- K. Consider action to appoint Middle Department Inspection Agency (MDIA) as the Borough's third-party Uniform Construction Code Inspector and enter into an agreement with them for the purposes of providing Uniform Construction Code/Building Inspection services to the Borough of Ambridge.  
 Motion made by Mr. Cafarelli, seconded by Mr. Gill.

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. 7 – 0

- L. Consider Action to advertise for the Reorganization Meeting to held on Monday, January 3<sup>rd</sup>, 6:30pm  
 Motion made by Mr. Gill and seconded by Mr. Cafarelli to set the re-organizational meeting for January 3 2022 at 6:30pm.

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. 7 – 0

• **Committee Reports**

1. **Public Safety Committee – Mr. Flannery** – No report but Chief Gottschalk commented about 4 Asst. Chief Larrick, Dave Gorecki, Dan Caul and Larry Charlton - Ambridge Firefighters that took 48-hour class and the Ambridge Fire Department is Pa. State Certified FF2 – which is the highest certification available right now. We also have 4 volunteers that are FF1 level and will be testing for FF2 in the spring. And Asst. Chief Larrick and Dave Gorecki received certificates in fire investigations as well.

Mr. Leone asked how does this Fire Dept. compare to other paid fire departments in the county. Chief Gottschalk commented that only 3 departments are paid departments.

Chief DeLuca – commented that his department teamed up with Crime Watch collected toys for Toys for Tots and collected 200 toys.

Today was a big day – at 1:30pm the sentencing hearing for the woman who shot her 2 children took a plea deal and received 2 life sentences. He wanted to thank his officers for a job well done.

He also commented about a successful raid that took place down by Mrs. Miller’s house.

Mrs. Miller also commented about Officer Depenhart that pays for a Christmas tree every year for someone with a child that is purchasing a tree. She just wanted to mention it even if he didn’t want her too.

Mr. Leone commented about the sentencing hearing. He commented that he was emotional about it and thanked the police chief and officers and what an outstanding job police officers do.

Mr. Mikulich thanked Mr. Gorecki who is applying for a \$600,000.00 grant for a new fire truck.

2. **Mayor’s Report – Mr. Drewnowski**– No report – just wanted to thank Council – it’s been a pleasure to work with them. He also wanted to thank the police chief and the officers for their professionalism and courtesy to him as Mayor. Mr. Mikulich thanked him for his service as Fire Chief and as Mayor.



3. **Code Committee – Mrs. Tessaro - No Report.**

4. **Public Works Committee – Mr. Cafarelli** – commented about leaf vac and the no parking during leaf vac being enforced next year. He explained the reasons. They also discussed upgrading the fleet. We are also going to apply for a DEP grant. We need to replace our skid steer and backhoe. An ongoing issue Merchant and Duss Ave around 3<sup>rd</sup>/4<sup>th</sup> Street at the water plant. The palettes keep growing and it makes our new streetscape look terrible. Also, the parking of the trailers along Duss Ave – when they’re parked there and cars parked on the other side – it becomes one lane down the middle. Also 19<sup>th</sup> sinking road area – we have to send our engineer up there. Mr. Leone commented that he will talk to Nira about checking it out.

5. **Parks and Recreation Committee – Mrs. Miller** – No report. They met almost every week since the last meeting about the Henning St. Park – we are in the final stages of planning the park. We are still waiting on the LWCF grant – we cannot have groundbreaking until we get word on the grant. When we get the grant, we will schedule the groundbreaking. She hopes that the council people that will be gone will attend – because we were all part of it.

6. **Engineer’s Report – Mr. Brunner** – Nira approved the Dollar General Plus plans, and they were sent to the county and he will be happy to look into the 19<sup>th</sup> St. situation with the road.

• **Official Reports - Motion to accept Official Reports.**

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

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. 7 – 0

• **Other Unfinished Business**

Mr. Gill talked about the bridge closure, and we were going to write letter – have we done this? Mr. Leone stated that he did reach out to the county commissioners. Mr. Gill commented that we said we were going to write letters every six months to let them know we are serious about the bridge. Mr. Leone asked Mr. Gill what he should write in this letter to them every six months, Mr. Gill commented that we need this bridge. We need another bridge, but we need this bridge. Mr. Mikulich stated that we need this bridge replaced. The last meeting that Mr. Mikulich attended they told him building a bridge is a 5 yr. plan and they do not have a contingency for this bridge. We have to keep the pressure on them. Mr. Gill also asked about the ZOOM capabilities for our residents. Mr. Leone stated he is working on it. Mr. Gill asked about the award in this room for Chief Romutis. Mr. Leone commented that Police Chief is working on it and said that we can put a plaque in this room to memorialize him. Mr. Gill also asked the proclamations. Mrs. Miller said that we could do what we did before. Mr. Gill also asked about the movie ordinance. Mr. Start commented about what a long process it is, and it might be challenged. Mr. Start said they usually sit down with the movie people before they start, and it doesn’t become a tax. Mr. Gill asked about the Christmas lights being powered on Merchant St. – is the new speaker system going to be hindered by this. Mr. Leone said is it being worked on – the way the poles are wired now does cause an issue. Mr. Gill also asked about people

getting a refund on their garbage since there has been so many problems. Mr. Leone said that the solicitor and him talked about this and it's not something that we can do with the current the contract. We still owe them for 300 customers that are not being billed. Waste Management's claim they are picking up and we are not billing them. Some of these non-billed customers had dumpsters at one time, but now are on the regular collection by Waste Management. So, we are working on this. We have some billed not paying their bill as well, they are basically getting their garbage picked up for free. This also has to be solved.

Mr. Start commented he went thru the contract, and it comes down to monitor it the way the contract states. Mr. Gill said the new service started in January and we've had problems. The excuse was Covid – it's not our problem. They are not honoring their contract. Mr. Start asked if we still owe them money, what are we doing to remedy this situation. Mr. Mikulich commented that we should go after the people who had dumpsters prior and say if you are not paying for garbage pick-up – we are not picking up your garbage. He agrees with Mr. Gill. We need to get these people to pay and/or stop picking up their trash and then fine them. Mr. Leone commented that once we scrub the list to see who these people are – we can make a list and Council can then decide what to do with them. Mr. Mikulich commented we can only go back to January 2021 – the new council will then have to take action.

Mr. Leone commented that there were some deactivated accounts because the house was sold and now re-occupied and they AWA are finding that these haven't paid water either, so we are working on this issue.

Mr. Gill also asked about 604 Merchant St. – what did we decide to do with this lady. Mr. Leone commented that we decided to compensate her with a thousand dollars. Council decided to work on putting this on the January agenda. Mr. Gill talked about the Water Plant and giving out tickets because they shouldn't be parked there. Chief DeLuca commented that if Council wants him to give out tickets, they will. They talked about another trailer that might not had been from the water company. More discussion. Isn't there an ordinance? Mr. Cafarelli asked about daylight hours, he doesn't move them at all. Mr. Mikulich commented that the ones on Duss Ave – they are supposed to be parked and unloaded and then loaded and moved – but he's not moving them. Mr. Cafarelli commented that they are running out room.

- **Adjournment 8:15pm**

Motion made to adjourn by Mr. Cafarelli, Mrs. Tessaro seconded..

All in Favor: Ayes 7 - 0