

**SAINT AMBROSE
PARISH COUNCIL MINUTES
DATE: February 24, 2010**

Call to Order: Dave Urbanski, President

Prayer: Dave Urbanski

Roll Call/Visitors:

P/A

Tim Keenan (1 st Year)	P	Visitors:
Dave Urbanski-President (3rd Year)	P	Deacon Mike East
Jim McCormick-School Commission	P	Denny Fry, Finance Council Member
Jeanette Burbank-Spiritual Life	P	
Joan/Leonard Elsner-Stewardship	P	
Cindi Dennis-Finance Council	A	
David Geis- Secretary/At-Large (2nd Year)	P	
Deb Bedwell- V.P./At-Large (3rd Year)	P	
Kitty Lewis-Community Life and Service	P	
Scott Lanam (1 st Year)	P	
Mark Nowling – Faith Formation	P	
Sharon Koch - At Large (1 st Year)	P	
Ernesto Enriquez (2 nd Year)	A	
Fr. Dan Staublin, Administrator	A	

Roll Call: Taken silently; quorum present

Visitors: Per above listing

Minutes Approval: Upon motion of Joan Elsner, seconded by Deb Bedwell and carried, the minutes of the meeting held January 27, 2010 were approved.

Pastor's Comments: Fr. Dan was not present.

Commission Reports:

School Commission: Jim McCormick reported on behalf of the School Commission on behalf of Elaine Nolan, the newly designated parish council member representing this commission.

ISTEP testing is coming up soon and some parents are said to be concerned about the timing of these tests falling after spring break. There has been discussion about extending the 7th and 8th grade classes after next school year. Meetings have occurred and continue to occur with 5th and 6th grade parents regarding the situation of class sizes and considerations regarding the continuation of 7th and 8th grades in the future. The goal is to have at least 16 students in the 7th and 8th grades with a decision to be made by March. Additionally, discussion about tuition is occurring, noting there has not been an increase in tuition for three years. This also prompts concern about enrollment in the future. School finances are expected to finish in the black for the current school year.

Community Life & Service: Kitty Lewis was not present at the time of this report but joined the meeting later. A report was sent to council members in advance of the meeting regarding the progress in planning for the parish's 150th anniversary. The parish logo is well developed at this time and the full year calendar of events continues to make progress. Discussion occurred about how to incorporate an introduction of the new parish vision statement into the various publications and events. Scott Lanam updated council members on the parish family photo opportunity. Life Touch our of Columbus has been retained and is scheduled for photo shoots on 9-14 through 18 and 9-21 through 25. Plans are also being made for taking photos of those parishioners who are homebound. A single photo will be free to parishioners with optional additional photos available at a cost.

Spiritual Life Commission: Jeanette Burbank reported on behalf of this commission and referred to the notes of their last meeting held February 23, 2010. Ash Wednesday services were reviewed with good attendance noted. Lenten Reconciliation Service will be on March 19 at 7:00om with 6 priests scheduled to participate, two of whom are bi-lingual. Stations of the Cross are being held each Friday at 6:00pm. The commission considered a special request for liturgy participation by selected students and approved. Palm Sunday and Holy Week services were discussed. Liturgy needs were discussed for the balance of the fiscal year and planning begins for the 2010-2011 budget.

A May Crowning service is being considered in conjunction with the 150th anniversary on a weekend so the entire parish has an opportunity to participate.

Faith Formation: Mark Nowling reported that this commission's last meeting had to be cancelled due to the snow blizzard. The commission is preparing for the Parish Mission in April. The CD offerings are being refreshed and being used.

Stewardship Commission (Buildings and Grounds): Leonard Elsner reported on behalf of this commission stating it met February 5, 2010. The appropriation policy and form were reviewed. Discussion occurred on the possible best use of the recent \$10,000 anonymous donation for parish buildings and grounds.

Discussion ensued regarding the conversion of the newly acquired Carter St. lot into a parking lot. Mr. Elsner provided council an estimate of costs for the various aspects of making this lot into a parking lot. Total estimated costs are \$3,439, recognizing there will likely be some ongoing supplement of the gravel on the lot. If the cost is agreeable, the next step is to seek the appropriate variance to convert the residential lot into a parking lot. After discussion of these matters, Jim McCormick made a motion and Mark Nowling seconded and carried to proceed with the zoning variance and with approval of the zoning to convert the lot into parking.

Planning for the 2010-2011 budget was discussed at the commission meeting as well.

Spanish Ministry: No report given

Finance Council: Denny Fry reported on behalf of the Finance Council in place of Cindi Dennis. The Council met on February 18, 2010. Mr. Fry gave an extensive report on various matters, including: review of parish balance sheet and income statement; three requests for appropriations using the new Request Approval Form; a discussion concerning a controls audit comment (second time) concerning risks associated with storage of cash and the recommended purchase of three small vaults. Council took exception with the advisability of this solution, suggesting the possibility of a single vault. Mr. Fry agreed to have Business Manager Ron Luther evaluate alternatives. Mr. Fry outlined the upcoming budget process and work going on with the various commissions to aid in their preparations for the 2010-11 budget. A contract for services on the parish's information technology network is in process of being negotiated. It appears the final quote for the services will amount to \$1,565.

Mr. Fry discussed the use of a balance in the Designated Funds account amounting to approximately \$10,000. The benefactor was noted as desiring the funds to be used for operating St. Ambrose School. Final determination is to be made on how to expend these funds for the school.

Distribution of the Tuition Assistance Funds was discussed. This is an annual withdrawal of funds from an Edward Jones account that is eligible to be made at a rate of 5% of the fund balance.

A report on balances owed under the Legacy of Our Mission campaign was given, noting a number of families that are past due in the amount of \$23,798. Efforts are under way to contact these families to encourage completion of their pledges.

Old Business: Parking lot matters were reported on under the heading of the Stewardship (Buildings and Grounds) report above.

(Dashboard Items) Update on 150th Anniversary planning was reported on under the heading of Community Life and Service. Dave Urbanski noted several policies that were up for review and re adoption stating that no changes were recommended. It was taken by consensus that these policies should be renewed as presently written.

New Business: Dave Urbanski called for discussion on the appropriate considerations to be made in amending the Parish Council By Laws to allow for the representation of a youth on the council. Members provided input and a recommendation for By-law language change will incur a first reading at the March meeting of the parish council.

Discussion was requested of the Council concerning the Parish policy on consumption of alcohol at events held on the parish premises. The current policy is that it is prohibited. An alumni party is planned for September and clarification is being requested by the party's sponsors. Discussion varied on the matter with both pro's and con's being expressed. After discussion, a motion was made by Sharon Koch, seconded by Mark Nowling and carried to table the matter until the next meeting, allowing council members time to reflect upon the discussion and their views and to come prepared at the next meeting with firm ideas.

President Urbanski reminded Council members that both he and Deb Bedwell would be going off the parish council at the end of the current term. Both are also officers of the council. He expressed desire for candidates who would be "fresh blood" to the council with varied experiences within the parish. He called

for council members to think of potential candidates who could be asked to discern their willingness to serve and talents they could offer if elected or appointed.

Adjournment: Motion by Dave Geis, seconded by Deb Bedwell to adjourn the meeting.

A closing prayer was offered by Dave Urbanski.

Respectfully submitted by

David Geis
Secretary