

## MINUTES

December 18, 2006

The regular monthly meeting of Ambler Borough Council was held Monday, December 18, 2006 at 8:00 p.m. in Borough Council Chambers located at 122 E. Butler Avenue. President Anita O'Hara Pieri presided.

Mayor Wahl led the public in the Pledge of Allegiance and a moment of silence.

**Roll Call** – Present: Mrs. O'Hara Pieri, Mr. G. Pasceri, Mr. Taylor, Mr. Isabella, Mr. Kenney, Mr. Orehek, Mr. Pugliese, Mrs. Baigis and Mr. Dooley. Mayor Wahl, Solicitor Bresnan, Mr. Rocco Wack and Mrs. Aversa also were present.

Mayor Wahl swore in Officer Salvatore Pasceri as an Ambler Borough Police Officer. Officer Pasceri's mother held the Bible for the swearing-in. Chief Wack congratulated Officer Pasceri and announced that Officer Pasceri has received the Delaware Valley Police Chief's Award as "outstanding cadet."

Mrs. O'Hara Pieri moved that the November 20th Minutes be approved. Seconded, carried.

### **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

#### **Parks and Recreation Committee – Mr. Dooley, Chairman**

The Committee met on Monday, December 4, 2006 at 7:30 p.m. in Borough Council Chambers located at 122 E. Butler Avenue. Committee members: Mr. Dooley, Mr. G. Pasceri and Mr. Isabella. Also present: Mrs. O'Hara Pieri, Mr. Orehek, Mr. Pugliese, Mr. Kenney and Mrs. Baigis. Also present: Mayor Wahl, Solicitor Bresnan, Mr. Rocco Wack and Mrs. Mary Aversa. Absent: Mr. Dooley and Mr. Taylor.

The Parks and Recreation Committee report was given by Mr. Dooley.

#### **The Committee will recommend the following:**

1. In connection with the use of Pickering Field, starting January 1, 2007 and until further notice, there will be no organized team sports using Pickering Field on Sundays.
2. As has always been the case in the past, the use of Pickering Field is not limited to the use made of it by Ambler Junior Baseball. If an organization wishes to use Pickering Field, it shall make a request of the Borough as early as possible in the

- year so that it can be worked into the schedule for the year. Field use will not be necessarily the same for all organizations and the Borough will consider the number of people involved in the respective programs in deciding on field use for the year.
3. The Borough and any primary user of Pickering Field will work to establish staggered starting times for games to reduce traffic congestion.
  4. In consideration of Ambler Junior Baseball's considerable use of Pickering Field, the following conditions will be imposed upon them, such having already been agreed to by Ambler Junior Baseball:
    - A. The yellow protective padding on the fences will be replaced by green padding of a similar type, cost incurred by the Borough and labor incurred by AJB.
    - B. Rubber or similar padding will be placed at AJB's cost under the player benches.
    - C. AJB will move forward with plans to improve the blockhouse, and will present plans in the near future for review and approval.
    - D. During the season, AJB will water the infields to minimize the escape of dust from the property.
    - E. AJB will remove the batting cages on Highland Avenue during baseball's off-season. The posts will be cut to ground level, capped, and the cage will be stored in the blockhouse for the winter. It will be reassembled each year during the first week in March and will be disassembled during the first week in July.
  5. The Borough recognizes that all four fields are needed for the AJB program to continue.

Discussion ensued. Solicitor Bresnan addressed the assembly, stating that he had recommended to Council that these determinations not be considered as a contract, but rather as guideline actions to be taken regarding Pickering Field usage. He stated that the Borough must consider use of all its parks, that Borough Code must be abided and that there be no special exceptions. Bresnan stated that the Borough must be communicative with its neighbors, but that such communication should not be considered as a specific agreement. The issues presented, he stated, incorporate core points that are to be adopted as policies.

Residents and persons in the assembly then addressed Council. Tony Marinucci sought clarification from Solicitor Bresnan urging that Notice be given by the Borough as pertains to all parks. Bresnan stated that such a notice requirement would be a logistical problem for the Borough. Bob LaGreca stated concern for Ambler CYO having access to the fields because their use of the fields is on five or six Sundays in May and early-June. Mr. Orehek stated that he was aware that CYO practices on Wednesdays but was not aware that they play baseball on Sundays. Rob Cardillo, identifying himself as a neighbor, asked whether a master plan exists for the field, stating that it was difficult to

anticipate the growth at the field. AJB Vice President Dotsy Carney volunteered that with grant money AJB had purchased protective pads, batting cage and scoreboard. Tom Miles stated that a comprehensive master plan would simply be to keep children involved in sports. Organized sports are a good experience for all.

Continuing, Christine Piakowski stressed that baseball is America's pastime, and teaches children valuable communications skills and the importance of teamwork. Mark Simmons stated he purchased his house because it is near a baseball field. He felt the proposed recommendations were balanced. Craig Super pointed out that Pickering Field has been established ground since 1921 (the dust issue) and that the scoreboards were purchased and presented to the Borough with all channels properly followed. Bill Slagenhauser stated the minority should not dictate to the majority and reiterated that the scoreboard is approved of, with electricity paid for by the Borough. Mary Thornton stated that children benefit from the baseball program, and that the fields are obvious to families moving in.

Continuing, Dotsy Carney (AJB Vice President) thanked supporters and announced that AJB will start its 50<sup>th</sup> season in 2008. She stated that there has been much growth and much progress. As regards a "master plan" AJB has made concessions, including no ball on Sundays and staggered game times on Saturdays. Karen Sheedy pointed out that approximately 650 children participated in AJB last year. Tom Greenwood, a resident of Fort Washington, stated he has two children who play with AJB, and that children need a place to play. He asked why it was considered an inconvenience to play ball on Sundays. Ms. Pieri stated that AJB had offered not to play ball on Sundays. Grace Sammons stressed that children need a field with organized sports, not just an "open" playing field. Finally, Bob Gilman inquired as to the use procedure of the field. It was stated that advanced notification is needed and that there is no use fee.

At this time, Mrs. O'Hara Pieri asked Mr. Dooley how he would like to proceed with the vote. He could proceed with a vote on each recommendation item if he wanted, as was suggested by the Solicitor. Mr. Dooley chose to call for a vote on each item.

**In other business the following was discussed:**

It was pointed out that requested quotes now have been received for swings at Ricciardi Park.

Mrs. O'Hara Pieri asked if there were further questions from the public. None were asked.

Mr. Pasceri moved the report be accepted and filed. Seconded, carried.

### **Public Safety Committee – Mr. Pugliese, Chairman**

The Committee met on Monday, December 4, 2006 at 7:30 p.m. in Borough Council Chambers located at 122 E. Butler Avenue. Committee members: Mr. Pugliese, Mr. G. Pasceri and Mr. Isabella. Also present: Mrs. O’Hara Pieri, Mr. Orehek, Mr. Kenney and Mrs. Baigis. Also present: Mayor Wahl, Solicitor Bresnan, Mr. Rocco Wack and Mrs. Mary Aversa. Absent: Mr. Dooley and Mr. Taylor.

The Public Safety Committee report was given by Mr. Pugliese.

#### **The Committee will recommend the following:**

1. Recommend appointing Richard Palumbo to the vacant EAC Committee seat and recommend reappointing EAC Committee member Susan Curry to another term.

#### **In other business the following was discussed:**

Mrs. Baigis made inquiry as to snow removal requirements of residents. Mr. Wack clarified that snow removal requirements are a code issue and not a police matter.

Mrs. O’Hara Pieri asked if there were questions from the public. None were asked.

Mr. Pasceri moved the report be accepted and filed. Seconded, carried.

### **Finance and Planning Committee - Mr. Kenney, Chairman**

The Committee met on Monday, December 4, 2006 at 7:30 p.m. in Borough Council Chambers located at 122 E. Butler Avenue. Committee members: Mr. Kenney, Mr. Pasceri, Mr. Dooley and Mr. Taylor. Also present: Mrs. O’Hara Pieri, Mr. Pugliese, Mr. Orehek, Mr. Isabella and Mrs. Baigis. Also present: Mayor Wahl, Solicitor Bresnan, Mr. Rocco Wack and Mrs. Mary Aversa. Absent: Mr. Dooley and Mr. Taylor.

The Finance and Planning Committee report was given by Mr. Kenney.

#### **The Committee will recommend the following:**

1. Recommend that the November 2006 invoices totaling \$389,108.61 be paid.
2. Recommend adopting Ordinance 1002 Fixing the Real Estate Tax Rate for the year 2007.
3. Recommend adopting Ordinance 1003 to provide for the Collection of Interest on Unpaid Realty Transfer Taxes.

4. Recommend adopting Resolution 2006-16 appropriating specific sums estimated per the 2007 Budget to be required for the special purpose of the Municipal government.
5. Recommend advertising for adoption of an Ordinance amending the TOD Ordinance parking requirement.
6. Recommend advertising for adoption of an Ordinance amending the Flag Lot Ordinance.
7. Recommend approval of plans for 237 Trinity Avenue subject to satisfying the Borough Engineer's December 14, 2006 letter to Council.
8. Recommend advertising the 2007 Borough Council and Committee meeting dates and times. (The January meeting are as follows: Committee, Tuesday, January 2, 2007 at 7:30 p.m. and Council, Tuesday, January 15, 2007 at 8:00 p.m.)

Discussion ensued. Mrs. Baigis made several inquiries regarding November invoices, specifically Blumberg & Rath, Environmental Engineering, Kappe Associates, and Mascaro. Mr. Wack and Mrs. Aversa responded to satisfy her inquiry.

Mrs. O'Hara Pieri asked if the public had further comments or questions. None received.

Mr. Pasceri moved the report be accepted and filed. Seconded, carried.

#### **Public Utilities Committee – Mr. Orehek, Chairman**

The Committee met on Monday, December 4, 2006 at 7:30 p.m. in Borough Council Chambers located at 122 E. Butler Avenue. Committee members: Mr. Orehek, Mr. Pugliese, Mrs. O'Hara Pieri. Also present: Mr. Pasceri, Mr. Kenney, Mr. Isabella and Mrs. Baigis. Also present: Mayor Wahl, Solicitor Bresnan, Mr. Rocco Wack and Mrs. Mary Aversa. Absent: Mr. Dooley and Mr. Taylor.

The Public Utilities Committee report was given by Mr. Orehek.

#### **The Committee will recommend the following:**

1. Recommend emergency authorization to contract with Reinbrecht Associates (authorized agent for Autocon Industries (SCADA system)) at a cost of \$14,898.00 to radio link Wells 2, 6, 7 and 8 to reinstate failed auto controls at those wells which have failed due to an underground conduit electrical short.
2. Recommend granting authority to advertise and bid for the rebuilding of the existing belt filter press (which includes labor and material). The engineer estimate is \$125,000.00.

Discussion ensued. Mrs. Baigis asked whether given the emergency authorization requested, Reinbrecht Associates had begun work. It was stated that work had not yet begun, but was scheduling.

Mrs. O'Hara Pieri asked if the public had any questions. No questions received.

Mr. Pasceri moved the report be accepted and filed. Seconded, carried.

### **Salary and Personnel Committee – Mr. Isabella, Chairman**

The Committee met on Monday, December 4, 2006 at 7:30 p.m. in Borough Council Chambers located at 122 E. Butler Avenue. Committee members: Mr. Isabella, Mr. G. Pasceri and Mr. Orehek. Also present: Mrs. O'Hara Pieri, Mr. Pugliese, Mr. Kenney and Mrs. Baigis. Also present: Mayor Wahl, Solicitor Bresnan, Mr. Rocco Wack and Mrs. Mary Aversa. Absent: Mr. Dooley and Mr. Taylor.

The Salary and Personnel Committee report was given by Mr. Isabella.

#### **The Committee will recommend the following:**

1. Recommend promoting Gary Carpenter to a Water Operator II position in the Water Department.

Mrs. O'Hara Pieri asked if the public had any questions. No questions received.

Mr. Pasceri moved the report be accepted and filed. Seconded, carried.

### **OLD BUSINESS/NEW BUSINESS**

There being no further business, Mrs. O'Hara Pieri asked for questions or comments from the public. There were none. Mrs. O'Hara Pieri then accepted the resignation of Mr. Rick Taylor as of December 31, 2006 and wished him well on his new venture as State Representative in Harrisburg. Council, then, moved on to recommendations.

### **RECOMMENDATIONS**

#### **Public Safety Committee**

The Committee recommends and Mr. Pugliese moves:

APPOINTING Richard Palumbo to the vacant EAC Committee seat and reappointing EAC Committee member Susan Curry to another term. Seconded, carried.

## **Parks and Recreation Committee**

The Committee recommends and Mr. Dooley moves:

THAT in connection with the use of Pickering Field, starting January 1, 2007 and until further notice, there will be no organized team sports using Pickering Field on Sundays. Seconded. Roll Call Vote: Ayes-4 (Baigis, Isabella, Pasceri, Taylor), Nays-5 (Dooley, Kenney, Orehek, Pugliese, Pieri). Motion Denied.

THAT as has always been the case in the past, the use of Pickering Field is not limited to the use made of it by Ambler Junior Baseball. If an organization wishes to use Pickering Field, it shall make a request of the Borough as early as possible in the year so that it can be worked into the schedule for the year. Field use will not be necessarily the same for all organizations and the Borough will consider the number of people involved in the respective programs in deciding on field use for the year. Seconded, carried.

THAT the Borough and any primary user of Pickering Field will work to establish staggered starting times for games to reduce traffic congestion. Seconded, carried.

THAT in consideration of Ambler Junior Baseball's considerable use of Pickering Field, the following conditions will be imposed upon them, such having already been agreed to by Ambler Junior Baseball: Seconded, carried.

- The yellow protective padding on the fences will be replaced by green padding of a similar type, cost incurred by the Borough and labor incurred by AJB.
- Rubber or similar padding will be placed at AJB's cost under the player benches.
- AJB will move forward with plans to improve the blockhouse, and will present plans in the near future for review and approval.
- During the season, AJB will water the infields to minimize the escape of dust from the property.
- AJB will remove the batting cages on Highland Avenue during baseball's off-season. The posts will be cut to ground level, capped, and the cage will be stored in the blockhouse for the winter. It will be reassembled each year during the first week in March and will be disassembled during the first week in July.

THAT the Borough recognizes that all four fields are needed for the AJB program to continue. Seconded. Roll Call Vote: Ayes-8, Nay-1 (Baigis). Carried.

## **Public Utilities Committee**

The Committee recommends and Mr. Orehek moves:

EMERGENCY AUTHORIZATION to contract with Reinbrecht Associates (authorized agent for Autocon Industries (SCADA system)) at a cost of \$14,898.00 to radio link

Wells 2, 6, 7 and 8 to reinstate failed auto controls at those wells which have failed due to an underground conduit electrical short. Seconded, carried.

GRANTING AUTHORITY to advertise and bid for the rebuilding of the existing belt filter press (which includes labor and material). Seconded, carried.

### **Finance and Planning Committee**

The Committee recommends and Mr. Kenney moves:

THAT the November 2006 invoices totaling \$389,108.61 be paid. Seconded, carried.

ADOPTING Ordinance 1002 Fixing the Real Estate Tax Rate for the year 2007. Seconded. Roll Call Vote: All Present, Aye. Carried.

ADOPTING Ordinance 1003 to provide for the Collection of Interest on Unpaid Realty Transfer Taxes. Seconded. Roll Call Vote: All Present, Aye. Carried.

ADOPTING Resolution 2006-16 appropriating specific sums estimated per the 2007 Budget to be required for the special purpose of the Municipal government. Seconded. Roll Call Vote: All Present, Aye. Carried.

ADVERTISING for adoption of an Ordinance amending the TOD Ordinance parking requirement. Seconded. Ayes-8, Nay-1 (Baigis). Carried.

ADVERTISING for adoption of an Ordinance amending the Flag Lot Ordinance. Seconded, carried.

APPROVAL of plans for 237 Trinity Avenue subject to satisfying the Borough Engineer's December 14, 2006 letter to Council. Seconded, carried.

ADVERTISING the 2007 Borough Council and Committee meeting dates and times, with Council meeting times to post at 8:00 p.m. and Committee meeting times to post at 7:30 p.m. (The January meeting are as follows: Committee, Tuesday, January 2, 2007 at 7:30 p.m. and Council, Tuesday, January 15, 2007 at 8:00 p.m.) Seconded, carried.

### **Salary and Personnel Committee**

The Committee recommends and Mr. Isabella moves:

PROMOTION OF Gary Carpenter to a Water Operator II position in the Water Department. Seconded, carried.



There being no further business, Mrs. O'Hara Pieri moved the meeting be adjourned.  
Seconded, carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Elizabeth Russell  
Administrative Assistant  
Water Department

For  
George W. Benigno  
Assistant Borough Secretary