

MINUTES

November 20, 2006

The regular monthly meeting of Ambler Borough Council was held Monday, November 20, 2006 at 8:00 p.m. in Borough Council Chambers located at 122 E. Butler Avenue. President Anita O'Hara Pieri presided.

Mr. Taylor 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. Solicitor Bresnan, Mr. Rocco Wack and Mrs. Aversa also were present. Mayor Wahl was absent.

Mrs. O'Hara Pieri moved that the October 16th Minutes be approved. Seconded, carried.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Finance and Planning Committee - Mr. Kenney, Chairman

The Committee met on Monday, November 6, 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. Taylor.

AN INTRODUCTION OF several new members of the Board of Ambler Main Street was made by outgoing President Bernie Sergiej. Incoming President is Jay Susanin and incoming Vice President is Ed Egan.

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

The Committee will recommend the following:

1. Recommend that the October 2006 invoices totaling \$998,467.11 be paid.
2. Recommend adopting the 2007 Borough Budget.

Discussion ensued. Mr. Kenney reviewed the budget consideration request of the EAC for \$1,000.00. It was explained by Jeremiah Couey of the EAC that this request was due to a shortfall in the Tree-Vitalize grant (40 homes @ \$25.00 per home). Further, Mr. Kenney requested that given the length of the Council's budget review process, the EAC and other groups seeking consideration by Council submit their budget requests by

August of each calendar year. On a separate line of inquiry regarding the budget, Mrs. Baigis inquired about the workers compensation increase in the budget. Mr. Wack stated that the increase was due to incidents suffered during the year, and that the amount had actually been adjusted downward from the first draft of the budget. Mrs. Baigis further inquired as to the increase in legal fees. It was explained that the Borough now uses the additional legal services of Hall and Associates of Washington, D.C. for certain DEP work and for the NPDES permit appeal.

3. Recommend adopting Resolution 2006-15 in support of the Ambler Theater securing a Grant from the Redevelopment Assistance Capital Program (RACP) for \$500,000.00 to assist in the restoration of the final Theater.

Discussion ensued. Mrs. Baigis requested that wording of the resolution stating the theater would improve the “quality of life for Ambler Borough residents” be expanded to read that the theater would improve the “quality of life for Ambler Borough residents and others.”

In other business the following was discussed:

The subdivision at 237 Trinity Avenue, having been reviewed by Borough Engineering firm Gilmore & Associates, requires the submission of additional information before a recommendation can be considered. Peter Penna, owner of 237 Trinity Avenue spoke, stating that he has submitted four revisions, has spent \$11,000 in engineering fees, and is frustrated by incremental recommendations being made by Borough engineers. He would like to know how he is to conform. Mr. Wack stated he would look into the matter.

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 Safety Committee – Mr. Pugliese, Chairman

The Committee met on Monday, November 6, 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, Mrs. Baigis and Mr. Dooley. Also present: Mayor Wahl, Solicitor Bresnan, Mr. Rocco Wack and Mrs. Mary Aversa. Absent: Mr. Rick Taylor.

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

The Committee will recommend the following:

1. Recommend adopting Resolution 2006-14 as suggested by the Department of Public Safety, demonstrating the Borough’s cooperation in operating under the National Incident Management System (NIMS).

In other business the following was discussed:

Mrs. Baigis made inquiry as to the Police Report for October. Chief Wack stated that meter violations were from parking meters and that vandalism included both vehicular vandalism and graffiti.

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.

Parks and Recreation Committee – Mr. Dooley, Chairman

The Committee met on Monday, November 6, 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. Taylor.

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

The Committee will make no recommendations at this time.

In other business the following was discussed:

Mrs. Baigis thanked Mr. Dooley for seeing that a proper American flag was flown at Pickering Field.

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.

Public Utilities Committee – Mr. Orehek, Chairman

The Committee met on Monday, November 6, 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, Mr. Dooley and Mrs. Baigis. Also present: Mayor Wahl, Solicitor Bresnan, Mr. Rocco Wack and Mrs. Mary Aversa. Absent: Mr. Taylor.

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

The Committee will recommend the following:

1. Recommend awarding the Bid for gabion work at Loch Alsh Reservoir to Ply-Mar Construction for the low bid of \$18,200.00 (pending Borough Solicitor review).
2. Recommend awarding the Bid for Ambler Well #15, 72-hour pump test to A. C. Schultes for the low bid of \$21,678.00.
3. Recommend awarding the Bid for the removal and replacement of the B-2 conductors at WWTP to Alfred J. Fry III for the low bid of \$57,620.00.
4. Recommend awarding the Bid for the disposal of the plant's sludge cake, grits and screenings to J. P. Mascaro for a five-year contract at a price of \$68.00 per ton.

Discussion ensued. Mr. Taylor asked about Recommendation #4 and comparable prices from other years. It was stated that the cost had actually gone down. Mrs. Baigis asked whether the Borough Solicitor would be reviewing bid documents relevant to Recommendation #1. He stated that he would be doing so.

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, November 6, 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, Mrs. Baigis and Mr. Dooley. Also present: Mayor Wahl, Solicitor Bresnan, Mr. Rocco Wack and Mrs. Mary Aversa. Absent: Mr. Taylor.

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

The Committee will recommend the following:

1. Recommend reviewing the current applications on file for consideration in filling the vacant Operator I position at the WWTP. The vacancy is due to the resignation of Fred Conte.

Discussion ensued. Mrs. Baigis asked whether the position would be advertised. Mr. Wack stated that a sufficient number of applications are on file and that he determined it would not be necessary to advertise for the position.

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. Council, therefore, moved on to recommendations.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Public Safety Committee

The Committee recommends and Mr. Pugliese moves:

ADOPTING Resolution 2006-14 as suggested by the Department of Public Safety, demonstrating the Borough's cooperation in operating under the National Incident Management System (NIMS). Seconded. Roll Call Vote: All present, Aye. Carried.

Parks and Recreation Committee

NONE

Public Utilities Committee

The Committee recommends and Mr. Orehek moves:

AWARDING the Bid for gabion work at Loch Alsh Reservoir to Ply-Mar Construction for the low bid of \$18,200.00 (pending Borough Solicitor review. Seconded. Ayes – 8. Nay – 1 (Mrs. Baigis).

AWARDING the Bid for Ambler Well #15, 72-hour pump test to A. C. Schultes for the low bid of \$21,678.00. Seconded, carried.

AWARDING the Bid for the removal and replacement of the B-2 conductors at WWTP to Alfred J. Fry III for the low bid of \$57,620.00. Seconded, carried.

AWARDING the Bid for the disposal of the plant's sludge cake, grits and screenings to J. P. Mascaro for a five-year contract at a price of \$68.00 per ton. Seconded, carried.

Finance and Planning Committee

The Committee recommends and Mr. Kenney moves:

THAT the October 2006 invoices totaling \$998,467.11 be paid. Seconded, carried.

THAT the 2007 Ambler Borough Budget be adopted. Seconded, carried.

ADOPTING Resolution 2006-15 in support of the Ambler Theater securing a Grant from the Redevelopment Assistance Capital Program (RACP) for \$500,000.00 to assist in the restoration of the final Theater, with the recommendation to the authors of the resolution that the theater would enhance the quality of life for “Ambler Borough residents and others.” Seconded. Roll Call Vote: All Present, Aye. Carried.

Salary and Personnel Committee

The Committee recommends and Mr. Isabella moves:

THAT current applications on file be reviewed for consideration in filling the vacant Operator I position at the WWTP. The vacancy is due to the resignation of Fred Conte. 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