

AMBLER BOROUGH COUNCIL MINUTES

February 19, 2008

The regular monthly meeting of Ambler Borough Council was held Tuesday, February 19, 2008 at 7:00 p.m. in Borough Council Chambers located at 122 E. Butler Avenue, Ambler, Pennsylvania 19002. President Tony Isabella presided.

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

Roll Call – Present: Mr. Isabella, Mr. Dooley, Mrs. Pieri, Mr. G. Pasceri, Mr. Kenney, Mrs. Baigis, Mr. S. Pasceri and Ms. Maxion. Mayor Wahl, Sergeant Bill Foley, Solicitor Bresnan and Mrs. Aversa also were present. Absent: Mr. Amento.

Mr. Isabella noted a suggested change to the Minutes by Mrs. Baigis. After a review by Council, Mr. Isabella moved that the Minutes of the January 22, 2008 Meeting, with revisions, be accepted. Seconded, carried. Mr. Isabella tabled approval of the February 13, 2008 Special Public Meeting Minutes to afford Council additional time for review.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Finance and Planning Committee - Mr. Kenney, Chairman

Committee Members: Mr. Kenney, Mrs. Pieri and Mrs. Baigis

The Committee met on Tuesday, February 5, 2008 at 7:00 p.m. in Borough Council Chambers located at 122 E. Butler Avenue. Present: Mr. Isabella, Mr. Dooley, Mrs. Pieri, Mr. G. Pasceri, Mrs. Baigis, Mr. Amento and Ms. Maxion. Also present: Sergeant Bill Foley, Solicitor Bresnan and Mrs. Mary Aversa. Absent: Mr. Kenney, Mr. S. Pasceri and Mayor Wahl.

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

The Committee will recommend the following:

1. Recommend that the January 2008 invoices in the amount of **\$461,102.27** be paid as follows: General (\$143,431.56); Street Lights (\$789.73); Fire (\$471.27); Parks & Rec. (\$481.94); Water (\$81,840.45); Sewer (\$8,182.07); WWTP (\$99,609.77); Rail Corridor (\$0); Road Overlay (\$0); Debt Fund (\$0); Water Capital (\$5,743.72); Liquid Fuels (\$26,457.02); with end of month cycle totaling \$94,094.74, voided checks totaling \$0.00 and January cycle bills totaling \$367,007.53.

Discussion ensued. Mrs. Baigis stated that she had reviewed all checks, invoices and cash disbursement journals for the month of January and was concerned that she had not

seen checks for many entries in the cash disbursement journals. Mrs. Aversa stated that checks are issues twice each month and that only those checks that corresponded with the January cycle, which were in the process of being signed, were available for viewing. End of month checks had been printed, signed and mailed during a prior week. Mrs. Baigis then stated that an invoice to the municipality of Bryn Athyn was clipped to Borough of Ambler invoices from BIU and she asked that it be determined that the Borough had not inadvertently paid from an incorrect invoice.

2. Recommend adopting **Resolution 2008-2** confirming Borough ownership of certain real estate and declaring it tax exempt. (This is the piece of property formerly joined with the liquor store property.)

Discussion ensued. Bernie Sergie, Ambler Main Street vice president noted that in the Borough's taking of land from the liquor store, the liquor store fell short of the number of parking spaces originally determined to be needed for that location.

3. A request was received from Ambler Main Street for release of interest accrued on the Anchor Grant of \$250,000. Interest to date is approximately \$13,000 (1 ½ year's interest accrued) which was approved in the 2008 budget as available for the program.

A presentation was made by David-Michael Kenney, Ambler Main Street president, regarding the 2008 Revitalization Grant application. Mr. Kenney stated AMS sought \$30,000 to promote AMS projects through public relations, marketing and analysis. The grant money would not be for salaries. Regarding Act II Playhouse, Mr. Kenney made a power point presentation of Cavalier Drive, noting that architecturally designed down lighting was being sought for the mural, with restoration of the kiosk and kiosk down lighting listed in the request. Mr. Kenney stressed the need for aesthetics, energy efficiency and plan coordination to achieve the warm lighting effect envisioned, with a goal of improved safety and vibrancy. Additionally, the request is for added foliage and benches around the kiosk.

4. Act II Playhouse has requested three dates to hold the Alley of the Arts Festival: Sat., April 5, 2008 (raindate 4/12/08), Sat., May 10, 2008 (raindate 5/17/08) and Sat., June 7, 2008 (raindate 6/14/08). The events would require closing Cavalier Drive. Each event would run from 12:00-4:00 PM with set-up time at 10:00 AM and takedown completed by 5:00 PM.
5. Bid specs are being prepared for grant projects, specifically for tree pits along Race Street. Susan Curry of EAC has recommended Poly-II grates for this location and is seeking an affirmative recommendation from Council.

Discussion ensued. Jim Dougherty, Borough Engineer stated that a bump out into the parking area might be necessary to allow for tree growth and because the pits come in standard sizes. It was agreed Mr. Dougherty would report back to Council regarding the impact on parking.

In other business the following was discussed:

1. The Borough Engineer's January 2008 report was reviewed.
2. The SALDO Ordinance setting buffering requirements will be sent to the Planning Commission for review.
3. Resumes are being accepted for vacant Borough seats on the Environmental Action Committee.
4. The Borough is working to address the complaints of property owners surrounding Artman Home.
5. Borough Council selected street names for the new development at 200 S. Main Street. Selected names are Mary Ambler Way, Maida Way and Ebony Way.
6. Revitalization grant applications were submitted January 15, 2008. A meeting was held with the County on February 1st. The Borough will be updating the Revitalization Plan to include current projects and will accept suggestions for future inclusion.
7. The most recent memoranda from the MCPC addressing proposed changes for the corner properties at Butler Avenue and Bethlehem Pike were distributed.

Mr. Isabella asked if there were questions or comments from Council or the public. There being none, it was moved the report be accepted and filed. Seconded, carried.

Public Safety Committee – Mr. G. Pasceri, Chairman

Committee members: Mr. G. Pasceri, Mr. Dooley, Mr. Kenney and Ms. Maxion

The Committee met on Tuesday, February 5, 2008 at 7:00 p.m. in Borough Council Chambers located at 122 E. Butler Avenue. Present: Mr. Isabella, Mr. Dooley, Mrs. Pieri, Mr. G. Pasceri, Mrs. Baigis, Mr. Amento and Ms. Maxion. Also present: Sergeant Bill Foley, Solicitor Bresnan and Mrs. Mary Aversa. Absent: Mr. Kenney, Mr. S. Pasceri and Mayor Wahl.

The Public Safety Committee report was given this evening by Mr. G. Pasceri.

The Committee will recommend the following:

1. Recommend adopting **Ordinance 1015** for stop signs at the intersection of Hendricks Street & Belmont Avenue, and at the intersection of Euclid Avenue & Park Avenue.

In other business the following was discussed:

1. The Police Department report for January 2008 and the Annual Report were received.
2. The January 2008 Public Works report and Code Enforcement report were reviewed.
3. The Borough is looking for interested residents to participate in a steering committee for the Ambler Ambulance Association.
4. The Borough Solicitor and Borough Manager are currently revising the zoning and code recommendations regarding residential rental issues as discussed on February 13th at a special meeting.
5. The 2007 Summary from the Fire Department was received. The January 2008 report was received.
6. The *Hometown News* is being prepared. Items for inclusion are being accepted.
7. A proclamation was prepared for fire fighter Raymond Simonis and a presentation will be made at a future date.

Mr. Isabella asked if there were comments or questions from Council or the public. Sergeant Foley stated that a traffic study was being schedule to consider a proposed stop sign at Valley Brook Road and Glen Mawr Drive.

There being no further comments or questions, it was moved the report be accepted and filed. Seconded, carried.

Parks and Recreation Committee – Mrs. Pieri, Chairman

Committee members: Mrs. Pieri, Mr. Dooley, Mr. G. Pasceri

The Committee met on Tuesday, February 5, 2008 at 7:00 p.m. in Borough Council Chambers located at 122 E. Butler Avenue. Present: Mr. Isabella, Mr. Dooley, Mrs. Pieri, Mr. G. Pasceri, Mrs. Baigis, Mr. Amento and Ms. Maxion. Also present: Sergeant Bill Foley, Solicitor Bresnan and Mrs. Mary Aversa. Absent: Mr. Kenney, Mr. S. Pasceri and Mayor Wahl.

The Parks and Recreation Committee report was given this evening by Mrs. Pieri.

The Committee will recommend the following:

1. Recommend awarding bid for the Knight Park Baseball Backstop to Pro Max of Reading, PA at a low, responsive bid of \$11,460.

In other business the following was discussed:

1. A proclamation is being prepared for Jay B. Fox, Jr. A presentation will be made on March 4, 2008.
2. The Borough has contacted Mattison Avenue Elementary School regarding the YMCA Summer Camp. Camp days will be extended from 9:00-3:00 PM with cost per child \$25.00 per week.
3. A meeting was held February 6, 2008 with Beth Pilling of MCPC to discuss plans for the new building at Knight Park. The Borough currently is reviewing the development process and will prepare an Open Space Grant application for the new building.

Discussion ensued. Mrs. Pieri stated the new building is to replace the function of the blockhouse. Further, she stated that Committee hopes to design a “green building,” utilizing energy efficient materials and water conservation principles. The Committee is set to meet with the architect to review types of buildings available. The application is due April 15, 2008.

Mr. Isabella asked if there were comments or questions from Council or the public. There being none, it was moved the report be accepted and filed. Seconded, carried.

Public Utilities Committee – Mr. Amento, Chairman

Committee members: Mr. Amento, Mrs. Judy Baigis, Mr. S. Pasceri

The Committee met on Tuesday, February 5, 2008 at 7:00 p.m. in Borough Council Chambers located at 122 E. Butler Avenue. Present: Mr. Isabella, Mr. Dooley, Mrs. Pieri, Mr. G. Pasceri, Mrs. Baigis, Mr. Amento and Ms. Maxion. Also present: Sergeant Bill Foley, Solicitor Bresnan and Mrs. Mary Aversa. Absent: Mr. Kenney, Mr. S. Pasceri and Mayor Wahl.

The Public Utilities Committee report was given tonight by Mrs. Baigis.

The Committee will recommend the following:

1. Recommendation to purchase the replacement equipment from DBU, Inc. at a cost of \$10,022.40 for the chain and \$16,920 for the sprockets for both DAF tanks.
2. Recommendation to award the purchase and installation of six new digester gas meters to Allied Control Systems at a cost of \$19,572.
3. Recommendation for the plant engineer to obtain quotes for meggar testing of the remaining motor control centers in the plant which will complete the

recommendation by the electrical engineer in the 2003 Report. The MCC's are: PS-3, EPS-4, B-5, B-6 and B-9.

In other business the following was discussed:

1. The January 2008 WWTP and Engineer's Report was reviewed.
2. The Committee is reviewing retrofit design of Loch Alsh Booster Station facility based on insurance coverage for emergency generator loss and emergency generator needs for projected fire capacity requirements at Upper Dublin High School, with consideration of UDHS offer of intent to finance a portion of the upgrade.
3. The Committee will solicit quotes for repointing/refacing of the Loch Alsh Reservoir valve tower as per a DEP annual inspection safety recommendation. A meeting with DIVIT on safety considerations at the spillway was held.
4. Well 15 (Brookfield Lane-The Ridings) applications for a new well have been submitted to DEP and the DRBC, with permit status to be determined by DEP in May.
5. Whitmarsh Pumping Station Phase I and II repairs are complete. Phase III retrofit of gauges and pumps is in process. DEP will be contacted late February to schedule a test of the facility to obtain an operating permit.
6. G.A. Vietri, Inc. has completed the Secondary Feeder Replacement project at a low bid cost of \$174,825.
7. The plant engineer continues preparing bid documents and specs for the new control panel and chemical feed system for the belt filter press. Bid advertisement is scheduling.
8. The plant engineer was authorized at the November meeting to conduct a study based on PA DEP's verbal indication that Ambler should expect to see a total nitrogen limit of 3 mg/l and a total Phosphorus limit of 0.1 mg/l after the total maximum daily load (TMDL) is revised.

Discussion ensued. Council stated that the Borough could expect to pay 20 percent of the estimated \$60M bill for upgrades to the system should these regulations go into effect. The Borough is part of a coalition with attorneys representing our interests in Washington, D.C. Ms. Maxion asked whether there was public awareness of the Phosphorus issue. Ms. Susan Curry of the EAC stated that the phosphorus from non-point source pollutants such as fertilizers goes into the Wissahickon Creek, and not into the wastewater treatment plant. Jim Dougherty, Borough Engineer, stated that the NPDES will have an article coming out on lawn fertilizers in the near future.

Mr. Isabella asked if there were questions or comments from Council or the public. There being none, it was moved the report be accepted and filed. Seconded, carried.

Salary and Personnel Committee – Mr. S. Paceri, Chairman

Committee members: Mr. S. Pasceri, Mr. Amento, Ms. Maxion

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The Salary and Personnel Committee report was given this evening by Mr. S. Pasceri.

An Executive Session was held.

Mr. S. Pasceri stated that the Executive Session was held regarding a hiring issue and regarding a litigation issue.

The Committee will recommend the following:

1. Recommendation to hire Mary Aversa as Borough Manager effective immediately.

In other business the following was discussed:

1. Robert Adams has resigned from his position at the WWTP effective February 12, 2008.
2. An Executive Session had been held in reference to a union grievance.
3. Ronni Ridgeway was hired as part-time secretary from the WWTP.
4. The Police Department has recommended the hiring of Arthur Lawrence to the vacant meter person position.

Mr. Isabella asked if there were questions or comments from Council or the public. There being none, it was moved the report be accepted and filed. Seconded, carried.

OLD BUSINESS/NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Isabella noted that Assemblyman Rick Taylor was in the audience at the public meeting.

David-Michael Kenney thanked Council for their support of Ambler Main Street. He stated that AMS currently was undergoing an audit by Larsen, Allen and that all books and accounts would be open to Council and the public.

Mrs. Pieri noted that bylaws needed to be agreed upon by Council for procedural issues to run meetings. Bylaws also would cover issues such as signatures on Borough checks and the day-to-day operations of Council. Bylaws also would determine whether a group as small as Council would require the seconding of motions. Mr. Bresnan stated he had put together a packet of information last month for Council to review.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Finance & Planning Committee – The Committee recommends and Mr. Kenney moves:

Recommend that the January 2008 invoices in the amount of **\$461,102.27** be paid. Seconded, 7-Ayes, 1-Nay (Mrs. Baigis), carried.

Recommend adopting **Resolution 2008-2** confirming Borough ownership of certain real estate and declaring it tax exempt. Seconded, All Ayes, Carried.

Recommend disbursement of interest of approximately \$13,000 accrued on the Anchor Grant to Ambler Main Street. Seconded, All Ayes, Carried.

Recommend approval of the Alley of the Arts Festival to be held on the following dates: Sat., April 5, 2008 (raindate 4/12/08), Sat., May 10, 2008 (raindate 5/17/08) and Sat., June 7, 2008 (raindate 6/14/08). Seconded, All Ayes, Carried.

Public Safety Committee – The Committee recommends and Mr. G. Pasceri moves:

Recommend adopting **Ordinance 1015** for stop signs at the intersection of Hendricks Street & Belmont Avenue, and at the intersection of Euclid Avenue & Park Avenue. Seconded, Poll Council, All Ayes, Carried.

Parks & Recreation Committee – The Committee recommends and Mrs. Pieri moves:

Recommend awarding bid for the Knight Park Baseball Backstop to Pro Max of Reading, PA at a low, responsive bid of \$11,460. Seconded, All Ayes, Carried.

Public Utilities Committee – The Committee recommends and Mrs. Baigis moves:

Recommendation to purchase the replacement equipment from DBU, Inc. at a cost of \$10,022.40 for the chain and \$16,920 for the sprockets for both DAF tanks. Seconded, All Ayes, Carried.

Recommendation to award the purchase and installation of six new digester gas meters to Allied Control Systems at a cost of \$19,572. Seconded, All Ayes, Carried.

Recommendation for WWTP engineer to obtain quotes for meggar testing of the remaining motor control centers in the plant. Seconded, All Ayes, Carried.

Salary & Personnel Committee – The Committee recommends and Mr. S. Pasceri moves:

Recommendation to hire Mary Aversa as Borough Manager effective immediately. Seconded, carried.

There being no further business, Mr. Isabella moved the meeting be adjourned. Seconded, motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Elizabeth Russell
Administrative Assistant
Water Department
For
George W. Benigno
Borough Secretary