

AMBLER BOROUGH COUNCIL MINUTES

July 21, 2008

The regular monthly meeting of Ambler Borough Council was held Monday, July 21, 2008 at 7:00 p.m. in Borough Council Chambers located at 122 E. Butler Avenue, Ambler, Pennsylvania 19002. President Tony Isabella presided. The meeting was preceded at 6:15 p.m. by a public hearing on **Ordinance 1017** regarding SALDO buffering requirements for non-residential properties abutting R-1 residential properties (motion to approve, motion seconded, 8-Aye, 0-Nay, motion carried) and at 6:45 p.m. by a public hearing on **Ordinance 1018** regarding a zoning and map change for DC-2 downtown commercial "Gateway" development (motion to approve, motion seconded, 7-Aye, 1-Nay (Mrs. Baigis), motion carried).

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

Roll Call – Present: Mr. Isabella, Mr. G. Pasceri, Mrs. Pieri, Mr. Kenney, Mrs. Baigis, Mr. S. Pasceri, Ms. Maxion and Mr. Amento. Mrs. Aversa also was present. Mr. Dooley, Chief Foley and Solicitor Bresnan were absent.

A motion was made to approve the June 16, 2008 Minutes. Motion seconded. Carried.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Public Safety Committee – Mr. G. Pasceri, Chairman

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

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

The Public Safety Committee report was given this evening by Ms. Maxion.

The Committee will recommend the following:

1. Recommend sending a letter to Governor Rendell from Borough Council requesting his support to have Borit site placed on the NPL (National Priority List).

Discussion ensued. Certain text was offered by members of Council to modify the letter and it was agreed that the draft letter would be finalized and sent.

In new business:

1. Recommend that the Public Safety Committee accept comments in writing from the public regarding EPA action relative to the National Priorities List.
2. Recommend appointing Sergeant John Keefer as the Borough's Emergency Management Coordinator.
3. Recommend adopting **Resolution 2008-12** designating the National Incident Management System (NIMS) as the basis for all incident management in the Borough of Ambler.

In other business the following was discussed:

1. The Police Department and Fire Company reports for June 2008 were received.
2. The June 2008 Public Works and Code Enforcement reports were reviewed.
3. A meeting for public input in reference to residential property issues was held July 7, 2008 at 6:30 p.m.
4. The Borough has begun the notification process for the 2008 Street Paving Project.

Mr. Isabella asked if there were comments or questions from Council or the public. Mr. Kenney stated concern that 24 percent of fire alarms were false alarms. There being no further comment, 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 Monday, July 7, 2008 at 7:00 p.m. in Borough Council Chambers located at 122 E. Butler Avenue. Present: Mr. Isabella, Mr. Dooley, Mrs. Pieri, Mr. Kenney, Mrs. Baigis, Mr. S. Pasceri, Mr. Amento and Ms. Maxion. Also present: Mayor Wahl, Chief Bill Foley, Solicitor Bresnan and Mrs. Aversa. Absent: Mr. G. Pasceri.

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

The Committee will recommend the following:

In other business the following was discussed:

1. The Borough has begun to prepare construction costs and the grant application for the "green building" to be constructed at Knight Park.

2. Information relative to a grant by the PA Department of Conservation and Natural Resources for Borough parks was presented. Additional grant opportunities are being explored.
3. The Borough will schedule a dedication ceremony in September for the backstop at Knight Park.

Mr. Isabella asked if there were comments or questions from Council or the public. Mrs. Pieri stated that she would like the Code Enforcement Officer to provide a more detailed report each month that includes description of citations/violations. There being no further comment, 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 Monday, July 7, 2008 at 7:00 p.m. in Borough Council Chambers located at 122 E. Butler Avenue. Present: Mr. Isabella, Mr. Dooley, Mrs. Pieri, Mr. Kenney, Mrs. Baigis, Mr. S. Pasceri, Mr. Amento and Ms. Maxion. Also present: Mayor Wahl, Chief Bill Foley, Solicitor Bresnan and Mrs. Aversa. Absent: Mr. G. Pasceri.

The Public Utilities Committee report was given tonight by Mr. Amento.

The Committee will recommend the following:

1. Recommend authorization awarding generator manufacture for 150 KW generator for Wells 6&7 to Penn Power Systems at a cost of \$44,950. Recommend authorizing awarding electrical installation work to Barry Hoffman of Allentown, PA for Wells 6&7 in the amount of \$68,450.
2. Recommend authorization to have plant engineer prepare bid documents & specs to purchase and install influent/effluent flow meters on the two sewer mains into PS-1 (without recycle), replacing the existing ultrasonic meter on the force main to the grit chamber (with recycle), meter flow prior to the aeration cascade and replace the ultrasonic meter currently being used at the Parshall Flume.
3. Recommend advertising for adoption an Ordinance establishing guidelines and fees for regulating grease traps.
4. Recommend awarding the bid to increase capacity of EPS-3 wet well to the low bidder Mangan Masonry Restoration Inc. for the amount of \$43,219.

In other business the following was discussed:

1. The June 8 WWTP, Supervisor's and Engineer's reports were reviewed.

2. The Phase I Feasibility Study of Loch Alsh Reservoir (DEP “probable maximum flood” rating) is complete. Engineers O’Brien & Geer concur with the DEP findings and will not pursue Phase II or III studies. Gilmore will begin the design/planning phase for improvement to the spillway.
3. A diver/cameraman performed a dive at the Loch Alsh Reservoir to study the integrity of the tower foundation.
4. As a result of DEP’s visit to Whitmarsh Pump Station, authorization has been given by DEP to conduct a two week test study.

Mr. Isabella asked if there were questions or comments from Council or the public. Mr. Sal Boccuti asked about the results of the dive. Mrs. Aversa stated that a verbal okay was received but the Borough is awaiting a written report. There being no further questions or comments, it was moved the report be accepted and filed. Seconded, carried.

Finance and Planning Committee - Mr. Kenney, Chairman

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

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

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

The Committee will recommend the following:

1. Recommend that the June invoices in the amount of **\$495,522.03** be paid as follows: General (\$150,407.04); Street Lights (\$441.27); Fire (\$5,267.70); Parks & Rec. (\$3,825.67); Water (\$98,681.96); Sewer (\$14,797.96); WWTP (\$163,026.92); Rail Corridor (\$0); Road Overlay (\$662.58); Debt Fund (\$0); Water Capital (\$1,534.85); Liquid Fuels (\$0); with end of month cycle totaling \$56,876.08, voided checks totaling \$0 and June cycle bills totaling \$438,645.95.
2. Recommend awarding the Cavalier Lot Project to Ramos & Associates in the amount of \$102,714.50.
3. Recommend authorizing Borough Hall building repairs/siding/painting to Beautyguard and Schneider Painting at a total cost of \$18,715.

Discussion ensued regarding proposals submitted by five companies for the repair, siding, and/or painting of Borough Hall. Part of the discussion was the difference between doing vinyl capping vs. retaining the classic wood detailing and phasing this higher cost over several years.

4. Recommend re-bidding the Race Street Project. The prior low bid amount exceeds available funds. The Borough hopes to decrease the scope of contracted work.
5. Recommend scheduling a meeting on August 5, 2008 (6:30 p.m.) to discuss implementing the parking plan.

In other business the following was discussed:

1. The Borough Engineer's June report was reviewed.
2. The Borough is working to address the complaints of property owners surrounding Artman Home.
3. The land development review from Gilmore for Station Square is complete. Station Square grant opening in July 25th at 11:00 a.m.
4. An Ordinance setting standards for the use of POD's was discussed.
5. The Land Development Plans for SEPTA were distributed.
6. A Home Occupation Ordinance was sent to the County & Borough Planning Commissions for review.
7. An Ordinance in reference to permitted and prohibited uses, specifically stone and concrete crushing, in the Industrial Zoning District was sent to the Planning Commissions for review.
8. An Ordinance setting lighting standards was sent to the County and Borough Planning Commissions for review.
9. Recommended additions to the bylaws and a proposed Ordinance amendment that sets forth the duties of the Borough Manager were discussed. Further recommendations will be made by the Committee.

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. Paceri, Mr. Amento, Ms. Maxion

The Committee met on Monday, July 7, 2008 at 7:00 p.m. in Borough Council Chambers located at 122 E. Butler Avenue. Present: Mr. Isabella, Mr. Dooley, Mrs. Pieri, Mr.

Kenney, Mrs. Baigis, Mr. S. Pasceri, Mr. Amento and Ms. Maxion. Also present: Mayor Wahl, Chief Bill Foley, Solicitor Bresnan and Mrs. Aversa. Absent: Mr. G. Pasceri.

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

**An Executive Session was held on a union matter
and on a hiring matter.**

1. As a result of the Executive Session, the Committee put forth a recommendation to accept the AFSCME union contract proposal.
2. As a result of the Executive Session, the Committee put forth a recommendation to authorize Chief Foley to hire another police officer.

In new business:

1. A presentation was made this evening recognizing Philip Benigno, Water Superintendent, for 35 years of service to the Borough of Ambler.
2. A presentation was made this evening recognizing Sergeant John Keefer for 20 years of service to the Borough of Ambler.
3. A presentation will be made recognizing Officer Robert Calhoun for 20 years of service to the Borough of Ambler.

In other business the following was discussed:

1. Minutes from the June Safety Meeting were received.

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.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Public Safety Committee – The Committee recommends and Ms. Maxion moves:

Recommend sending a letter to Governor Rendell from Borough Council requesting his support to have Borit site placed on the NPL (National Priority List). Seconded, all ayes, carried.

Recommend that the Public Safety Committee accept comments in writing from the public regarding EPA action relative to the National Priorities List. Seconded, all ayes, carried.

Recommend appointing Sergeant John Keefer as the Borough's Emergency Management Coordinator. Seconded, all ayes, carried.

Recommend adopting **Resolution 2008-12** designating the National Incident Management System (NIMS) as the basis for all incident management in the Borough of Ambler. Seconded, all ayes, carried.

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

Public Utilities Committee – The Committee recommends and Mr. Amento moves:

Recommend authorization awarding generator manufacture for 150 KW generator for Wells 6&7 to Penn Power Systems at a cost of \$44,950. Recommend authorizing awarding electrical installation work to Barry Hoffman of Allentown, PA for Wells 6&7 in the amount of \$68,450. Seconded, all ayes, carried.

Recommend authorization to have plant engineer prepare bid documents & specs to purchase and install influent/effluent flow meters on the two sewer mains into PS-1 (without recycle), replacing the existing ultrasonic meter on the force main to the grit chamber (with recycle), meter flow prior to the aeration cascade and replace the ultrasonic meter currently being used at the Parshall Flume. Seconded, all ayes, carried.

Recommend advertising for adoption an Ordinance establishing guidelines and fees for regulating grease traps. Seconded, all ayes, carried.

Recommend awarding the bid to increase capacity of EPS-3 wet well to the low bidder Mangan Masonry Restoration Inc. for the amount of \$43,219. Seconded, all ayes, carried.

Finance & Planning Committee – The Committee recommends and Mrs. Baigis moves:

Recommend that the June invoices in the amount of **\$495,522.03** be paid. (Mr. Amento absented himself from the vote due to a conflict of interest) Seconded, all ayes, carried.

Recommend awarding the Cavalier Lot Project to Ramos & Associates in the amount of \$102,714.50. Seconded, all ayes, carried.

Recommend authorizing Borough Hall building repairs/siding/painting to Beautyguard and Schneider Painting at a total cost of \$18,715. Seconded, 7-Ayes; 1-Nay (Mrs. Baigis). Carried.

Recommend re-bidding the Race Street Project. The prior low bid amount exceeds available funds. The Borough hopes to decrease the scope of contracted work. Seconded, all ayes, carried.

Recommend scheduling a meeting on August 5, 2008 (6:30 p.m.) to discuss implementing the parking plan. Seconded, all ayes, carried.

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

Recommendation to accept the AFSCME union contract proposal. Seconded, all ayes, carried.

Recommendation to authorize Chief Foley to hire another police officer. Seconded, all ayes, 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