

AMBLER BOROUGH COUNCIL MINUTES

June 16, 2008

The regular monthly meeting of Ambler Borough Council was held Monday, June 16, 2008 at 7:00 p.m. in Borough Council Chambers located at 122 E. Butler Avenue, Ambler, Pennsylvania 19002. President Tony Isabella presided.

Chief Foley led the public in the Pledge of Allegiance and a moment of silence.

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

Mr. Isabella noted that Mrs. Baigis had offered suggestions to amend the May 19th Minutes. After some discussion on the Cavalier Lot Mr. Isabella motioned for approval of the Minutes of the May 19, 2008 Council Meeting with certain suggested corrections to be included. Seconded, carried.

Mr. Dooley presented to the widow of Raymond Simonis III a framed Proclamation of Thanks from Council for Mr. Simonis' service to the community, specifically as a member of the Wissahickon Fire Company. Mrs. Pieri asked that a moment of silence be observed.

Council thanked Fire Chief Leadbeater, Chris Santos and Jerry Wagner for their assistance during Governor Rendell's visit to the Borough earlier in the month.

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, June 2, 2008 at 7:00 p.m. in Borough Council Chambers located at 122 E. Butler Avenue. Present: Mr. Isabella, Mr. G. Pasceri, Mrs. Pieri, Mr. Kenney, Mrs. Baigis, Mr. Amento and Ms. Maxion. Also present: Mayor Wahl, Chief Bill Foley, Solicitor Bresnan and Mrs. Aversa. Absent: Mr. Dooley and Mr. S. Pasceri.

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

The Committee will recommend the following:

1. Recommend sending a letter to the EPA from Borough Council requesting NPL (National Priority List) classification for the Bo-Rit Site.

Discussion ensued. It was agreed to table the recommendation so that specific language could be reviewed at the next Committee meeting.

In other business the following was discussed:

1. The Police Department and Fire Company reports for May 2008 were received.
2. The May 2008 Public Works and Code Enforcement reports were reviewed.
3. A meeting for public input in reference to residential property issues has been scheduled for 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. There being no 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 Monday, June 2, 2008 at 7:00 p.m. in Borough Council Chambers located at 122 E. Butler Avenue. Present: Mr. Isabella, Mr. G. Pasceri, Mrs. Pieri, Mr. Kenney, Mrs. Baigis, Mr. Amento and Ms. Maxion. Also present: Mayor Wahl, Chief Bill Foley, Solicitor Bresnan and Mrs. Aversa. Absent: Mr. Dooley and Mr. S. Pasceri.

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

The Committee will recommend the following:

1. Recommendation to submit a Grant Application to Merck regarding Ambler Borough Park to apply for Stream Bank Restoration.

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. 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 Monday, June 2, 2008 at 7:00 p.m. in Borough Council Chambers located at 122 E. Butler Avenue. Present: Mr. Isabella, Mr. G. Pasceri, Mrs. Pieri, Mr. Kenney, Mrs. Baigis, Mr. Amento and Ms. Maxion. Also present: Mayor Wahl, Chief Bill Foley, Solicitor Bresnan and Mrs. Aversa. Absent: Mr. Dooley and Mr. S. Pasceri.

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

The Committee will recommend the following:

1. Recommend authorization to prepare and advertise for bid to pull the pump and column and replace at Well #8 (Loch Alsh cluster) as part of routine 10-year maintenance of the well.
2. Recommend authorization to advertise for bid emergency generator specs and, separately, electrical installation, for Wells 6 & 7 (Loch Alsh cluster).
3. Recommend awarding the bid for the CDBG Sanitary Sewer Grant to Allstate Power Vac for their low bid of \$115,565.00.

In new business the Committee now states:

1. Recommendation to purchase a Hydra-Stop Insta-Valve Adaptor Kit at a cost of \$9,681.00 to enable the Borough to replace water main valves in the distribution system in-house without having to hire an outside contractor.
2. Recommendation to purchase a new venturi meter for Loch Alsh Booster Station at a cost of \$9,100.00. The Water Department will file an insurance claim with DVIT for this equipment.
3. A memorandum from the Solicitor was submitted to Council in response to the WWTP and the DEP.

In other business the following was discussed:

1. The May 2008 WWTP, Supervisor's and Engineer's reports were reviewed.
2. The Water Supervisor and Water Engineer are securing a diver to study the Loch Alsh Tower and report on any repairs that may need to be made, per DEP directive.

3. Repairs have been completed at Whitmarsh Pump Station, all gauges have been calibrated and DEP will conduct its analysis of the facility on June 19th so that Whitmarsh may be permitted and go back on line in the distribution system.
4. An ordinance establishing guidelines and fees for regulating grease traps is being considered.
5. The Plant Engineer is proceeding with increasing the capacity of EPS-3. Bid documents and specs are expected to be ready for a June advertisement and award in July.

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.

Finance and Planning Committee - Mr. Kenney, Chairman

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

The Committee met on Monday, June 2, 2008 at 7:00 p.m. in Borough Council Chambers located at 122 E. Butler Avenue. Present: Mr. Isabella, Mr. G. Pasceri, Mrs. Pieri, Mr. Kenney, Mrs. Baigis, Mr. Amento and Ms. Maxion. Also present: Mayor Wahl, Chief Bill Foley, Solicitor Bresnan and Mrs. Aversa. Absent: Mr. Dooley and Mr. S. Pasceri.

The Finance and Planning Committee report was given this evening by Mrs. Baigis.

The Committee will recommend the following:

1. Recommend that the May invoices in the amount of **\$374,237.69** be paid as follows: General (\$114,409.33); Street Lights (\$1,949.31); Fire (\$14,962.91); Parks & Rec. (\$3,365.34); Water (\$83,123.19); Sewer (\$15,433.39); WWTP (\$91,619.52); Rail Corridor (\$0); Road Overlay (\$0); Debt Fund (\$0); Water Capital (\$1,974.90); Liquid Fuels (\$0); with end of month cycle totaling \$47,399.80, voided checks totaling \$396.37 and May cycle bills totaling \$326,837.89.
2. Recommend re-advertisement for bids for the Cavalier Lot Project.
3. Recommend sending the Ordinance identifying changes to the Borough lighting standards to the County for review.

Discussion ensued. Mrs. Baigis and Ms. Maxion reviewed neon lighting setback requirements as relates to signage in windows. Mr. Bresnan stated that safety issues had been determined by the County Planning Commission.

4. Recommend the Ordinance setting standards for use of PODS in the Borough be advertised for adoption.

Discussion ensued. Mrs. Pieri stated she would vote against authorization because the Ordinance would allow for placement of PODS in the street. Chief Foley expressed his concern for fire fighting ability and safe streets if placement of PODS in the street was not severely restricted.

5. Recommend advertising for adoption and scheduling a public hearing for an Ordinance creating a DC-2 Zoning Ordinance and Map Change (Bethlehem Pike/Butler Avenue Gateway).
6. Recommend advertising for adoption and scheduling a public hearing for an Ordinance setting buffering requirements (in DC as abuts R-1 residential district).
7. Recommend purchasing a 2008 Ford Expedition for the Police Department at a cost of \$23,772.00 (a Consortium purchase).

In new business the Committee now states:

1. Recommend rescheduling meeting dates in August from Monday night to Tuesday night (7:00 p.m.) and rescheduling the Committee Meeting scheduled November (Election Day) to Wednesday, November 5th.
2. The Land Development Plans for SEPTA were distributed.
3. Recommend an Ordinance in reference to permitted and prohibited uses in the Industrial Zoning District be sent to the Planning Commissions for review.

In other business the following was discussed:

1. The Borough Engineer's May report was reviewed.
2. The land development review from Gilmore Associates for Station Square is complete.
3. The Borough is working to address the complaints of property owners surrounding Artman Home.
4. The Borough presented the 2008 Grant Applications to the County on May 13th.

Mr. Isabella asked if there were questions or comments from Council or the public. Mr. D.M. Kenney, Ambler Main Street Manager, stated Ambler Main Street, which historically has received the fourth largest amount of grant money from the County, will not be receiving County grant funds for FY2009. He stated that AMS will seek other financial support. Mrs. Pieri noted that the Borough had increased its contribution to

AMS and that perhaps the County should be contacted again. Mr. Isabella stated that Committee would address any response Council might make to the County at the next Committee meeting.

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

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

The Committee met on Monday, June 2, 2008 at 7:00 p.m. in Borough Council Chambers located at 122 E. Butler Avenue. Present: Mr. Isabella, Mr. G. Pasceri, Mrs. Pieri, Mr. Kenney, Mrs. Baigis, Mr. Amento and Ms. Maxion. Also present: Mayor Wahl, Chief Bill Foley, Solicitor Bresnan and Mrs. Aversa. Absent: Mr. Dooley and Mr. S. 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 matter concerning May invoices.**

1. As a result of the Executive Session, the Committee put forth a procedural motion for acceptance of Common Law Marriages for the purpose of obtaining health care benefits. The motion was not seconded. **Motion dismissed.**

In other business the following was discussed:

1. Officer James Ryan Rhodes and Officer Peter Baylor were sworn in.
2. Minutes from the May Safety meeting were received.
3. The solicitor will provide additional information relevant to seasonal hiring based on Council's recommendation to hire two part-time employees for the Parks Department.

Discussion ensued. Mr. Bresnan stated he had not heard from Union Rep. Golden. Mr. Bresnan further stated that seasonal hiring is not part of the union contract and that seasonal employees are not members of a bargaining unit. Mrs. Pieri stated that she had never intended to authorize the creation of positions in the Parks Department solely for the purpose of excluding employees hired seasonally and working 40-hour weeks from receiving benefits. It was agreed by Council not to pursue the hiring of an additional parks employee. Additionally, it was agreed the current part-time/seasonal park employee should work 25 hours per week.

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 – Mr. G. Pasceri states there are no recommendations at this time.

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

Recommendation to submit a Grant Application to Merck regarding Ambler Borough Park to apply for Stream Bank Restoration. Seconded. All Ayes. Carried.

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

Recommend authorization to prepare and advertise for bid to pull the pump and column and replace at Well #8 (Loch Alsh cluster) as part of routine 10-year maintenance of the well. Seconded. All Ayes. Carried.

Recommend authorization to advertise for bid emergency generator specs and, separately, electrical installation, for Wells 6 & 7 (Loch Alsh cluster). Seconded. All Ayes. Carried.

Recommend awarding the bid for the CDBG Sanitary Sewer Grant to Allstate Power Vac for their low bid of \$115,565.00. Seconded. All Ayes. Carried.

Recommend purchasing a Hydra-Stop Insta-Valve Adaptor Kit at a cost of \$9,681.00 for the replacement of water main valves in the distribution system. Seconded. All Ayes. Carried.

Recommend purchasing a new venturi meter for Loch Alsh Booster Station at a cost of \$9,100.00. Seconded. All Ayes. Carried.

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

Recommend that the May invoices in the amount of **\$374,237.69** be paid. Seconded. All Ayes. Carried.

Recommend re-advertisement for bids for the Cavalier Lot Project. Seconded. All Ayes. Carried.

Recommend sending the Ordinance identifying changes to the Borough lighting standards to the County for review. Seconded. All Ayes. Carried.

Recommend the Ordinance setting standards for use of PODS in the Borough be advertised for adoption. Seconded. 7-Ayes; 1-Nay (Mrs. Pieri). Carried.

Recommend advertising for adoption and scheduling a public hearing for an Ordinance creating a DC-2 Zoning Ordinance and Map Change (Bethlehem Pike/Butler Avenue Gateway). Seconded. 7-Ayes; 1-Nay (Mrs. Baigis). Carried.

Recommend advertising for adoption and scheduling a public hearing for an Ordinance setting buffering requirements (in DC as abuts R-1 residential district). Seconded. All Ayes. Carried. Seconded. All Ayes. Carried.

Recommend purchasing a 2008 Ford Expedition for the Police Department at a cost of \$23,772.00 (a Consortium purchase). Seconded. All Ayes. Carried.

Recommend rescheduling meeting dates in August from Monday night to Tuesday night (7:00 p.m.) and rescheduling the Committee Meeting scheduled November (Election Day) to Wednesday, November 5th. Seconded. All Ayes. Carried.

Recommend an Ordinance in reference to permitted and prohibited uses in the Industrial Zoning District be sent to the Planning Commissions for review. Seconded. All Ayes. Carried.

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

Recommend directing the Borough Manager to send a letter to DVIT (insurance carrier) stating that Council does not recognize Common Law Marriage for insurance purposes. 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