

AMBLER BOROUGH COUNCIL MINUTES

October 21, 2008

Public Hearings were held before Ambler Borough Council on Tuesday, October 21, 2008 at 6:30 p.m. in Borough Council Chambers located at 122 E. Butler Avenue, Ambler, Pennsylvania 19002 to consider: **Ordinance 1024** regarding amending the Borough Zoning Map to include certain land (SEPTA) in the "C" Commercial Zoning District (motion to approve, motion seconded, 9-Aye, 0-Nay, motion carried) and **Ordinance 1025** regarding prohibited and permitted uses in the Industrial Zoning District (motion to approve, motion seconded, 8-Aye, 1-Nay (Mr. G. Pasceri), motion carried), The regular meeting of Ambler Borough Council followed, beginning at 7:00 p.m. President Tony Isabella presided.

Mayor Wahl 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, Mr. Kenney, Mrs. Baigis, Mr. S. Pasceri, Mr. Amento and Ms. Maxion. Mayor Wahl, Chief Foley, Solicitor Bresnan and Mrs. Aversa also were present.

A motion was made to approve the September 16, 2008 Minutes with suggested revisions. Motion seconded, 9-Aye. Carried.

Mayor Wahl presented Marilyn Amento with a plaque of dedication in memory of Joe Amento for her contributions to Pickering Field and Knight Park. Mayor Wahl performed the swearing in of police officer Matthew Trerotola.

A presentation was made by Susan Loehoffer, Upper Dublin Parks & Rec Director, who is the Borough's liaison appointed by the Pennsylvania Park and Recreation Society and the Department of Natural Resources. She distributed informational materials to Council regarding establishing a distinct Parks & Rec Department within the Borough. She encouraged Council to consider creating the fulltime position of Parks & Rec Director, who would be responsible for parks maintenance, improvements and programs management. She stated that the Borough should adopt an attitude of a year round commitment to its parks. Council indicated that it would place such consideration on the Committee's November agenda.

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

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

The Committee will recommend the following:

1. Recommend adopting **Ordinance 1027** clarifying that a pet leash must be a physical strap and may not be electronic in nature.
2. Recommend awarding the 2008 Street Paving Project to G. Antonini in the amount of \$129,680.50.

Discussion ensued. Mrs. Baigis stated that she has spoken with residents of Beechmont Road who had been dissatisfied in the past with Antonini's workers and work product. Mrs. Aversa stated that those concerns had been looked into and that Antonini's crew had corrected identified problem areas.

In other business the following was discussed:

1. The Police Department and Fire Company reports for September 2008 were received.
2. The September 2008 Public Works and Code Enforcement reports were reviewed.
3. A meeting to discuss issues and concerns of residents is scheduled for November 5 at 6:30 p.m. at Borough Hall. The Committee meeting also is scheduled for November 5 at 7:00 p.m., the Wednesday night schedule due to Election Tuesday.
4. Chief Foley discussed possible ordinance amendments relative to parking regulations including vehicle weight.

In new business:

1. Residential leaf pick-up is scheduled for the following Tuesdays: November 4, November 11, December 9 and December 16.
2. Borough street sweeping will resume in selected areas on October 20, 2008 due to the accumulation of leaf material.

Mr. Isabella asked if there were comments or questions from Council or the public. Mrs. Pieri stated that she was concerned about the road quality condition of the Borough's alleyways, which are privately owned. Mr. Bresnan stated that BOCA does not address paving of alleyways and suggested that since there is a quasi-public element involved because public vehicles do drive upon them, the Borough should obtain releases from the residents if it is going to involve in any way the repaving of the alleyways. Mrs. Pieri requested that a discussion of alleyways be placed on the Committee's November agenda. A member of the public requested that the Borough install traffic lights at the elementary schools. After clarifying that he meant school zone lights, it was stated that the Borough could apply for grants and that the matter would be placed on the November Committee agenda.

There being no further questions or comments, 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, Ms. Maxion

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

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

The Committee will recommend the following:

1. Recommend that the EAC application for Tree Vitalize 2009 Riparian Streams Grant in the amount of \$20,000 be submitted.
2. Recommend adopting the draft park use regulations.

Discussion ensued. Mrs. Baigis requested that item "I" regarding regulation of firearms in the parks be stricken from the regulation so as to prohibit firearms in the parks. Council concurred.

In other business the following was discussed:

1. The Borough has prepared construction costs and a grant application for a new Green Building to be located at Knight Park.

2. The Borough has secured a grant from the PA Park & Rec Society and the Committee has met with technical assistant Susan Leohoffer.
3. A plaque will be presented to Marilyn Amento for her contribution to the Borough parks in memory of Mr. Joe Amento.
4. State Representative Rick Taylor is working to secure grant funding for three security cameras to be placed in 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 Tuesday, October 7, 2008 at 7:00 p.m. in Borough Council Chambers located at 122 E. Butler Avenue. Present: Mr. Isabella, Mr. Dooley, Mr. G. Pasceri, Mrs. Pieri, Mr. Kenney, Mr. S. Pasceri, Mrs. Baigis, Mr. Amento and Ms. Maxion. Also present: Chief Bill Foley, Solicitor Bresnan and Mrs. Aversa. Absent: Mayor Wahl.

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

The Committee will recommend the following:

1. Recommend awarding the Secondary Feeder Replacement to G.A. Vietri in the amount of \$120,158.
2. Recommend contracting with A.C. Schultes at a cost of \$8,591 to pull the pump and column at Well 8 (Loch Alsh cluster) and replace with a new pump and motor, as part of 10-year maintenance of the well.

Discussion ensued. It was stated the Borough will supply the cable, pipe and check valve at an additional cost of \$2,500. Borough Solicitor clarified for Council that **maintenance** projects costing more than \$10,000 do not require the standard bidding process.

3. Recommend the WWTP engineer begin preparing the necessary documents for the renewal of the plant's NPDES discharge permit.
4. Recommend, based upon Gannett Fleming engineering review, to contract with All Services Contracting Corp. to determine and correct the operational problems with the pressure filters at Whitmarsh Pumping Station.

Discussion ensued. Mr. Amento expressed his dismay at the lack of substantive direction given by Gannett Fleming resulting in the compounding of never-ending repair costs. He stated the request would involve a lump sum cost of \$9,698 for carbon removal, professional inspection and reinstallation FOR ONE TANK (there are two tanks at the facility) with the understanding that a determination to undertake work at the second tank will be made at the time of inspection of the first tank, and with the understanding that should supporting stone material need to be installed, the delivered cost has been quoted at \$1,237 per tank, and that any repair work will be separately invoiced, totaling a possible expenditure of \$21,870.

In other business the following was discussed:

1. The September 2008 WWTP Supervisor's and Engineer's reports were reviewed.
2. The Well 15 (Brookfield Lane-The Ridings) DRBC permit was approved and the Borough is performing pump tests and water analysis at the site.
3. Quotes are being received to have another surveillance camera installed at the Wastewater Treatment Plant.
4. Mr. Amento reminded the public that the Water Department has declared a drought emergency. It is anticipated that these conditions will continue through next month.
5. A meeting was held with PennDOT and DEP to resolve issues of potential runoff from Route 309 into the Loch Alsh reservoir. A preliminary agreement was reached and the details are under discussion.

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.

Approved at the Committee Meeting:

1. The Borough Solicitor discussed the resolution of litigation with the DEP and Borough Council approved the execution of a new Consent Order and Agreement.

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

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

The Committee will recommend the following:

1. Recommend that the **September** invoices in the amount of **\$1,022,485.77** be paid as follows: General (\$337,647.06); Street Lights (\$879.73); Fire (\$3,453.37); Parks & Rec. (\$2,383.52); Water (\$146,243.86); Sewer (\$163,727.02); WWTP (\$202,152.39); Rail Corridor (\$0); Road Overlay (\$10,814.56); Debt Fund (\$864.66); Water Capital (\$3,796.18); Liquid Fuels (\$0); with end of month cycle totaling \$150,818.42, voided checks totaling \$295.00 and **September** cycle bills totaling \$871,962.35.
2. Recommend adopting **Ordinance 1026** setting forth the duties of the Borough Manager.
3. Recommend adopting DEP planning module **Resolution 2008-17** regarding the SEPTA station project.
4. Recommend adopting for one year the planning contract from the Montgomery County Planning Commission.
5. Recommend scheduling a public meeting in November to discuss the 2009 Borough Budget and to consider adoption of the 2009 Borough Budget at the December 2, 2008 Committee Meeting.

In other business the following was discussed:

1. The Borough Engineer's September 2008 report was reviewed.
2. An ordinance setting standards for the use of PODS will be advertised for adoption. A draft ordinance setting standards for the use of dumpsters has been sent to the Planning Commissions for review.

Approved at the Committee Meeting:

1. Council granted Preliminary and Final Land Development as well as removal of trees in the Borough right-of-way in front of 129 East Butler Avenue upon a presentation made in reference to seeking such approval for a minor land development plan.
2. Council granted Minor Subdivision approval to the McGinn subdivision at 231 N. Spring Garden Street upon a presentation made in reference to same.

Mr. Isabella asked if there were questions or comments from Council or the public. Mrs. Baigis inquired if the Planning Module before Council referred to the same module as was approved recently by the Borough Planning Commission. It was stated that it is the same except the form is different. In addition, the module was approved by the WWTP supervisor. There being no further questions or comments, 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

The Committee met on Tuesday, September 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, Mrs. Baigis, Mr. Amento and Ms. Maxion. Also present: Mayor Wahl, Chief Bill Foley, Solicitor Bresnan and Mrs. Aversa. Absent: Mr. Dooley, Mr. Kenney and Mr. S. Pasceri.

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

The Committee will make no recommendation at this time.

In other business the following was discussed:

1. Minutes from the September Safety Meeting were received.

**An Executive Session was held
on a finance/planning matter and on a police contract matter.**

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 adopting **Ordinance 1027** clarifying that a pet leash must be a physical strap and may not be electronic in nature. Seconded. 9-Aye, carried.

Recommend awarding the 2008 Street Paving Project to G. Antonini in the amount of \$129,680.50. . Seconded. 8-Aye; 1-Nay (Mrs. Baigis). Carried.

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

Recommend that the EAC application for Tree Vitalize 2009 Riparian Streams Grant in the amount of \$20,000 be submitted. Seconded. 9-Aye, carried.

Recommend adopting the draft park use regulations, as modified. Seconded. 9-Aye, carried.

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

Recommend awarding the Secondary Feeder Replacement to G.A. Vietri in the amount of \$120,158. Seconded. 9-Aye, carried.

Recommend contracting with A.C. Schultes at a cost of \$8,591 to pull the pump and column at Well 8 (Loch Alsh cluster) and replace with a new pump and motor, as part of 10-year maintenance of the well. Seconded. 9-Aye, carried.

Recommend the WWTP engineer begin preparing the necessary documents for the renewal of the plant's NPDES discharge permit. Seconded. 9-Aye, carried.

Recommend, based upon Gannett Fleming engineering review, to contract with All Services Contracting Corp. to determine and the operational problems with the pressure filters at Whitmarsh Pumping Station which would involve the expenditure of a lump sum cost of \$9,698 for carbon removal, professional inspection and reinstallation FOR ONE TANK (there are two tanks at the facility) with the understanding that a determination to undertake work at the second tank will be made at the time of inspection of the first tank, and with the understanding that should supporting stone material need to be installed, the delivered cost has been quoted at \$1,237 per tank, and that any repair work will be separately invoiced, totaling a possible expenditure of \$21,870. Seconded. 9-Aye, carried.

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

Recommend that the **September** invoices in the amount of **\$1,022,485.77** be paid. Seconded. 9-Aye, carried.

Recommend adopting **Ordinance 1026** setting forth the duties of the Borough Manager. Seconded. 8-Aye, 1-Nay (Mrs. Baigis), carried.

Recommend adopting DEP planning module **Resolution 2008-17** regarding the SEPTA station project. Seconded. 9-Aye, carried.

Recommend adopting for one year the planning contract from the Montgomery County Planning Commission. Seconded. 9-Aye, carried.

Recommend scheduling a public meeting in November to discuss the 2009 Borough Budget and to consider adoption of the 2009 Borough Budget at the December 2, 2008 Committee Meeting. Seconded. 9-Aye, carried.

Recommend adopting **Ordinance 1024** amending the Borough Zoning Map to include certain land (SEPTA) in the “C” Commercial Zoning District. Seconded. 9-Aye, carried.

Recommend adopting **Ordinance 1025** setting forth prohibited and permitted uses in the Industrial Zoning District. Seconded. 8-Aye, 1-Nay (Mr. G. Pasceri), carried.

Salary & Personnel Committee – Mr. S. Pasceri states the Committee has no recommendations at this time.

THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS, Mr. Isabella moved the meeting be adjourned. Seconded, motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Elizabeth Russell
Administrative Assistant
Borough of Ambler