

## AMBLER BOROUGH COUNCIL MINUTES

April 21, 2009

The regular monthly meeting of Ambler Borough Council was held Tuesday, April 21, 2009 at 7:00 p.m. in Borough Council Chambers located at 122 E. Butler Avenue, Ambler, Pennsylvania 19002. 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 (who arrived after roll call was cast). Mayor Wahl, Chief Foley, Solicitor Bresnan and Mrs. Aversa also were present.

A motion was made to approve the March 17, 2009 Minutes with suggested revisions 1 and 2. Seconded. Carried. A motion was made to incorporate suggested revision 3 into the minutes. The motion was not seconded.

Susan Curry, Interim Chairperson of the Environmental Advisory Council (EAC) spoke regarding a community-based contest held in the area elementary schools for the campaign “a plastic bag free Ambler” where students submitted artwork for printing on durable canvas bags. The proceeds from the canvas bags will go to the schools. She recognized winning artwork by Matthew Goldsmith (5<sup>th</sup> Grade), Valerie Jackson (4<sup>th</sup> Grade) and Alexa Martin (3<sup>rd</sup> Grade), all in attendance.

### **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, April 7, 2009 at 7:00 p.m. in Borough Council Chambers located at 122 E. Butler Ave. Present: Mr. Isabella, Mr. Dooley, Mr. Kenney, Mrs. Baigis, Mr. Amento and Ms. Maxion. Also present: Mayor Wahl, Chief Bill Foley, Solicitor Bresnan and Mrs. Aversa. Absent: Mrs. Pieri, Mr. G. Pasceri, Mr. S. Pasceri.

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

#### **The Committee will recommend the following:**

1. Recommend Council waive a \$425 permit fee for Wissahickon Fire Company which is installing a new roof and making sidewalk improvements at the Ambler Fire Station.

2. Recommend approving a handicapped parking space for a resident of the 200 block of South Main Street.

**In other business the following was discussed:**

1. The Police Department and Fire Company reports for March 2009 were received.
2. The March 2009 Public Works and Code Enforcement reports were reviewed.
3. The Planning Commission recommended the Borough take action implementing recommendations in the Parking Action Plan.

Discussion ensued. Mrs. Aversa stated that business owners have experienced difficulty during the day operating a business and continuing to feed parking meters throughout the day. She stated that about 25-30 business owners would like to purchase permits, payable monthly, for the parking lots effective during the business hours of 8:00 am until 6:00 pm. Mrs. Maxion agreed that it would be a good measure to offer this to business owners and then consider whether parking permits might be offered for residents. Mr. Isabella questioned whether additional signage would be needed. Mrs. Aversa stated she thought that removal of existing signage would be sufficient.

4. The March of Dimes “March for Babies” walk-a-thon is Sunday, April 26, 2009 at Temple Ambler campus.
5. Information relative to workers’ comp coverage for volunteer firefighters and ambulance employees who serve Borough residents was received. Also received was a letter from Wissahickon Fire Company requesting clarification and a draft model ordinance from Delaware Valley Workers’ Compensation Trust.
6. ARI technologies made a presentation describing an asbestos recycling process at the Ambler Theater on March 25, 2009.

Mr. Isabella asked if there were comments or questions from Council or the public. Mrs. Pieri stated she had corresponded with Chief Foley regarding enforcement of the new ordinance on commercial vehicular parking. Chief Foley had communicated that the ordinance is now being enforced by considering that the parking of a commercial vehicle after midnight on a street constitutes overnight parking. The PD will also make note of commercial vehicles consistently parked on Borough streets. Chief Foley stated residents may call the PD non-emergency number (215-646-1000) with any concerns. 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, Ms. Maxion

The Committee met on Tuesday, April 7, 2009 at 7:00 p.m. in Borough Council Chambers located at 122 E. Butler Ave. Present: Mr. Isabella, Mr. Dooley, Mr. Kenney, Mrs. Baigis, Mr. Amento and Ms. Maxion. Also present: Mayor Wahl, Chief Bill Foley, Solicitor Bresnan and Mrs. Aversa. Absent: Mrs. Pieri, Mr. G. Pasceri, Mr. S. Pasceri.

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

**The Committee will recommend the following:**

1. Recommend, at the request of Ambler Junior Baseball, naming the baseball field at Knight Park, Joe Amento Field, in recognition of the late Joe Amento and his dedication and contributions to the organization.
2. Recommend, at the request of residents and their children, allowing the construction of a fence or shed at Ricciardi Park to store equipment used by skateboarders.

Discussion ensued. Mrs. Baigis stated her concern that a shed would become a graffiti-magnet and that a fence seemed the better choice. Mr. Kenney stated he would like written documents absolving the Borough of any theft liability. Mr. Bresnan suggested that a fence consisting of fence sides, a fence gate and a fence roof would be the safest storage unit. It was agreed by Council to consider construction of a “fence unit” only, and not to consider construction of a shed.

**In other business the following was discussed:**

1. The Committee will be discussing future improvements at Knight Park, to include upgrades from the Station Square Project. The Borough has applied for \$10,000 in grant monies for construction of a skate park.
2. Borough staff has secured a facility for the 2009 Summer Camp Program which will operate June 22 through July 31. Registration will be held May 11 from 6:30-8:00 p.m. at Borough Hall.
3. The first baseline fence at Knight Park has been installed.

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, April 7, 2009 at 7:00 p.m. in Borough Council Chambers located at 122 E. Butler Ave. Present: Mr. Isabella, Mr. Dooley, Mr. Kenney, Mrs. Baigis, Mr. Amento and Ms. Maxion. Also present: Mayor Wahl, Chief Bill Foley, Solicitor Bresnan and Mrs. Aversa. Absent: Mrs. Pieri, Mr. G. Pasceri, Mr. S. Pasceri.

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

**The Committee will recommend the following:**

1. Recommend the Solicitor prepare an ordinance establishing a correlation between water used and equivalent dwelling units (EDU) assigned. (The “tapping fee” set forth in Resolution 2006-6 is \$2,508 per EDU.)
2. Recommend adoption of **Ordinance 1037** establishing a comprehensive “Identity Theft/Red Flag” program to be followed by the Ambler Borough Water Department as is required by the Federal Trade Commission of all creditors.

**In other business the following was discussed:**

1. The March WWTP Supervisor’s and Engineer’s reports were reviewed.
2. DEP has conducted its review of the Whitemarsh Pumping Station and has authorized Ambler Borough Water Department to put Whitemarsh back into the water distribution system.

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, April 7, 2009 at 7:00 p.m. in Borough Council Chambers located at 122 E. Butler Ave. Present: Mr. Isabella, Mr. Dooley, Mr. Kenney, Mrs. Baigis, Mr. Amento and Ms. Maxion. Also present: Mayor Wahl, Chief Bill Foley, Solicitor Bresnan and Mrs. Aversa. Absent: Mrs. Pieri, Mr. G. Pasceri, Mr. S. Pasceri.

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

**The Committee will recommend the following:**

1. Recommend that the **March** invoices in the amount of **\$1,098,674.93** be paid as follows: General (\$17,722.74); Street Lights (\$4,894.53); Fire (\$0.00); Parks & Rec. (\$0.0); Water (\$63,684.49); Sewer (\$1,067.93); WWTP (\$18,080/2-); Rail Corridor (\$0); Road Overlay (\$0.00); Debt Fund (\$0.00); Water Capital (\$0.00); Liquid Fuels (\$5,892.35); with end of month cycle totaling \$111,502.24, voided checks totaling \$597.06 and **March** bills totaling \$987,769.75.
2. Recommend bid award for the Revitalization Grant for Race Street Improvements be given to lowest responsive bidder Miller Brothers for a bid amount which includes Alternate 1 (benches) and Alternate 2 (electrical) of \$183,931.75.

3. Recommend granting Minor Land Development Approval to Robert King for 284 North Main Street, subject to all items being met in the Borough Engineer's letter of March 24, 2009 and the County Planner's letter of February 24, 2009, as per plans dated March 23, 2009, Revision 4 and to the satisfaction of the engineer regarding the "slope" issue.

Discussion ensued. Mrs. Baigis cited a County Planner's letter of April 4<sup>th</sup> recommending that setback be changed from 10 to 15 feet. Architect Tom Reilley stated that code required 3 to 4 parking spaces, and that this was not possible with an increased setback. Borough Engineer Jim Dougherty stated he was reviewing the slope issue. It was agreed the engineer's report would be submitted to the Code Officer who would direct the report to Mr. Dougherty for his final review.

**In other business the following was discussed:**

1. The Borough Engineer's March 2009 report was reviewed.
2. Chief Foley provided information on the potential of hiring part-time police officers for overtime purposes only.
3. The Main Street Manager's report was received.
4. The annual Pension Meeting was held March 30, 2009.
5. A meeting was held February 23, 2009 to update Council on the status of the TRID project.
6. One vacancy has yet to be filled on the Appeals Board.
7. Auditors from Larson Allen will discuss the 2008 Borough of Amber Audit.

Mike Palazzo of Larson Allen made a brief presentation, stating that in his qualified opinion the Borough received a clean/highest review and that all financial statements appear to be accurate.

**In New Business:**

1. Pat Strus has submitted her letter of resignation as Vacancy Board Chairman citing her decision to run for Borough Council as a potential conflict. Letters of interest to fill this position will be accepted by the Borough Manager.
2. Plans for Minor Land Development for Mattison Avenue School have been received and plan approval from the Planning Commission is pending. The School District has requested that if all documentation is in place by the May Committee meeting, that Council approve the Minor Land Development at that time.

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

The Committee met on Tuesday, April 7, 2009 at 7:00 p.m. in Borough Council Chambers located at 122 E. Butler Ave. Present: Mr. Isabella, Mr. Dooley, Mr. Kenney, Mrs. Baigis, Mr. Amento and Ms. Maxion. Also present: Mayor Wahl, Chief Bill Foley, Solicitor Bresnan and Mrs. Aversa. Absent: Mrs. Pieri, Mr. G. Pasceri, Mr. S. Pasceri.

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

**The Committee will make no recommendations at this time.**

**In other business the following was discussed:**

1. Minutes from the March 2009 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 will recommend and Ms. Maxion moves:

Recommend Council waive a \$425 permit fee for Wissahickon Fire Company which is installing a new roof and making sidewalk improvements at the Ambler Fire Station. Seconded. Carried.

Recommend approving a handicapped parking space for a resident of the 200 block of South Main Street. Seconded. Carried.

**Parks & Recreation Committee** – The Committee will recommend and Mrs. Pieri moves:

Recommend, at the request of Ambler Junior Baseball, naming the baseball field at Knight Park, Joe Amento Field, in recognition of the late Joe Amento and his dedication and contributions to the organization. Seconded. Carried.

Recommend, at the request of residents and their children, allowing the construction of a fence unit at Ricciardi Park to store equipment used by skateboarders. Seconded. Carried.

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

Recommend the Solicitor prepare an ordinance establishing a correlation between water used and equivalent dwelling units (EDU) assigned. (The “tapping fee” set forth in Resolution 2006-6 is \$2,508 per EDU.) Seconded. Carried.

Recommend adoption of **Ordinance 1037** establishing a comprehensive “Identity Theft/Red Flag” program to be followed by the Ambler Borough Water Department as is required by the Federal Trade Commission of all creditors. Seconded. Carried.

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

Recommend that the **March** invoices in the amount of **\$1,098,674.93** be paid. Seconded. Carried.

Recommend bid award for the Revitalization Grant for Race Street Improvements be given to lowest responsive bidder Miller Brothers for a bid amount which includes Alternate 1 (benches) and Alternate 2 (electrical) of \$183,931.75. Seconded. Carried.

Recommend granting Minor Land Development Approval to Robert King for 284 North Main Street, subject to all items being met in the Borough Engineer’s letter of March 24, 2009 and the County Planner’s letter of February 24, 2009, as per plans dated March 23, 2009, Revision 4 and to the satisfaction of the engineer regarding the “slope” issue. Seconded. Carried.

**Salary & Personnel Committee** – States Mr. S. Pasceri, the Committee will make 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