

AMBLER BOROUGH COUNCIL MINUTES

February 17, 2009

The regular monthly meeting of Ambler Borough Council was held Tuesday, February 17, 2009 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, Mrs. Pieri, Mr. Kenney, Mrs. Baigis, Mr. S. Pasceri, Mr. Amento and Ms. Maxion. Chief Foley, Solicitor Bresnan and Mrs. Aversa also were present. Mr. G. Pasceri and Mayor Wahl were absent.

A motion was made to approve the January 20, 2009 Minutes with suggested revisions. After some discussion a motion was made to approve the second, but not the first, suggested revision. Seconded. Carried.

On behalf of Borough Council, Mr. Isabella extended sympathy to the Wack family on the passing of former police chief Rocco Wack, who have given 38 years of service to the Borough.

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, February 3, 2009 at 7:00 p.m. in Borough Council Chambers located at 122 E. Butler Ave. Present: Mr. Isabella, Mr. Dooley, Mrs. Pieri, Mr. G. Pasceri, Mr. Kenney, Mrs. Baigis, Mr. Amento and Ms. Maxion. Also present: Mayor Wahl, Chief Bill Foley, Solicitor Bresnan and Mrs. Aversa. Mr. S. Pasceri was absent.

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

The Committee will recommend the following:

1. Recommend advertising for adoption an ordinance amendment relative to parking regulations in the Borough including vehicle weight.
2. Recommend holding a public information session with guest speaker ARI Technologies, who will make a presentation on an asbestos recycling process, to be held at Ambler Theater on March 25th.

In other business the following was discussed:

1. The Police Department and Fire Company reports for January 2009 were received.
2. The January 2009 Public Works and Code Enforcement reports were reviewed.
3. The parking study currently is being reviewed by the Planning Commission.
4. Borough staff currently is exploring the use of solar energy by the Borough to operate the WWTP. The Borough is researching the cost of installing solar panels.
5. *Hometown News* will be mailed in April.
6. The Borough Solicitor advised Council on the feasibility and requirements for establishing a Quiet Zone at railroad crossing in the Borough.
7. The March of Dimes will hold a fundraising walk on April 26, 2009 which will start and finish at Temple-Ambler. The March of Dimes has asked the Borough to aid in their efforts by adopting a proclamation in support of the "March for Babies."

Mr. Isabella asked if there were comments or questions from Council or the public. David Morgan, *Hometown News* editor, stated that the newsletter would go to print mid-March, and asked for final submissions for the newsletter. 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, February 3, 2009 at 7:00 p.m. in Borough Council Chambers located at 122 E. Butler Ave. Present: Mr. Isabella, Mr. Dooley, Mrs. Pieri, Mr. G. Pasceri, Mr. Kenney, Mrs. Baigis, Mr. Amento and Ms. Maxion. Also present: Mayor Wahl, Chief Bill Foley, Solicitor Bresnan and Mrs. Aversa. Mr. S. Pasceri was absent.

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

The Committee will recommend the following:

1. Recommend adoption of **Ordinance 1034** which sets forth Park and Recreation Regulations.

In other business the following was discussed:

1. The Committee will be discussing the feasibility of hiring a Parks & Recreation Director in 2010.
2. The Committee will be discussing future improvements at Knight Park, to include upgrades from the Station Square Project.
3. The Committee would like to discuss issues with the backstop at Knight Park.

Discussion ensued. Mrs. Pieri stated that the problem of stray popup balls has not been remedied by the installation of the new backstop and that frequently damage to doors and car windows occurs. She stated Ambler Junior Baseball has not addressed this concern and that remediation of the problem is paramount. She stated she had contemplated suggesting a suspension of baseball until the situation is taken care of. Mr. Dooley agreed to assess the field to help determine what modifications might be necessary to the backstop or field. Council asked the Borough Manager to send a letter to AJB and to invite AJB to a Committee Meeting to discuss these concerns.

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 3, 2009 at 7:00 p.m. in Borough Council Chambers located at 122 E. Butler Ave. Present: Mr. Isabella, Mr. Dooley, Mrs. Pieri, Mr. G. Pasceri, Mr. Kenney, Mrs. Baigis, Mr. Amento and Ms. Maxion. Also present: Mayor Wahl, Chief Bill Foley, Solicitor Bresnan and Mrs. Aversa. Mr. S. Pasceri was absent.

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

The Committee will recommend the following:

1. Recommend awarding the bid for the purchase of liquid alum for 2009 to Coyne Chemical, with a bid of \$0.924/gal (120,000 gallons, totaling \$110,976.00). .
2. Recommend advertising for adoption an Ordinance setting forth revised rates for water service in Ambler Borough.
3. Authorization to prepare bid documents and advertise for bid this spring for the recoating of Broad Axe Tank, with work to commence fall 2009.

In other business the following was discussed:

1. The January 2009 WWTP Supervisor's and Engineer's reports were reviewed.
2. The Plant Engineer is submitting a no-cost Change Order for an extension of the Belt Filter Press Rehabilitation, due to a later than expected delivery on the shaftless screw conveyor and polymer feed system.
3. The Borough is scheduling the yearly service contract for bi-annual maintenance of generators at Borough Hall and water wells at a cost of \$4,650.00.
4. A motor failure at Well 11 (Park Avenue) necessitated emergency repairs involving replacement of the motor, pump, and pump shield. Emergency repairs, including videotaping of the well, totaled approximately \$15,000. Maintenance at Well 11 had been scheduled for summer 2009.

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, February 3, 2009 at 7:00 p.m. in Borough Council Chambers located at 122 E. Butler Ave. Present: Mr. Isabella, Mr. Dooley, Mrs. Pieri, Mr. G. Pasceri, Mr. Kenney, Mrs. Baigis, Mr. Amento and Ms. Maxion. Also present: Mayor Wahl, Chief Bill Foley, Solicitor Bresnan and Mrs. Aversa. Mr. S. Pasceri was absent.

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

The Committee will recommend the following:

1. Recommend that the **January** invoices in the amount of **\$717,529.09** be paid as follows: General (\$71,005.02); Street Lights (\$4,635.40); Fire (\$8,039.29); Parks & Rec. (\$0.0); Water (\$30,705.13); Sewer (\$3,654.30); WWTP (\$36,392.71); Rail Corridor (\$0); Road Overlay (\$7,912.71); Debt Fund (\$0.00); Water Capital (\$0.00); Liquid Fuels (\$5,730.65); with end of month cycle totaling \$168,075.21, voided checks totaling \$220.00 and **January** cycle bills totaling \$549,673.87.
2. Recommend advertising for a Transportation Revitalization Investment District (TRID) update meeting to be held February 23, 2009 at 7:00 p.m.
3. Recommend adoption of **Ordinance 1033** which sets forth the composition and function of the Appeals Board for appeals from Code Enforcement.

4. Recommend advertising for a Five Year Plan Public Meeting to be held on March 3rd and 17th at 6:30 p.m. before the regularly scheduled Committee/Council meetings.
5. Recommend the appointment of Skip Kershner to the Environmental Advisory Council.

Discussion ensued. Mrs. Pieri stated that she encourages members of the community to volunteer to serve on various committees in the community and that she does not care for a policy that requires the submission of a formal resume to Council. Mrs. Baigis disagreed, stating that in the spirit of the law it is a courtesy to Council for the public to present their credentials

6. Recommend the reappointment of David Morgan to the Environmental Advisory Council.

Discussion ensued. Mr. Kenney requested that due to the heavy time demands placed on the Finance and Planning Committee, the Environmental Advisory Council be re-delegated under the auspices of the Parks and Recreation Committee. Council agreed.

In other business the following was discussed:

1. The Borough Engineer's January 2009 report was reviewed.
2. Chief Foley is finalizing his study on the potential of hiring part-time police officers for overtime purposes only.
3. The Main Street Manager's report was received.
4. The Borough Solicitor advised the Committee on a request to research the possibility of requiring duplex properties to be converted to single family residences upon resale. After discussion, it was determined that no further action be taken.
5. The EAC requested an additional \$2,700 for uncovered expenses in their grant application.
6. The annual Pension Meeting, which will be advertised, will be held March 30, 2009 at 7:00 p.m.
7. At the Committee Meeting, Council approved appointment of Candace Kanapluue to the EAC. Seconded, carried.
8. At the Committee Meeting, Council adopted **Ordinance 1032** increasing the Tax Collector's salary. [Seconded, 7-Aye; 1-Nay (Mr. G. Pasceri); 1-Absent. Carried]

9. At the Committee Meeting, Council adopted **Resolution 2009-3** increasing the Tax Collector's certification fees. [Seconded, 7-Aye; 1-Nay (Mr. G. Pasceri); 1-Absent. Carried]

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

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

The Committee met on Tuesday, February 3, 2009 at 7:00 p.m. in Borough Council Chambers located at 122 E. Butler Ave. Present: Mr. Isabella, Mr. Dooley, Mrs. Pieri, Mr. G. Pasceri, Mr. Kenney, Mrs. Baigis, Mr. Amento and Ms. Maxion. Also present: Mayor Wahl, Chief Bill Foley, Solicitor Bresnan and Mrs. Aversa. Mr. S. Pasceri was absent

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 January 2009 Safety Meeting were received.

An Executive Session was called:

Mr. S. Pasceri stated the purpose of the Executive Session was to discuss a WWTP part-time employee.

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.

NEW BUSINESS/OLD BUSINESS

Mrs. Pieri stated that for the better part of a year an abandoned vehicle at Orange Avenue and Main Street has been used for storage. She asked that Code Enforcement and the Police Department keep this vehicle on their radar and force the vehicle to be removed. She inquired whether the Code Enforcement Department was overloaded or whether Code Enforcement needed more teeth because there are several situation that have yet to be remediated.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Public Safety Committee – The Committee will recommend and Ms. Maxion moves:

Recommend advertising for adoption an ordinance amendment relative to parking regulations in the Borough including vehicle weight. Seconded. 7-Aye; 1-Nay (Mrs. Baigis); 1-Absent. Carried.

Recommend holding a public information session with guest speaker ARI Technologies, who will make a presentation on an asbestos recycling process, to be held at Ambler Theater on March 25th. Seconded, carried.

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

Recommend adoption of **Ordinance 1034** which sets forth Park and Recreation Regulations. Poll Council: 8-Aye; 1-Absent. Carried.

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

Recommend awarding the bid for the purchase of liquid alum for 2009 to Coyne Chemical, with a bid of \$0.924/gal (120,000 gallons, totaling \$110,976.00). Seconded, carried.

Recommend advertising for adoption an Ordinance setting forth revised rates for water service in Ambler Borough. Seconded, carried.

Authorization to prepare bid documents and advertise for bid this spring for the recoating of Broad Axe Tank, with work to commence fall 2009. Seconded, carried.

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

Recommend that the **January** invoices in the amount of **\$717,529.09** be paid. Seconded, carried.

Recommend advertising for a Transportation Revitalization Investment District (TRID) update meeting to be held February 23, 2009 at 7:00 p.m. Seconded, carried.

Recommend adoption of **Ordinance 1033** which sets forth the composition and function of the Appeals Board for appeals from Code Enforcement. Seconded, carried.

Recommend advertising for a Five Year Plan Public Meeting to be held on March 3rd and 17th at 6:30 p.m. before the regularly scheduled Committee/Council meetings. Seconded, carried.

Recommend the appointment of Skip Kershner to the Environmental Advisory Council. Seconded, carried.

Recommend the reappointment of David Morgan to the Environmental Advisory Council. Seconded, carried.

At the Committee Meeting, Council approved appointment of Candace Kanaplue to the EAC. Seconded, carried.

At the Committee Meeting, Council adopted **Ordinance 1032** increasing the Tax Collector's salary. [Seconded, 7-Aye; 1-Nay (Mr. G. Pasceri); 1-Absent. Carried]

At the Committee Meeting, Council adopted **Resolution 2009-3** increasing the Tax Collector's certification fees. [Seconded, 7-Aye; 1-Nay (Mr. G. Pasceri); 1-Absent. 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