

AMBLER BOROUGH COUNCIL MINUTES

July 21, 2009

The regular monthly meeting of Ambler Borough Council was held Tuesday, July 21, 2009 at 6:30 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. Kenney, Mrs. Pieri, Mrs. Baigis, Mr. S. Pasceri, Mr. Amento, Ms. Maxion and Mrs. Strus. Mayor Wahl, Chief Foley, Solicitor Bresnan and Mrs. Aversa also were present. Absent: Mr. G. Pasceri.

A motion was made to approve the June 16, 2009 Minutes with suggested revisions. Seconded. Carried.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Public Safety Committee – Mr. G. Pasceri, Chairman

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

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

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

The Committee will recommend the following:

1. Recommend adoption of **Ordinance 1042** addressing Leaf Waste Recycling in accordance with the request of the NMCRC. [A Public Hearing was held.]

Discussion ensued. Mrs. Aversa stated that the ordinance would apply to leaf waste only and not include branch material or grass clippings. She stated that the Borough was considering once-a-month pickup of yard waste.

2. Recommend adoption of **Ordinance 1041** authorizing the placement of stop signs on Ridge Avenue and Belmont Avenue intersection, North and South, and Reiff's Mill Road and Tennis Avenue intersection, North. [A Public Hearing was held.]

Discussion ensued. Chief Foley explained that his department had thought the placement of these stop signs was already supported by Ordinance and registered with PennDOT, addressing Mrs. Baigis' concern that the stop signs had been erected in advance of the passing of an ordinance. Additionally, he stated that citations would be enforceable only after the enactment of the Ordinance.

3. Recommend awarding contract to purchase and install security cameras in the Borough Maintenance garage to 3i Protect in the amount of \$4,455.00.
4. Recommend addressing Wissahickon Historical Society request for the Borough to donate its World War II air raid siren to the society.

Discussion ensued. Mrs. Aversa noted that the siren is located at the Palladio Building. Further, she advised Council to consider loaning the siren to the Society with the Borough maintaining ownership.

Recommended at Committee Meeting:

1. Council voted at the July 7th Committee Meeting to work with Susan Curry to prepare a grant to remedy flooding at Church and Bannockburn and for matching funding for the Knight Park Green Ribbon Trail Connector, including the acquisition of a portion of the property at Church and Main. An appraisal is required. The grant is due July 17. (8-aye)
2. Council voted at the July 7th Committee meeting to apply for the stream bank riparian buffer project with the assistance of the EAC and a \$2,700.00 Borough match. (8-aye)

In other business the following was discussed:

1. The Police Department and Fire Company reports for June 2009 were received.

Discussion ensued. Chief Foley, in response to an inquiry from Mrs. Baigis, clarified that officers had made 27 appearances in Magistrate's Court during the month, and not that they had spent 27 full days in Court.

2. The June 2009 Public Works and Code Enforcement reports were reviewed.
3. Borough employees are making temporary repairs to Borough alleys.

Discussion ensued. Mrs. Aversa stated that the Borough's priority is to repair Borough-owned alleys with surplus blacktop being used to make other alley repairs upon residents' requests.

Mr. Isabella asked if there were comments or questions from Council or the public. Ms. DeLoach of 405 S. Main Street addressed her concern about flood damage and flash

flooding in her neighborhood, which she stated is designated as a flood plain. She asked whether water retention ponds could be constructed and whether neighboring businesses, Conshohocken Steel and Caddick, could assist by using pervious asphalt or additional shrubbery plantings. Mrs. Pieri explained that the problem is upstream, that overdevelopment has increased 100 year flood occurrences during the past 20-30 years, that SEPTA maintains the creek under the bridge, as does Caddick, and she is persistent in trying to find remedies to the situation. Unfortunately, she stated, this is a floodplain. Mrs. Aversa added that PEMA has not been willing to buy out the homeowners because there are too many residents who refuse to sell. Further, Mrs. Aversa stated that in the past several years Upper Dublin has added retention ponds and recently had applied for a grant to study the problem. Ms. Maxion encouraged Ms. DeLoach to attend Upper Dublin Township meetings, to meet with the Borough's Environmental Advisory Council and with Mrs. Pieri. There being no further questions or comments, it was moved the report be accepted as filed. Seconded, carried.

Parks and Recreation Committee – Mrs. Pieri, Chairman

Committee members: Mrs. Pieri, Ms. Maxion, Mrs. Strus

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

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

The Committee will recommend the following:

1. Recommend awarding the purchase and installation of surveillance/video equipment at Knight Park to 3i Protect in the amount of \$8,894.

In other business the following was discussed:

1. Quotes are being solicited for the installation of a storage fence to secure skateboard equipment at Ricciardi Park.

In new business:

1. Family Movie Night will be held tentatively in September at Pickering Field. The Committee will further discuss the event at the August Committee Meeting.

Mr. Isabella asked if there were comments or questions from Council or the public. It was announced by Mrs. Aversa that the plaque presentation for Joe Amento to be dedicated at the ballfield would be rescheduled due to "rain out" and scheduling conflict. There being nothing further, 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, July 7, 2009 at 7:00 p.m. in Borough Council Chambers located at 122 E. Butler Ave. Present: Mr. Isabella, Mr. G. Pasceri, Mrs. Pieri, Mrs. Baigis, Mr. S. Pasceri, Mr. Amento, Ms. Maxion and Mrs. Strus. Also present: Mayor Wahl, Chief Bill Foley, Solicitor Bresnan and Mrs. Aversa. Absent: Mr. Kenney.

The Public Utilities Committee report was given this evening by Mr. Amento.

The Committee will recommend the following:

1. Recommend the purchase of granular activated carbon (GAC) from AllServices at a purchase/installation cost of \$17,478 to refill Whitmarsh Treatment Plant Tank #2. (It was advised that GAC prices will increase 20 percent next year due to a new import duty.
2. Recommend purchasing a new pavement roller to be used for road restorations at a cost of approximately \$8,600.

In other business the following was discussed:

1. The June WWTP Supervisor's and Engineer's reports were reviewed.
2. The bid for the permanent chemical feed pump was advertised with bid opening scheduled for August.
3. Water distribution system flushing (hydrants) is underway and occurs between the hours of 11:00 p.m. and 6:00 a.m.
4. The Borough has applied for funding through the Community Development Block Grant Program. Notice was received that the Borough was recommended for funding for sanitary sewer repairs in the amount of \$183,000.00.
5. Staff continues to pursue possible grant money for a biogas utilization study.

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, July 7, 2009 at 7:00 p.m. in Borough Council Chambers located at 122 E. Butler Ave. Present: Mr. Isabella, Mr. G. Pasceri, Mrs. Pieri, Mrs.

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

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 **\$640,660.29** be paid as follows: General (\$24,972.47); Street Lights (\$4,699.73); Fire (\$0.00); Parks & Rec. (\$0.00); Water (\$25,453.98); Sewer (\$1,455.45); WWTP (\$36,682.78); Rail Corridor (\$0.00); Road Overlay (\$0.00); Debt Fund (\$0.00); Water Capital (\$0.00); Liquid Fuels (\$19,933.99); with end of month cycle totaling \$113,198.40, voided checks totaling \$0.00 and June bills totaling \$527,461.89.

Discussion ensued. Mrs. Baigis requested that the fund account totals be retotalled to reflect Parks & Rec expenditures listed in the Warrant Report. Mrs. Baigis asked for an explanation of the check written to the DCED for permit for "Smokestack LLC." Mrs. Aversa stated that a resident made the Borough aware that demolition was occurring at the site, and that Code Enforcement investigated and required the owner to obtain a permit. It was then determined that the owner had not complied with the DEP. The DEP was contacted and a permit was obtained from the Borough. The DEP is addressing this issue directly with the property owner.

2. Recommend **advertising** for adoption Ordinance 1040, returning the Sign Ordinance back into the Zoning Ordinance. [County Planning Commission and Ambler Planning Commission review letters have been received.]

Discussion ensued. It was agreed by Council to consider a recommendation for adoption at the August 4, 2009 Committee Meeting.

3. Recommend adoption of **Resolution 2009-10** appointing delegates to represent the Borough on the Tax Collection Committee (TCC).
4. Recommend executing a Maintenance Agreement with Tustin Mechanical Services for the Borough Building HVAC System at an annual cost of \$2,412.00.
5. Recommend **advertising** for adoption a proposed Ordinance regarding the 2009 Bond Project which authorizes staff to execute a bond document when savings exceed \$95,000.00.

Discussion ensued. Mrs. Aversa stated she had been advised that savings currently are approximately \$95,000.00.

In other business the following was discussed:

1. The Borough Engineer's June 2009 report was reviewed.

2. The Ambler Main Street Manager's report was received.
3. A letter was received from the Borough's Planning Commission requesting new matters or topics the Borough would like the County to review. The County Planning Commission is also inquiring if there are any new subject areas they would like to have studied.

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, Mrs. Strus

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

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 June 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 adoption of **Ordinance 1042** addressing Leaf Waste Recycling in accordance with the request of the NMCRC. Seconded. Poll Council 8-0. Carried.

Recommend adoption of **Ordinance 1041** authorizing the placement of stop signs on Ridge Avenue and Belmont Avenue intersection, North and South, and Reiff's Mill Road and Tennis Avenue intersection, North. Seconded. Poll Council 8-0. Carried.

Recommend awarding contract to purchase and install security cameras in the Borough Maintenance garage to 3i Protect in the amount of \$4,455.00. Seconded. Carried.

Recommend loaning the Borough's World War II air raid siren to the Wissahickon Historical Society as they have requested, with the Borough retaining ownership of the siren. Seconded. Carried.

Parks & Recreation Committee – States Mrs. Pieri, the Committee will make no recommendations at this time.

Recommend awarding the purchase and installation of surveillance/video equipment at Knight Park to 3i Protect in the amount of \$8,894 for seven cameras. Seconded. Carried.

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

Recommend the purchase of granular activated carbon (GAC) from AllServices at a purchase/installation cost of \$17,478 to refill Whitemarsh Treatment Plant Tank #2. (It was advised that GAC prices will increase 20 percent next year due to a new import duty.) Seconded. Carried.

Recommend purchasing a new pavement roller to be used for road restorations at a cost of approximately \$8,600. Seconded. Carried.

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

Recommend that the **June** invoices in the amount of **\$640,660.29** be paid. Seconded. Carried.

Recommend **advertising** for adoption Ordinance 1040, returning the Sign Ordinance back into the Zoning Ordinance. Seconded. Carried.

Recommend adoption of **Resolution 2009-10** appointing delegates to represent the Borough on the Tax Collection Committee (TCC). Seconded. Carried.

Recommend executing a Maintenance Agreement with Tustin Mechanical Services for the Borough Building HVAC System at an annual cost of \$2,412.00. Seconded. Carried.

Recommend **advertising** for adoption a proposed Ordinance regarding the 2009 Bond Project which authorizes staff to execute a bond document when savings exceed \$95,000.00. 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