

AMBLER BOROUGH COUNCIL MINUTES

March 17, 2009

The regular monthly meeting of Ambler Borough Council was held Tuesday, March 17, 2009 at 7:00 p.m. in Borough Council Chambers located at 122 E. Butler Avenue, Ambler, Pennsylvania 19002. President Tony Isabella presided. [The meeting was preceded by a special Public Meeting held by Council to review Five Year Plans for the Water and Highway Departments. A special Public Meeting had been held by Council on March 3, 2009 before Council's Committee Meeting to review the Five Year Plan of the Wastewater Treatment Plant.]

Mayor Wahl 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. Mayor Wahl, Chief Foley, Solicitor Bresnan and Mrs. Aversa also were present. Mr. G. Pasceri was absent.

A motion was made to approve the February 17, 2009 Minutes. Seconded. Carried.

Mayor Wahl presented Proclamations to five young men in the community who have become Eagle Scouts: present were James Benischeck, Christopher Brouse, and Matthew Stone. Also acknowledged were recipients Tim DeFrancesco and Patrick Dohony. Mayor Wahl then presented a Proclamation to the March of Dimes declaring April 2009 “March for Babies” 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 Tuesday, March 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. S. Pasceri, Mr. Amento and Ms. Maxion. Also present: Mayor Wahl, Chief Bill Foley, Solicitor Bresnan and Mrs. Aversa.

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

The Committee will recommend the following:

1. Recommend adopting **Ordinance 1036** relative to parking regulations in the Borough including vehicle weight and size and commercial use when parked overnight on Borough streets.

A public hearing was held relative to Ordinance 1036. Discussion ensued. Andrew Salvadore of 145 Forest Avenue spoke at length regarding his safety concerns should the Borough allow increased weight of vehicles for vehicles parked on the street overnight. He asked Chief Foley what initiated the change, whether parking studies had been conducted and whether there had been a PennDOT communiqué. He enumerated concerns involving a higher roadway volume for commuters, turn radius, speed, narrowing roads, increased noise, pollution, congestion, pedestrian issues, tree height ordinance, utilities and fines. Chief Foley assured Mr. Salvadore that the intent to adopt Ordinance 1036 was specifically to reduce these concerns and that proposed guidelines had been discussed with surrounding communities and other Boroughs.

2. Recommend adopting **Resolution 2009-4** in support of the Ambulance Company Prompt/Fair payment issue that is having a negative impact on their financials.

In other business the following was discussed:

1. The Police Department and Fire Company reports for February 2009 were received.
2. The February 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.
4. The Borough will hold a public information session on March 25, 2009 at 7:00 p.m. to hear a presentation from ARI Technology that describes an asbestos recycling process.

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.

Parks and Recreation Committee – Mrs. Pieri, Chairman

Committee members: Mrs. Pieri, Mr. Dooley, Mr. G. Pasceri, Ms. Maxion

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

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

The Committee will recommend the following:

1. Recommend preparing a Purchase Order for Access Control Experts in the amount of \$3,475 for the remediation of the backstop at Knight Park, with fifty percent of the invoice to be underwritten by Ambler Junior Baseball, and the balance to be paid by Ambler Borough.

Discussion ensued. Bob Gilman, President of AJB, discussed the pop-up ball problem at Knight Field and described AJB's grounds-keeping efforts in coordination with an Ambler youth's Eagle Scout effort.

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. Borough staff is working to secure a facility and schedule registration for the 2009 Summer Camp Program that will operate June 22 through July 31. Registration will be held May 11 from 6:30-8:00 p.m. at Borough Hall.

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

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

The Committee will recommend the following:

1. Recommend adopting **Ordinance 1035** setting revised rates for water service in Ambler Borough.

Discussion ensued. Mrs. Baigis expressed her concern that the new rates had been put into effect February 2008 and that the Borough was just now recommending to pass an ordinance on the matter. Solicitor Bresnan responded that unlike prior Public Utilities Commission-approved rate increases, this increase set forth different rates for water customers who reside inside the Borough, and as such, as a “housekeeping” matter, he determined that an Ordinance should be written on this matter.

2. Recommend contracting with Fluid Conservation Technologies at a lump sum cost of \$9,950 to conduct the 2009 Leak Detection Survey.
3. Recommend advertising for adoption **Ordinance** 1037 as required by the Federal Trade Commission, a comprehensive “Identity Theft/Red Flag” Program which is required of all creditors, which includes the Ambler Borough Water Department.
4. Recommend adopting **Resolution 2009-5** authorizing the 2009 Community Development Block Grant application for sewer repairs.

In other business the following was discussed:

1. The February WWTP Supervisor’s and Engineer’s reports were reviewed.
2. Staff has received price quotes from All Services Corp. for the installation and purchase of granulated activated carbon (GAC) for Whitemarsh Operations at a cost of \$16,728.

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

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

The Committee will recommend the following:

1. Recommend that the **February** invoices in the amount of **\$691,896.28** be paid as follows: General (\$142,014.06); Street Lights (\$178.97); Fire (\$77.70); Parks & Rec. (\$99.24); Water (\$76,632.58); Sewer (\$9,889.77); WWTP (\$244,478.00);

Rail Corridor (\$0); Road Overlay (\$1,776.53); Debt Fund (\$0.00); Water Capital (\$0.00); Liquid Fuels (\$0.00); with end of month cycle totaling \$216,749.43, voided checks totaling \$0.00 and **February** bills totaling \$475,146.85.

2. Recommend performing survey work of Cavalier Lot for the proposed parking garage, which is required so that the project is “shovel ready” if grant funding is received.

Discussion ensued. Mrs. Baigis inquired as to the specific requirements for a survey, who would conduct the survey and the surveys costs. She also asked whether an impact study had been conducted. Mrs. Aversa stated that a survey was a standard requirement for such a project, that the project itself cost around \$3,000,000 and that she anticipated the survey would cost \$4,000. She stated she would obtain three quotes. On a related matter she stated that parking spaces on Lindenwold were being reconfigured, with no decrease in greenery anticipated.

3. Recommend adopting **Resolution 2009-6** to be submitted with the 2009 Revitalization Grant applications.
4. Recommend granting Minor Land Development Approval to Precision Time Systems subject to all items in the Borough Engineer’s letter of February 20, 2009 and the County Planner’s letter of February 24, 2009 being made part of the plan along with the Zoning Relief granted by the Zoning Hearing Board on December 18, 2008.
5. Recommend the Borough proceed to refinance the 2003 Bond, with a projected cost savings of up to \$100,000.

In other business the following was discussed:

1. The Borough Engineer’s February 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 will be held March 30, 2009 at 7:00 p.m.
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. William E. Lutz, Jr., (a non-resident) President of Security On-Line Systems has offered his credentials. [Members must be qualified by training and experience to understand and rule

upon building construction issues. This may include licensure as an engineer or architect, experience as an inspector or plan reviewer, or relevant experience in the construction industry. Members shall be Borough residents. However, if no qualified residents can be found, then non-members may be appointed to serve.]

Mr. Isabella asked if there were questions or comments from Council or the public. David Wachs of Ambler Main Street stated that the star lights were being removed from the light poles in town. 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. Paceri, Mr. Amento, Ms. Maxion

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

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

The Committee will make no recommendations at this time.

In other business the following was discussed:

1. Minutes from the February 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 adopting **Ordinance 1036** relative to parking regulations in the Borough including vehicle weight and size and commercial use when parked overnight on Borough streets. Seconded. 7-Aye; 1-Nay (Mrs. Baigis); 1-Absent.

Recommend adopting **Resolution 2009-4** in support of the Ambulance Company Prompt/Fair payment issue that is having a negative impact on their financials. Seconded. Carried.

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

Recommend preparing a Purchase Order for Access Control Experts in the amount of \$3,475 for the remediation of the backstop at Knight Park, with fifty percent of the invoice to be underwritten by Ambler Junior Baseball, and the balance to be paid by Ambler Borough. Seconded. 7-Aye; 1-Nay (Mrs. Baigis); 1-Absent. Carried.

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

Recommend adopting **Ordinance 1035** setting revised rates for water service in Ambler Borough. Seconded. Carried.

Recommend contracting with Fluid Conservation Technologies at a lump sum cost of \$9,950 to conduct the 2009 Leak Detection Survey. Seconded. Carried.

Recommend advertising for adoption **Ordinance 1037** as required by the Federal Trade Commission, a comprehensive “Identity Theft/Red Flag” Program which is required of all creditors, which includes the Ambler Borough Water Department. Seconded. Carried.

Recommend adopting **Resolution 2009-5** authorizing the 2009 Community Development Block Grant application for sewer repairs. Seconded. Carried.

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

Recommend that the **February** invoices in the amount of **\$691,896.28** be paid. Seconded. Carried.

Recommend performing survey work of Cavalier Lot for the proposed parking garage, which is required so that the project is “shovel ready” if grant funding is received. Seconded. Carried.

Recommend adopting **Resolution 2009-6** to be submitted with the 2009 Revitalization Grant applications. Seconded. Carried.

Recommend granting Minor Land Development Approval to Precision Time Systems subject to all items in the Borough Engineer’s letter of February 20, 2009 and the County Planner’s letter of February 24, 2009 being made part of the plan along with the Zoning Relief granted by the Zoning Hearing Board on December 18, 2008. Seconded. Carried.

Recommend the Borough proceed to refinance the 2003 Bond, with a projected cost savings of up to \$100,000. 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