

## AMBLER BOROUGH COUNCIL MINUTES

May 20, 2009

The regular monthly meeting of Ambler Borough Council was held Wednesday, May 20, 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 April 21, 2009 Minutes with suggested revisions. After a brief discussion on the wording of revision 1 the motion was seconded. Carried.

### **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, May 5, 2009 at 7:00 p.m. in Borough Council Chambers located at 122 E. Butler Ave. Present: Mr. Isabella, Mr. Dooley, Mr. G. Pasceri, Mrs. Pieri, Mrs. Baigis, Mr. S. Pasceri, Mr. Amento and Ms. Maxion. 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 issuance of parking permits to local businesses to be used between 8:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m., with removal of “reserved” signage in Borough Lots 1 and 2.
2. Recommend **advertising** for adoption of an Ordinance relative to Workman’s Compensation Coverage for volunteer firefighters and ambulance employees who service Borough residents.
3. Recommend authorization for the purchase of Code Enforcement Department software from Carrigan at a cost of \$9,500 for software and set-up and an additional \$520 for staff training.

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

1. The Police Department and Fire Company reports for April 2009 were received.
2. The April 2009 Public Works and Code Enforcement reports were reviewed.
3. A summary of proposed revisions to General NPDES Permits for Stormwater Discharges from MS4s (PAG-13) and the upcoming expiration and renewal of current PAG-13 permits was presented. Engineer Jim Dougherty was in attendance at the Council meeting to explain details of these changes to Council.
4. The deterioration of the Borough alleys was discussed.

Discussion ensued. Solicitor Bresnan stated that he and Borough Manager Mary Aversa were in the process of reviewing tax parcel maps, which indicated that not all ownership is to the center of the alleyway, and that four property owners own out to the alleyway only. Mr. Bresnan stated that the Borough is responsible for alley repair or paving when property owners do not own out to the alleyway. The Borough looks to the possibility of obtaining liquid fuels monies and will continue to look at the process of abandonment.

5. The Borough has applied for an electric car grant titled Electric Fleets for Municipalities. The matching portion of funding coming from Ambler is \$10,000 to \$15,000. The EV will save between \$1,200 and \$2,000 per year depending on usage and will prevent over 6 tons of CO<sub>2</sub> and other greenhouse gases from entering the atmosphere.

Discussion ensued. Mr. Isabella ascertained that the electric car would replace an existing car in the fleet and that the matching portion of funding will be budgeted.

6. The Borough currently is working with three developers interested in operating a food market in the Borough. The developers are meeting with property owners to discuss future development options.

Mr. Isabella asked if there were comments or questions from Council or the public. Mrs. Pieri stated that she considers the property at 282 South Spring Garden Street to be a health hazard and that she would like this brought up at the next Committee Meeting and brought to the attention of Code Enforcement Department. 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, May 5, 2009 at 7:00 p.m. in Borough Council Chambers located at 122 E. Butler Ave. Present: Mr. Isabella, Mr. Dooley, Mr. G. Pasceri, Mrs.

Pieri, Mrs. Baigis, Mr. S. Pasceri, Mr. Amento and Ms. Maxion. 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 make to recommendations:**

**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 was held 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. Borough residents Stacey Durkin and Tom Johnson expressed concern over fights at Knight Park, foul language and other unwelcome behaviors. Chief Foley stated that he would speak with both of them at a scheduled time. There being none 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, May 5, 2009 at 7:00 p.m. in Borough Council Chambers located at 122 E. Butler Ave. Present: Mr. Isabella, Mr. Dooley, Mr. G. Pasceri, Mrs. Pieri, Mrs. Baigis, Mr. S. Pasceri, Mr. Amento and Ms. Maxion. Also present: Mayor Wahl, Chief Bill Foley, Solicitor Bresnan and Mrs. Aversa. Absent: Mr. Kenney.

**The Committee will recommend the following:**

1. Recommend **advertising** for adoption a proposed Ordinance establishing connection fees, criteria for imposition of tapping fees and the calculation of the applicable number of EDUs.

**In new business:**

1. The Water Departments was awarded a grant in the amount of \$520,000 for the rehabilitation of Loch Alsh Reservoir which was determined by the DEP to be a high hazard dam. Water Administrative Assistance Elizabeth Russell and Water Engineer Bob Schmauk were thanked for their efforts.

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

1. The April WWTP Supervisor's and Engineer's reports were reviewed.
2. Staff is researching the feasibility of applying for stimulus money to fund the biogas utilization study.
3. DEP authorization was received to put Whitemarsh Pump Station back into the water distribution system.
4. Water distribution system flushing (hydrants) is underway and occurs between the hours of 11:00 p.m. and 6:00 a.m.

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, May 5, 2009 at 7:00 p.m. in Borough Council Chambers located at 122 E. Butler Ave. Present: Mr. Isabella, Mr. Dooley, Mr. G. Pasceri, Mrs. Pieri, Mrs. Baigis, Mr. S. Pasceri, Mr. Amento and Ms. Maxion. 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 **April** invoices in the amount of **\$483,049.23** be paid as follows: General (\$30,646.44); Street Lights (\$4,699.73); Fire (\$0.00); Parks & Rec. (\$0.00); Water (\$15,078.75); Sewer (\$1,141.38); WWTP (\$10,425.25); Rail Corridor (\$0.00); Road Overlay (\$0.00); Debt Fund (\$0.00); Water Capital (\$0.00); Liquid Fuels (\$0.00); with end of month cycle totaling \$61,991.55, voided checks totaling \$ -8,279.25 and **April** bills totaling \$429,336.93.

Discussion ensued. Mrs. Baigis stated that upon her review of funding contribution requests from non-profits, she had determined that she would support funding of SAAC and of Community Ambulance Association but not of the other three organizations (Wissahickon Athletic Club, Plant Ambler and Community Cupboard) because she felt their financial submittals were insufficient. After Council discussion the three issues were resolved.

2. Recommend adoption of **Resolution 2009-7** in recognition of Mr. Paul Dooley, Jr. for his service to the Borough as a Councilman.

3. Recommend that the Borough Solicitor be authorized to prepare an Ordinance that allows applicants to come before Borough Council to request a sign variance if certain criteria are met.

**In new business:**

1. Ambler's new Main Street Manager, Theresa Clements, was introduced.

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

1. The Borough Engineer's April 2009 report was reviewed.
2. Mr. Paul Dooley, Jr., Borough Council Vice President, announced his last day on Council as May 20<sup>th</sup>. Council and staff wish him well as he fulfills his duties as a United States Marine.
3. Minor Land Development at Mattison Avenue Elementary School was unanimously approved by Council at the May 5<sup>th</sup> Committee Meeting.
4. Station Square will hold a model homes grand opening to the public from May 16<sup>th</sup> to June 14<sup>th</sup>.
5. The Borough is accepting letters of interest from residents for the Appeals Board.
6. Letters of interest are being accepted for the vacating Ward 2 Council Seat.
7. 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, Ms. Maxion

The Committee met on Tuesday, May 5, 2009 at 7:00 p.m. in Borough Council Chambers located at 122 E. Butler Ave. Present: Mr. Isabella, Mr. Dooley, Mr. G. Pasceri, Mrs. Pieri, Mrs. Baigis, Mr. S. Pasceri, Mr. Amento and Ms. Maxion. 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 April 2009 Safety Meeting were received.
2. Applications for college student summer employment are being accepted.

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 issuance of parking permits to local businesses to be used between 8:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m., with removal of “reserved” signage in Borough Lots 1 and 2. Seconded. Carried.

Recommend **advertising** for adoption of an Ordinance relative to Workman’s Compensation Coverage for volunteer firefighters and ambulance employees who service Borough residents. Seconded. Carried.

Recommend authorization for the purchase of Code Enforcement Department software from Carrigan at a cost of \$9,500 for software and set-up and an additional \$520 for staff training. Seconded. Carried.

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

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

Recommend **advertising** for adoption a proposed Ordinance establishing connection fees, criteria for imposition of tapping fees and the calculation of the applicable number of EDUs. Seconded. Carried.

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

Recommend that the **April** invoices in the amount of **\$483,049.23** be paid. Seconded. Carried.

Recommend adoption of **Resolution 2009-7** in recognition of Mr. Paul Dooley, Jr. for his service to the Borough as a Councilman. Seconded. Carried.

Recommend that the Borough Solicitor be authorized to prepare an Ordinance that allows applicants to come before Borough Council to request a sign variance if certain criteria are met. Seconded. 8-Aye; 1-Nay (Mrs. Baigis). 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