

AMBLER BOROUGH COUNCIL MINUTES

November 17, 2009

A Special Public Meeting of Ambler Borough Council was held Tuesday, November 17, 2009 at 6:00 p.m. in Borough Council Chambers located at 122 E. Butler Avenue, Ambler, Pennsylvania 19002 to receive public comment on the **Draft Fiscal Year 2010 Budget** for the Borough of Ambler. The regular monthly meeting of Ambler Borough Council followed at 7:00 p.m. President Tony Isabella presided.

Mayor Bud Wahl led the public in the Pledge of Allegiance and a moment of silence.

Roll Call – Present: Mr. Isabella, Mr. G. Pasceri, 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.

A motion was made to approve the October 20, 2009 Minutes with suggested revisions. Seconded. Carried.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

The Committees of the Ambler Borough Council met on Wednesday, November 4, 2009 at 7:00 p.m. in Borough Council Chambers located at 122 E. Butler Ave. Present: Mr. Isabella, Mr. G. Pasceri, Mr. Kenney, Mr. S. Pasceri, Mrs. Baigis, Mr. Amento, Ms. Maxion and Mrs. Strus. Also present: Chief Bill Foley, Mayor Wahl, Solicitor Bresnan and Mrs. Aversa. Absent: Mrs. Pieri.

At the Council Meeting this evening, the Committees conducted business as follows:

Public Safety Committee – Ms. Maxion, Chairman

Committee members: Mr. G. Pasceri and Mr. Kenney

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

The Committee will consider no actions this evening.

In other business the following was reviewed:

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

2. The October 2009 Public Works and Code Enforcement reports were reviewed.
3. Minutes from the October Public Safety Meeting were received.

Mr. Isabella asked if there were comments or questions from Council or the public. There being none, it was moved the report be accepted as filed. Seconded, carried.

Parks and Recreation Committee – Mrs. Pieri, Chairman

Committee members: Ms. Maxion, Mrs. Strus

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

The Committee will consider no actions this evening.

In other business the following was reviewed:

1. Ambler Borough's EAC approached the Clean Water Fund (CWF) regarding the Borough's Schuylkill River Storm Water and Resource Protection Ordinances. A memo outlining recommended language from the EAC for inclusion in the Borough Floodplain Ordinance is being reviewed.
2. Drawings were prepared for a skate park at Knight Park. The Committee and staff will meet with the developer to discuss future plans.
3. The EAC will be starting an informational website to post information about their activities. The Solicitor provided a memorandum.

Mr. Isabella asked if there were comments or questions from Council or the public. Susan Curry, Chair of Ambler EAC, presented the Council with a Certificate of Appreciation from the Ocean Conservancy for Ambler's EAC organized Removing Invasives event in October that was registered as a coastal clean-up event.

Susan Curry, Chair of Ambler EAC, announced she now has printed copies of the Ambler section of ordinances concerning floodplains, and copies of the 4 pages of proposed new language to replace 4 pages of current ordinances. She requested to meet with the Parks & Recreation Committee to review these materials and consider a recommendation to pass an ordinance change along to the Ambler Planning Commission.

There being nothing further, it was moved the report be accepted and filed. Seconded, carried.

Public Utilities Committee – Mr. Amento, Chairman

Committee members: Mrs. Judy Baigis, Mr. S. Pasceri

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

The Committee will consider no actions this evening.

In other business the following was reviewed:

1. The October WWTP Supervisor's and Engineer's reports were reviewed.
2. Broad Axe Tank recoating project has been completed.
3. The WWTP has received comments from the EPA on the revised Streamlining Ordinance.
4. The Plant Engineer has forwarded comments to the DEP on the NPDES draft permit.
5. The contractor has begun the permanent chemical feed pump project. The containment wall has been started.

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: Mrs. Pieri and Mrs. Baigis

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

The Committee will consider the following actions this evening:

1. Recommend that the **October** invoices in the amount of **\$499,751.06** be paid as follows: General (\$23,252.39); Street Lights (\$4,699.73); Fire (\$0.00); Parks & Rec. (\$0.00); Water (\$3,259.70); Sewer (\$598.12); WWTP (\$7,473.06); Rail Corridor (\$0.00); Road Overlay (\$0.00); Debt Fund (\$0.00); Water Capital (\$0.00); Liquid Fuels (\$17.49); with first run totaling \$39,300.49, voided checks totaling \$149.95 and second run bills totaling \$460,600.52.
2. Recommend having the Planning Commission and Solicitor prepare a modification to the Sign Ordinance relative to building set-back and revised height limits for signs.
3. Recommend, per a request from the owner of Dettera Restaurant & Wine Bar, allowing valet parking for pickup service only on Butler Avenue which would require parking meters to be bagged after 6:00 p.m.

Discussion ensued. Gerry Timlin, proprietor of the Shanachie stated that he also had requested valet parking on Butler Avenue and that he had been in discussions with From the Boot and Ambler Theatre about the possibility of sharing pickup service valet spaces in front of the Theatre. Mr. Isabella stated he would like the cluster of five restaurants located near the theatre to meet and propose a valet parking strategy to the Borough at its next Committee Meeting. Some discussion was held regarding giving Dettera temporary authorization for valet parking, yet that idea was later withdrawn. Mayor Wahl stated his dismay at a few non-cooperative businesses in the area that would not consider shared parking spaces during hours when they were not open for business. These businesses cited insurance concerns. Steve Ware of the Planning Commission stated that the Borough has a Parking Action Plan in place and that the Borough must begin to implement the plan. It was agreed to table the request of Dettera Restaurant until more information could be provided to Council at its December Committee Meeting.

4. Recommend approval, per recommendation of the Planning Commission at its October 27, 2009 meeting, of the two lot subdivision at 26-28 Church Street (Nunan & Sheppard's property) subject to conditions in the County Letter of October 27, 2009 and the Engineer's letter of October 26, 2009 and with the addition of making note of the pre-existing conditions on the drawings.
5. Recommend approval of the TRID **Resolution 2009-14** which endorses support of the Transit Redevelopment Investment District by Council.

In other business the following was reviewed:

1. The Borough Engineer's October 2009 report was reviewed.
2. Committee is reviewing the FY2010 Draft Budget. The public meeting was advertised and held November 17, 2009 at 6:00 p.m. prior to the Council Meeting. A memorandum from the Solicitor was distributed to Council.
3. The PA Conservation Grant for \$250,000 for solar panels to be installed at the Borough Garage was discussed. A decision determining ownership of energy credits is not required at this time.
4. Revised Design Standards for Downtown Commercial District properties will be sent to the Solicitor who will draft a new zoning ordinance for consideration.
5. Ambler Main Street's October report was received. Daily operations of AMS are being performed through its committee. Administrative and clerical duties are being completed by Borough staff with assistance from the AMS Board and volunteers. Transfer of these duties to the Borough is necessary at this time due to limited funding. A memorandum from the Solicitor had been distributed.
6. It was determined to schedule a public meeting November 17 2009 at 6:00 p.m to discuss the FY2010 Budget.

7. The Shanachie requested valet parking permission on Butler Avenue. Additional information was requested.

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. Amento, Mrs. Strus

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

The Committee will consider the following actions this evening:

1. Recommend purchasing a Short Term Disability Insurance Policy through United of Omaha for accidents and sickness at a cost of \$11,083.08 [which provides for 70% coverage up to a maximum of \$1,000 per week (tax free) with a benefit duration of 26 weeks].
2. Recommend purchasing a Long Term Disability Insurance Policy through United of Omaha at a cost of \$5,138.00 [which provides for a 60% benefit up to a monthly maximum of \$4,000 with a 180 day elimination period. The Borough currently does not have an LTD benefit in place].
3. Recommend purchasing a Term Life and Accidental Death and Dismemberment Insurance Policy through United of Omaha at a lowered cost of \$7,564.80 for the same coverage as is currently provided.
4. Recommend purchasing Dental Insurance through Sun Life at a lowered cost of \$35,559.00 for the same coverage as is currently provided.

In other business the following was reviewed:

1. The Committee is reviewing replacement alternatives for the vacancy that exists in the position of Borough Treasurer.

Discussion ensued. Mr. S. Pasceri stated the Committee has received letters of interest from two equally qualified candidates, Dick Hill and Marita Bonda. The position is a compensated, appointed post, and will not need to be advertised. Mr. S. Pasceri stated he hoped to announce his Committee's nomination in December.

Mr. S. Pasceri stated that his Committee was reviewing salaries for non-union Borough employees and would make a recommendation at the December 1, 2009 Committee Meeting.

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 – Ms. Maxion states the Committee will make no recommendation at this time.

Parks & Recreation Committee – Mrs. Pieri states the Committee will make no recommendation at this time.

Public Utilities Committee – Mr. Amento states the Committee will make no recommendation at this time.

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

Recommend that the **October** invoices in the amount of **\$499,751.06** be paid. Seconded. Carried.

Recommend having the Planning Commission and Solicitor prepare a modification to the Sign Ordinance relative to building set-back and revised height limits for signs. Seconded. Carried.

Recommend, per a request from the owner of Dettera Restaurant & Wine Bar, allowing valet parking for pickup service only on Butler Avenue which would require parking meters to be bagged after 6:00 p.m. Recommendation tabled.

Recommend approval, per recommendation of the Planning Commission at its October 27, 2009 meeting, of the two lot subdivision at 26-28 Church Street (Nunan & Sheppard's property) subject to conditions in the County Letter of October 27, 2009 and the Engineer's letter of October 26, 2009 and with the addition of making note of the pre-existing conditions on the drawings. Seconded. Carried.

Recommend approval of the TRID **Resolution 2009-14** which endorses support of the Transit Redevelopment Investment District by Council. Seconded. 8-0 Aye; 1-Nay 9 (Mrs. Baigis). Carried.

Salary & Personnel Committee – The Committee recommends and Mr. S. Pasceri moves:

Recommend purchasing a Short Term Disability Insurance Policy through United of Omaha for accidents and sickness at a cost of \$11,083.08 [which provides for 70% coverage up to a maximum of \$1,000 per week (tax free) with a benefit duration of 26 weeks]. Seconded. Carried.

Recommend purchasing a Long Term Disability Insurance Policy through United of Omaha at a cost of \$5,138.00 [which provides for a 60% benefit up to a monthly maximum of \$4,000 with a 180 day elimination period. The Borough currently does not have an LTD benefit in place]. Seconded. Carried.

Recommend purchasing a Term Life and Accidental Death and Dismemberment Insurance Policy through United of Omaha at a lowered cost of \$7,564.80 for the same coverage as is currently provided. Seconded. Carried.

Recommend purchasing Dental Insurance through Sun Life at a lowered cost of \$35,559.00 for the same coverage as is currently provided. Seconded. Carried.

There being no further business, Mr. Isabella moved the meeting be adjourned. Seconded, motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Elizabeth Russell
Administrative Assistant
Borough of Ambler