

AMBLER BOROUGH COUNCIL MINUTES

April 20, 2010

The regular monthly meeting of Ambler Borough Council was held Tuesday, April 20, 2010 at 7:00 p.m. in Borough Council Chambers located at 122 E. Butler Avenue, Ambler, Pennsylvania 19002. President Tony Isabella presided.

Mr. Amento led the public in the Pledge of Allegiance and a moment of silence.

Roll Call – Present: Mr. Isabella, Mr. G. Pasceri, Mr. Amento, Mr S. Pasceri, Ms. Maxion, Mrs. Strus, Ms. Tomlinson, and Mr. Curtis. Chief Foley, Solicitor Bresnan and Mrs. Aversa also were present. Mr. Kenney and Mayor Wahl were absent.

A motion was made to approve the March 16, 2010 Minutes as submitted. Seconded. Carried.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

The Committees of the Ambler Borough Council met on Tuesday, April 6, 2010 at 7:00 p.m. in Borough Council Chambers located at 122 E. Butler Ave. Present: Mr. Isabella, Mr. Amento, Mr. G. Pasceri, Mr. Kenney, Mr S. Pasceri, Ms. Maxion, Mrs. Strus, Ms. Tomlinson, and Mr. Curtis. Mayor Wahl, Chief Foley, Solicitor Bresnan and Mrs. Aversa also were present.

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

Public Safety Committee – Mrs. Strus, Chairman

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

The Public Safety Committee report was given this evening by Mrs. Strus.

The Committee will consider the following new business actions this evening:

1. Authorization to approve **Resolution 2010-4** in support of a Grant application to Montgomery County Housing & Community Development CDBG (Community Development Block Grant) Program for School Zone Safety Systems (flashing beacons and speed signs) at Mattison Avenue Elementary and St. Anthony-St. Joseph Elementary school zones.
2. Recommendation to grant a waiver to Wissahickon Fire Company in the amount of \$104.00 per their request for roof replacement permit fees.

In other business the following was reviewed:

1. The Police Department and Fire Department February 2010 reports were received.
2. The March 2010 Public Works and Code Enforcement reports were reviewed.

Mrs. Strus 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 – Ms. Maxion, Chairman

Committee members: Mr. Amento, Mrs. Strus, Ms. Tomlinson

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

The Committee will make no recommendations this evening:

In other business the following was reviewed:

1. A memorandum outlining recommended language offered by the EAC for use in creating a Wetlands Ordinance was sent to the Planning Commission.
2. The Committee has been granted the opportunity to partner with surrounding townships and is now able to offer to Borough residents discount prices on trips, movies and amusement park tickets.
3. The Committee plans to hold three movie nights this summer, in June, July and August. Details are forthcoming.

Ms. Maxion asked if there were comments or questions from Council or the public. She thanked Susan Curry of the Environmental Advisory Council for involvement in planting trees and establishing a riparian buffer at Ambler Borough Park. There being nothing further, it was moved the report be accepted as filed. Seconded, carried.

Public Utilities Committee – Mr. Amento, Chairman

Committee members: Mr. S. Pasceri, Mr. Kenney, and Mr. Curtis.

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

The Committee will consider the following actions this evening:

1. Recommend awarding bid contract for the Anaerobic Digester Cleaning to Franc Environmental at a cost of \$63,425.00.

2. Recommend authorization to advertise for bid the construction rehabilitation of Loch Alsh Reservoir. The DEP has received final rehabilitation plans for the Reservoir from the Borough Water engineer who currently is completing the project manual. The Water Department is awaiting DEP's final approval of plans.
3. Recommend authorizing plant engineer to prepare RFP's for the floating cover removal on digester T-10, including inspection and resealing of digester walls.

In other business the following was reviewed:

1. The March 2010 WWTP Supervisor's and Engineer's reports were reviewed.
2. The Borough currently is reviewing customer interest in purchasing water line insurance. The Water Department is reviewing insurance particulars and costs.

Discussion ensued. Mrs. Aversa stated that the Water Department would conclude the water survey in the next few months, that the department would hope for approximately one-third of water customers to sign up for insurance, and that the cost would be about \$25 per quarter. If the Borough determines to offer water line insurance, policies would be effective by the first of next year.

Mr. Amento 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. S. Pasceri, Ms. Maxion, and Ms. Tomlinson.

The Finance and Planning Committee report was given this evening by Ms. Tomlinson.

The Committee will consider the following actions this evening:

1. Recommend that the **March** invoices in the amount of **\$644,050.85** be paid as follows: General (\$192,885.12); Street Lights (\$5,477.94); Fire (\$13,276.06); Parks & Rec. (\$681.72); Water (\$105,518.65); Sewer (\$136,053.89); WWTP (\$190,370.62); Rail Corridor (\$0.00); Road Overlay (\$0.00); Debt Fund (\$0.00); Water Capital (\$0.00); Liquid Fuels (\$386.85), and with voided checks totaling \$600.00.
2. Recommend approval of the Borough's 2009 Financial Statements by auditor Larson Allen.

In New Business this evening:

1. Ms. Amy Lutz, of Amy's On Main Street' will address Council to request the Parking Ordinance be revised to allow for a percentage of metered spaces on side streets to be considered in meeting a required number of spaces.

Ms. Lutz stated she was awaiting the written decision of the Zoning Hearing Board and was concerned that the special exception for parking agreement that she had petitioned for would require the restriction of the number of employees she might employ. She stated that it was unduly burdensome to a low profit margin business such as a restaurant to have to provide parking spaces for employees; that her business is seasonal, specifically the catered function room usage on the second floor and outdoor seating.

Ron Myers, Code Enforcement Officer, stated the decision was based on the number of employees at the largest shift and that the special exception would require 12 spaces in the block of Forest and Walnut Streets, instead of 24 spaces. This requirement is based on the square footage of the business. Solicitor Bresnan stated that he had spoken with Ms. Lutz's attorney and that Ms. Lutz was receiving the relief she had previously asked for. Ms. Lutz emphasized that the growth of her business would be limited should the number of employees she hires be limited. She asked for that condition to be removed.

Mr. Bresnan stated that the written Zoning Hearing Board decision is legally binding, and that Council could not go around it. Ms. Lutz then asked that the Planning Commission be called upon to review the Parking Ordinance for inequities. Bernadette Dougherty, landlord and resident of 338 Tennis Avenue supported having the Parking Ordinance reviewed, pointing specifically to the issue of calculating metered spaces on the street in the space count as is currently factored for parking spaces in the parking lots. Mrs. Aversa called for the Committee to send this request to the Planning commission for review.

2. A proposal for Website Design for the Borough's Website was received and direction is requested by the Borough Manager.

Discussion ensued. Ms. Maxion asked that the Borough Manager ascertain the server costs or annual subscription costs associated with the cost of constructing a new website design.

3. The Borough will make a presentation for the 2010 funding round for the County's Community Revitalization Program.

In other business the following was reviewed:

1. The Borough Engineer's March report was reviewed.
2. The Planning Commission is reviewing the Sign Ordinance for possible amendments to building setback, sign height and neon or florescent lighting.

3. A request was received recommending that the Zoning Ordinance for MR-Mixed Residential Dwelling Units be changed to include a maximum impervious coverage per dwelling type. Code Enforcement Department is reviewing all zoning ordinances to verify limits in each zoning district.
4. The Borough has received Statements of Interest/Qualifications (SOI/Q) from Traffic Planning & Design, Inc., Gilmore & Associates, and Pennoni Associates for the procurement of construction inspection services for the Ambler Streetscape Project at several intersections along Butler Avenue between Locust and South Main Street. SOI/Q are being evaluated and ranked before being forwarded to PennDOT for approval, with a subsequent request for a technical and price proposal. This is classed by PennDOT as a small project, with an estimated cost of less than \$100,000.
5. The owner of Bridget's Restaurant addressed Council on issues experienced with signage.

Discussion ensued. Ms. Maxion stated the Committee would review this at the next Committee Meeting, and this probably was a Zoning Hearing Board issue.

Ms. Tomlinson 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. G. Pasceri, Mr. Kenney, and Mrs. Strus

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

The Committee will consider no actions this evening.

In other business the following was reviewed:

1. An Executive Session was held.
2. The Borough is accepting application from college students who are residents of the Borough for summer employment.

Mr. S. Pasceri 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 recommends and Mrs. Strus moves:

Authorization to approve **Resolution 2010-4** in support of a Grant application to Montgomery County Housing & Community Development CDBG (Community Development Block Grant) Program for School Zone Safety Systems (flashing beacons and speed signs) at Mattison Avenue Elementary and St. Anthony-St. Joseph Elementary school zones. Seconded. Carried

Recommendation to grant a waiver to Wissahickon Fire Company in the amount of \$104.00, per their request, for roof replacement permit fees. Seconded. Carried.

Parks & Recreation Committee – The Committee will make no recommendations this evening stated Ms. Maxion.

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

Recommend awarding bid contract for the Anaerobic Digester Cleaning to Franc Environmental at a cost of \$63,425.00. Seconded. Carried.

Recommend authorization to advertise for bid the construction rehabilitation of Loch Alsh Reservoir. The DEP has received final rehabilitation plans for the Reservoir from the Borough Water engineer who currently is completing the project manual. The Water Department is awaiting DEP's final approval of plans. Seconded. Carried.

Recommend authorizing plant engineer to prepare RFP's for the floating cover removal on digester T-10, including inspection and resealing of digester walls. Seconded. Carried.

Finance & Planning Committee – The Committee recommends and Ms. Tomlinson moves:

Recommend that the **March** invoices in the amount of **\$644,050.85** be paid. Seconded. Carried.

Recommend approval of the Borough's 2009 Financial Statements by auditor Larson Allen. Seconded. Carried.

Salary & Personnel Committee – The Committee will make no recommendations this evening stated Mr. S. Pasceri.

Mr. Isabella asked Council whether they would consider foregoing having a Public Committee Meeting in July, citing that with known vacation schedules, Council would probably not have a quorum. After some discussion, Council agreed to advertise that no Committee Meeting would be held July 6, 2010 and that Council would discuss Committee and Council matters at its July 20, 2010 Council Meeting.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Elizabeth Russell
Administrative Assistant
Borough of Ambler