

## AMBLER BOROUGH COUNCIL MINUTES

February 16, 2010

The regular monthly meeting of Ambler Borough Council was held Tuesday, February 16, 2010 at 7:00 p.m. in Borough Council Chambers located at 122 E. Butler Avenue, Ambler, Pennsylvania 19002. 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. Amento, Mr. Kenney, Mr S. Pasceri, Ms. Maxion, Ms. Tomlinson, and Mr. Curtis. Mayor Wahl, Chief Foley, Solicitor Bresnan and Mrs. Aversa also were present. Ms. Strus was absent.

A motion was made to approve the January 19, 2010 Minutes as submitted. Seconded. Carried.

### **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

The Committees of the Ambler Borough Council met on Tuesday, February 2, 2010 at 7:00 p.m. in Borough Council Chambers located at 122 E. Butler Ave. Present: Mr. Isabella, Mr. Amento, 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. Mr. G. Pasceri was absent.

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 Mr. G. Pasceri.

#### **The Committee will consider the following actions this evening:**

1. Authorization for the Borough to have completed a hydrology study for Tannery Run at a cost of \$4,000-\$5,000, with information to be used by the EPA to design the proposed culvert.

#### **In other business the following was reviewed:**

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

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 – 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 consider the following actions this evening:**

1. Recommend preparing a Wetlands Ordinance from information received from the Environmental Advisory Council, to be reviewed by the Planning Commission.

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

1. The Borough Lawns Bid for 2010 has been advertised.
2. Drawings were prepared for a skate park at Knight Park. The Committee and staff are in the process of finalizing plans.

Mr. Isabella asked if there were comments or questions from Council or the public. Mayor Wahl commended Borough employees for their effort of snow removal during the recent snow storms. He commended the Police Department for their patrolling of cross walks. 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 preparing and advertising bid specifications for sanitary sewer repairs funded by a Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) for the 2009 project prepared by staff in the amount of \$184,900.
2. Recommend authorizing the plant engineer to prepare the specifications for cleaning and repairs on Digester T-10.
3. Recommend advertising for adoption **Ordinance 1046** “Streamlining Ordinance”, which includes EPA’s suggested language.

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

1. The January 2010 WWTP Supervisor's and Engineer's reports were reviewed.
2. A new DEP Rule required immediate Public Notification if water samples test positive for *E coli*. An Emergency Contact Information Survey letter has been sent to all water customers. Contact information should be returned to the Water Department by February 19, 2010.

Discussion ensued. Mr. Kennedy asked if the emergency notification system could be used for other non-water emergencies. Mrs. Aversa stated the system could be used on a fee-per-call basis for other purposes.

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

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 **January** invoices in the amount of **\$384,178.82** be paid as follows: General (\$143,296.87); Street Lights (\$5,145.30); Fire (\$767.49); Parks & Rec. (\$118.41); Water (\$97,956.47); Sewer (\$11,988.35); WWTP (\$121,182.69); Rail Corridor (\$0.00); Road Overlay (\$0.00); Debt Fund (\$0.00); Water Capital (\$0.00); Liquid Fuels (\$6,059.61), and with voided checks totaling \$2,336.37.
2. Recommend advertising for adoption **Ordinance 1047** Increasing the Quarterly Trash Fee from \$66 to \$75 to offset the cost for the increased number of yard waste pickups to year-round monthly pickups.
3. Recommend approval of a two-lot subdivision for a twin house at 203 Locust Street subject to meeting all requirements as per the Engineer's letter of January 25, 2010 and the County Planner's letter of January 26, 2010. The Commission will accept a waiver of aerial photograph for existing features within a 400 foot radius. He also will install additional storm water drainage chamber and will submit calculations to the engineer to satisfy the ordinance. He will provide sewer and water capacity letters. (Mr. Charles Durkins made a brief presentation.)
4. Recommend adoption of **Resolution 2010-1** in recognition of the 135<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Ambler Savings Bank.

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

1. The Borough Engineer's January 2010 report was reviewed.
2. The Planning Commission recommends the Sign Ordinance be amended as advised in the county Planner's letter of August 25, 2009. Additional suggestions with regard to florescent lighting will be sent to the Planning Commission for review.

Sal Boccuti, Planning Commission member, made an inquiry regarding review procedures. Mrs. Aversa stated all input will be sent back to the Planning Commission so that all changes could be made at one time.

3. A request was received for consideration to adopt an ordinance requiring prompt notification to authorities regarding lost or stolen handguns, including imposing penalties for failure to notify authorities. An opinion letter from Solicitor Bresnan was sent to all Councilpersons.

Discussion ensued. Mr. Bresnan stated that in his opinion a local municipality may not pre-empt the state, regardless of merit. Mayor Wahl stated he would forward Mr. Bresnan's memo to Council to the Council of Mayors. Chief Foley stated prior local legislation was enacted to flag a lack of authority in the state on this issue. Mrs. Aversa suggested that Council authorize the Solicitor to prepare a Proclamation on the issue. Council agreed to have the Solicitor prepare a Proclamation.

4. The Borough Planning Commission unanimously re-elected officers from 2009 as Officers for the 2010 Planning Commission: Steve Ware – Chairman; Robert LaGreca – Vice Chairman; and George Benigno – Secretary.
5. 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. The solicitor will prepare a draft ordinance with the suggested changes.

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. 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. Chief Foley made a presentation for Sergeant William Frank in recognition of his 20 years of service to the Borough.
2. An Executive Session was held.

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 recommends and Mr. G. Pasceri moves:

Authorization for the Borough to have completed a hydrology study for Tannery Run at a cost of \$4,000-\$5,000, with information to be used by the EPA to design the proposed culvert. Seconded. Carried.

**Parks & Recreation Committee** – The Committee recommends and Ms. Maxion moves:

Recommend preparing a Wetlands Ordinance from information received from the Environmental Advisory Council, to be reviewed by the Planning Commission. Seconded. Carried.

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

Recommend preparing and advertising bid specifications for sanitary sewer repairs funded by a Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) for the 2009 project prepared by staff in the amount of \$184,900. Seconded. Carried.

Recommend authorizing the plant engineer to prepare the specifications for cleaning and repairs on Digester T-10. Seconded. Carried.

Recommend advertising for adoption **Ordinance 1046** “Streamlining Ordinance”, which includes EPA’s suggested language. Seconded. Carried.

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

Recommend that the **January** invoices in the amount of **\$384,178.82** be paid. Seconded. Carried.

Recommend advertising for adoption **Ordinance 1047** Increasing the Quarterly Trash Fee from \$66 to \$75 to offset the cost for the increased number of yard waste pickups to year-round monthly pickups. Seconded. Carried.

Recommend approval of a two-lot subdivision for a twin house at 203 Locust Street subject to meeting all requirements as per the Engineer's letter of January 25, 2010 and the County Planner's letter of January 26, 2010. Seconded. Carried.

Recommend adoption of **Resolution 2010-1** in recognition of the 135<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Ambler Savings Bank. Seconded. Carried.

Recommend authorizing the Solicitor to prepare a Proclamation regarding Council support for the reporting of a lost or stolen firearm. Seconded. Carried.

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

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

Respectfully submitted,

Elizabeth Russell  
Administrative Assistant  
Borough of Ambler