

AMBLER BOROUGH COUNCIL MINUTES

January 19, 2010

The regular monthly meeting of Ambler Borough Council was held Tuesday, January 19, 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, Mrs. Strus, Ms. Tomlinson, and Mr. Curtis. Mayor Wahl, Chief Foley, Solicitor Bresnan and Mrs. Aversa also were present.

A motion was made to approve the December 15, 2009 and January 4, 2010 (Reorganization Meeting) Minutes. Seconded. Carried.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

The Committees of the Ambler Borough Council met on Monday, January 4, 2010 at 7:00 p.m. in Borough Council Chambers located at 122 E. Butler Ave. Present: Mr. Isabella, Mr. G. Pasceri, 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.

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 Ms. Strus.

The Committee will consider no actions this evening.

In other business the following was reviewed:

1. The Police Department report and Annual report for 2009 and the Fire Department report for 2009 were received.
2. The December Public Works and Code Enforcement reports were reviewed.
3. A resident has withdrawn a request for Council to initiate new snow removal procedures.

4. 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 and advertising for bid specifications for a lawn maintenance contract for municipally-owned sites.

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. A meeting to discuss the proposed language was held.
2. Drawings were prepared for a skate park at Knight Park. The Committee and staff are in the process of finalizing plans.

Discussion ensued. Mrs. Aversa stated that Station Square and Caddick Construction were reviewing plans. She further stated that the plans may need to be scaled back.

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.

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 authorizing the plant engineer to prepare and advertise the specification documents for the grit chamber and grit pump.
2. Recommend the purchase of a sludge hauling truck and equipment (as itemized in the 2010 budget) with cost not to exceed \$145,000 for the truck cab and chassis, hoist assembly, lift axle and tarper. Price received end of August was

\$107,890 for truck and \$36,000 for remaining equipment. Trade in for the truck has yet to be determined.

The Committee asks for the following *New Business Item* for be considered for action this evening:

1. Recommend awarding Caddick Construction a repair contract at a cost of \$12,795 to complete a temporary emergency repair made by Borough crew on a water main under the train tracks at Mt. Pleasant Avenue. (An additional quote was for \$16,950.)

Ms. Maxion noted that heavy, higher speed tri-axle traffic on Mt. Pleasant Avenue caused by EPA trucks working at an EPA site in the vicinity. Mr. Aversa stated she had contracted the EPA and SEPTA regarding her position that they should pay the repair costs. Mr. Isabella and Mr. Amento complimented Borough crew for their hard work under adverse conditions making the temporary repair.

In other business the following was reviewed:

1. The December 2009 WWTP Supervisor's and Engineer's reports were reviewed.

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 **December** invoices in the amount of **\$692,737.55** be paid as follows: General (\$195,819.78); Street Lights (\$7,331.53); Fire (\$8,025.60); Parks & Rec. (\$172.00); Water (\$108,836.47); Sewer (\$135,617.95); WWTP (\$230,389.16); Rail Corridor (\$0.00); Road Overlay (\$0.00); Debt Fund (\$0.00); Water Capital (\$0.00); Liquid Fuels (\$6,619.26), and with voided checks totaling \$74.20.
2. Recommend adoption of **Ordinance 1045** Increasing Planning Commission Membership from Seven to Nine Members.

In other business the following was reviewed:

1. The Borough Engineer's December 2009 report was reviewed.

2. Preliminary revitalization applications were submitted on January 15, 2010 with application for funding for the Lindenwold Avenue Parking Deck.
3. Applications for the County Economic Development will be submitted. The Borough intends to apply for funding for the Lindenwold Avenue Parking Deck.
4. The Borough submitted a grant application to Transportation and Community Development Initiative (TCDI) funding through the DVRPC (Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission) for \$67,500 to conduct a feasibility study for a proposed parking deck at the Lindenwold Avenue Parking Deck.
5. Several term appointments expired December 31, 2009 and as such Committee vacancies exist on the Appeals Board and on the Environmental Advisory Council. Letters of interest are being accepted from Borough residents.
6. Solicitor distributed a memo regarding Downtown Commercial Ordinance Amendment applicable in all zoning districts which would prohibit a building from having an usual appearance such as the likeness of an object or product that might be sold within the building. The Planning Commission is reviewing the memo and will provide language for the Ordinance.
7. Architect Tom Reilley of 309A Valley Brook Drive made a presentation to Council relative to storm water management.

Mr. Reilley explained that the Borough, due to surrounding topography and affected by a storm's intensity, must at times handle 10 square miles of drainage area in its $\frac{3}{4}$ square mile municipal limit. He described drainage areas in the Borough as Rose Valley, Tannery Run and Stewart Creek. He proposed studying the possibility of additional retention ponds which could be constructed and financed by levying a one-time street frontage assessment on Borough residents. The Borough has about 27 miles of street frontage.

Mr. Isabella asked if there were questions or comments from Council or the public. Mr. Kenney stated the in contradiction to a recent newspaper article, the Borough does **not** in act levy a mercantile tax. There being nothing further, 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 the following actions this evening:

1. Recommend authorizing the Police Department to begin the process of conducting Sergeant's Testing.

Discussion ensued. Chief Foley explained that there presently are two openings for sergeant, that 5 officers are eligible with time served to take the exam which consists of a written exam, and oral exam given by three area police chiefs with a civil service member sitting in.

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. Strus states the Committee will make no recommendation at this time.

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

Recommend preparing and advertising for bid specifications for a lawn maintenance contract for municipally-owned sites. Seconded. Carried.

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

Recommend authorizing the plant engineer to prepare and advertise the specification documents for the grit chamber and grit pump. Seconded. Carried.

Recommend the purchase of a sludge hauling truck and equipment with cost not to exceed \$145,000 for the truck cab and chassis, hoist assembly, lift axle and tarper. Seconded. Carried.

Recommend awarding Caddick Construction a repair contract at a cost of \$12,795 to complete a temporary emergency repair made by Borough crew on a water main under the train tracks at Mt. Pleasant Avenue. Seconded. Carried.

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

Recommend that the **December** invoices in the amount of **\$692,737.55** be paid. Seconded. Carried.

Recommend adoption of **Ordinance 1045** Increasing Planning Commission Membership from Seven to Nine Members. Seconded. Carried.

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

Recommend authorizing the Police Department to begin the process of conducting Sergeant's Testing.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Elizabeth Russell
Administrative Assistant
Borough of Ambler