

AMBLER BOROUGH COUNCIL MINUTES

June 15, 2010

The regular monthly meeting of Ambler Borough Council was held Tuesday, June 15, 2010 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. Amento, Mr. G. Pasceri, Mr. Kenney, Mr. S. Pasceri, Mrs. Strus, Ms. Tomlinson and Mr. Curtis. Mayor Wahl, Chief Foley, Solicitor Bresnan and Mrs. Aversa also were present. Ms. Maxion was absent.

A motion was made to approve the May 19, 2010 Minutes with revisions suggested by Ms. Tomlinson. Seconded. Carried.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

The Committees of the Ambler Borough Council met on Tuesday, June 1, 2010 at 7:00 p.m. in Borough Council Chambers located at 122 E. Butler Ave. Present: 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. Isabella, Mr. Kenney and Mayor Wahl were absent.

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

Public Safety Committee – Mrs. Strus, Chairperson

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 actions this evening:

1. Consider approval allowing installation of disabled parking signs on the 200 block of Park Avenue and the 200 block of S. Main Street.

Discussion ensued. Mrs. Strus stated she would like to hold off on consideration of this agenda item until the new policy for handicap parking was in place. She stated that to her knowledge this would be the sixth of 14 spaces on South Main Street designated as handicap and that she was inclined to vote against the recommendation. Mr. Bresnan

clarified, in response to Mr. Isabella's inquiry, that a handicap placard is held with the same regard as a handicap plate. A plate is usually issued to one who is permanently disabled, a placard to one who is not. Handicap permits are issued for five years. Mrs. Strus stated the new Borough policy under consideration would require annual review of all disabled permits to ensure that all documents are current and that disabled parking sign permits are still valid. Chief Foley explained that the state defines the guidelines and sets fines for parking illegally in handicap spaces. Enforcement is taken care of by following Borough statute. It was agreed to vote on this measure after a vote was taken on the Borough's new policy for handicap parking.

2. Consider adoption of a policy for Handicap Parking in the Borough.
3. Consider adopting the 2009 International Fire Code, as recommended by the Fire Marshall.

In other business the following was reviewed:

1. The Police Department and Fire Department May 2010 reports were received.
2. The May 2010 Public Works, Safety Minutes 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, Chairperson

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

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

The Committee will consider the following actions this evening:

1. Consider purchasing removable soccer nets for use at multiple parks at a cost of \$2,100.00.

Discussion ensued. Mr. Amento asked where the nets would be set up. Mrs. Aversa stated that she intended to start making the nets available at Pickering Field at the end of the current baseball season.

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. Registration for the 2010 Ambler YMCA Summer Camp is underway. Registration forms may be picked up at the Ambler YMCA.
3. The Committee plans to hold three Friday night movie nights this summer, on June 25th at Pickering Field, July 23rd at Knights Park and August 27th at Riccardi Park.

Discussion ensued. Mrs. Strus stated that “Cloudy With a Chance of Meatballs” will be the June feature film.

Ms. Tomlinson 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, Chairperson

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. Authorization to advertise for bids to install a new grit chamber grit pump.
2. Authorization to extend the current contract with M. J. Reider Associates, Inc. for an additional three years, at the current pricing.
3. Authorization to have the Plant Engineer prepare bid specs and RFP’s for the removal and replacement of the load interrupter and transformer.
4. Authorization for the Water Department to offer water line insurance to customers in the water distribution system, to write brochure and contract for mailing within the distribution system. Recommended insurance should be offered to residential customers only, specifically single family residential and residential with four or fewer units. Cost to be set at \$100 for a one year policy with up to two repairs per year, \$3,500 per break maximum, capped at \$7,000 per year. Policy to be effective January 1, 2011.

In New Business this evening:

1. Authorization to accept the terms of the communications site lease at Houston Water Tank facility with new carrier MetroPCS Pennsylvania at a lease amount of \$1,800 per month and a contribution of not more than \$30,000 towards the cost of recoating the tank, with further details outlined in the proposed lease (attached).

2. Water Department is in the process of performing system hydrant flushing in Upper Dublin and Ambler Borough. Flushing will occur Sunday evenings through Friday mornings from 11:00 pm – 6:00 am.

In other business the following was reviewed:

1. The May 2010 WWTP Supervisor's and Engineer's reports were reviewed.
2. The Farm Lane waterline project is completed. Labor was more intensive than originally estimated due to depth of rock hit at the level where the water pipes were to be lowered. The job was secured at prevailing wage.
3. The Water Department and Borough Engineer await DEP's final approval of the rehabilitation plans for Loch Alsh Reservoir.

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, Chairperson

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. Consideration that **May** invoices in the amount of **\$536,472.56** be paid as follows: General (**\$135,757.31**); Street Lights (**\$5,117.38**); Fire (**\$16,124.28**); Parks & Rec. (**\$6,014.97**); Water (**\$85,494.27**); Sewer (**\$38,194.35**); WWTP (**\$258,092.52**); Rail Corridor (\$0.00); Road Overlay (\$0.00); Debt Fund (\$0.00); Water Capital (\$0.00); Liquid Fuels (**\$954.63**) and with voided checks totaling **\$9,276.25**.
2. Consideration for approval of a revised proposal for website design by Measured EFX at a cost of \$14,700 to update the Borough Website and an expenditure of \$600.00 per year for associated fees for hosting and provider-secure webmaster services.
3. Consider approval, per recommendation of the Planning Commission, of Land Development at 158 East Butler Avenue, subject to the conditions in the Engineer's letter of May 18, 2010 and the County Planner's letter of May 25, 2010 with two waivers and use of an aerial photograph to show properties within 400 feet and in lieu of waiver for landscaping the lot.

In New Business this evening:

1. Consider approval of funding for engineering and inspection fees associated with the Ambler Highland Improvement project.

Discussion ensued. Mrs. Aversa stated that the memorandum that she distributed noted that CDBG funding had been secured through Upper Dublin which had expanded its sidewalk and curbing project beyond Randolph Road. Funding secured is set at \$40,000 to \$50,000. To join in on this project, Borough costs would be \$4,000 for engineering plus limited construction observation fees.

In other business the following was reviewed:

1. The Borough Engineer's May 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. A draft proposed Downtown Commercial ordinance amendment was received from the Solicitor providing language for an ordinance prohibiting in all zoning districts a building from having an usual appearance such as that of an object or product that might be sold in the building.
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.
4. The Planning Commission will review the Parking Ordinance to identify a need for possible amendments to be drafted which would allow inclusion of metered parking in parking calculations for businesses in the Downtown Commercial District.
5. The Ambler TRID draft report was received.
6. A request was received for the Mayors of Maida (Italy) and Ambler to execute a document to be drafted declaring a 'twinship' (sister cities) between the two municipalities in recognition of their long-standing relationship.
7. PennDOT has approved the selection of Pennoni Associates to perform construction inspection services for the Streetscape project. The Borough has requested a technical and price proposal and upon approval, PennDOT will draft a contract.

Mr. Kenney 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, Chairperson

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. Recommendation, due to their successful completion of the Sergeants Test, to promote to the rank of Sergeant both Officer Jeff Borkowski and Officer Timothy Urner.
2. Recommend approval of the job description for the Borough Treasurer.

In other business the following was reviewed:

1. The part-time meter/crossing guard will be employed in the evening to assist pedestrian crossings on Butler Avenue during the summer months when the Police Department has employees on vacation.

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:

Recommend adoption of the proposed policy for Handicap Parking in the Borough. Seconded. Carried.

Recommend **denying request** for installation of disabled parking signs on the 200 block of Park Avenue. Seconded. 7-Aye; 1-Nay (Mr. G. Pasceri). Carried. Request denied.

Recommend **denying request** for installation of disabled parking signs on the 200 block of S. Main Street. Seconded. 7-Aye; 1-Nay (Mr. G. Pasceri). Carried. Request denied.

Recommend adopting the 2009 International Fire Code, as recommended by the Fire Marshall. Seconded. Carried.

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

Recommend purchasing removable soccer nets for use at multiple parks at a cost of \$2,100.00. Seconded. Carried.

Public Utilities Committee – The Committee recommends and Mr. Amento moves:
Recommendation to advertise for bids to install a new grit chamber grit pump. Seconded. Carried.

Recommendation to extend the current contract with M. J. Reider Associates, Inc. for an additional three years, at the current pricing. Seconded. Carried.

Recommendation to have the Plant Engineer prepare bid specs and RFP's for the removal and replacement of the load interrupter and transformer. Seconded. Carried.

Recommendation for the Water Department to offer water line insurance to customers in the water distribution system, to write brochure and contract for mailing within the distribution system. Recommended insurance should be offered to residential customers only, specifically single family residential and residential with four or fewer units. Cost to be set at \$100 for a one year policy with up to two repairs per year, \$3,500 per break maximum, capped at \$7,000 per year. Policy to be effective January 1, 2011. Seconded. Carried.

Recommendation to accept the terms of the communications site lease at Houston Water Tank facility with new carrier MetroPCS Pennsylvania at a lease amount of \$1,800 per month and a contribution of not more than \$30,000 towards the cost of recoating the tank, with further details outlined in the proposed lease. Seconded. Carried.

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

Recommendation that **May** invoices in the amount of **\$536,472.56** be paid. Seconded. Carried.

Recommendation to approve revised proposal for website design by Measured EFX at a cost of \$14,700 to update the Borough Website and an expenditure of \$600.00 per year for associated fees for hosting and provider-secure webmaster services. Seconded. Carried.

Recommendation to approve, per recommendation of the Planning Commission, of Land Development at 158 East Butler Avenue, subject to the conditions in the Engineer's letter of May 18, 2010 and the County Planner's letter of May 25, 2010 with two waivers and use of an aerial photograph to show properties within 400 feet and in lieu of waiver for landscaping the lot. Seconded. Carried.

Recommendation to approve funding for engineering and inspection fees associated with the Ambler Highland Improvement project. Seconded. Carried.

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

Recommendation, due to their successful completion of the Sergeants Test, to promote to the rank of Sergeant both Officer Jeff Borkowski and Officer Timothy Urner. Seconded. Carried.

Recommend approval of the job description for the Borough Treasurer. 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