

AMBLER BOROUGH COUNCIL MINUTES

March 16, 2010

The regular monthly meeting of Ambler Borough Council was held Tuesday, March 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, 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 February 16, 2010 Minutes as submitted. Seconded. Carried.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

The Committees of the Ambler Borough Council met on Tuesday, March 2, 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 S. Pasceri, Ms. Maxion, Mrs. Strus, Ms. Tomlinson, and Mr. Curtis. Mayor Wahl, Chief Foley, Solicitor Bresnan and Mrs. Aversa also were present. Mr. Kenney 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 Mrs. Strus.

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

1. Authorization for the Borough to apply for Montgomery County Housing and Community Development 2010 (CDBG) grant funding for School Crossing Signals for St. Anthony School and Mattison Avenue Elementary School.

Discussion ensued. Mrs. Aversa stated the Borough has twice applied to other sources for funding and has been turned down. She stated, in response to inquiries by Ms. Tomlinson and Mr. Amento that St. Joseph's school does not have walkers and that the school is not for elementary students.

In other business the following was reviewed:

1. The Police Department and Fire Department February 2010 reports were received.
2. The February 2010 Public Works and Code Enforcement reports were reviewed.
3. The Borough is in the process of setting up an Email subscription service for anyone who wants to receive timely information on Borough news, events and important bulletins.

Discussion ensued. Ms. Tomlinson inquired as to the fees for this service. Mrs. Aversa stated \$15 per month for 500 subscriptions or \$45 per month for 5,000 subscriptions.

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 awarding contract for 2010 Lawn Care Bid for either a 3 or 5 year term with either of the lowest responsive bidders as follows: TRU Green Land Care 3-year \$89,385 or 5-year \$152,917 or Lawn Rangers 3-year \$89,700 or 5-year \$149,500.

Discussion ensued. Council considered the potential for less lawn care burden if the future Borough Park Plan might include increased naturalized areas in the park. Given this consideration, for a time Committee favored a 3-year contract. Committee considered the potential of rising fuel costs and then favored a 5-year contract. Mrs. Aversa stated there are 21 Borough-owned sites in the contract. She noted that the contract quotes were a cost-savings to the Borough. Mrs. Judith Baigis of 172 Tennis Avenue noted that Lawn Rangers has had the contract for over five years, and therefore has proven knowledge of Borough facilities. The Parks & Recreation Committee after deliberation stated it would make a recommendation to Council to award a 5-year contract to Lawn Rangers.

In New Business this evening:

1. A Presentation will be given by Nancy Minick on the status of the Merck grant riparian buffer project in Ambler Borough Park. Council will be asked to recommend approval of the park planting design.

Ms. Minick stated she is with NAM Planning & Design of Bucks County, specializing in ecological design. She has worked with Susan Curry of the Environmental Advisory Council on the technical portions of the Merck Grant. She has been involved with TreeVitalie, riparian buffers and storm water input. Ms. Minick proposed west-end naturalization, restoration of a 50-foot riparian buffer, naturalized areas, pathways through the park and an improved entrance route. She would like to see the inclusion of a wet meadow and a rain garden. She has worked with volunteers on the removal of invasive plants. . The park planting plan will reduce maintenance, yield water quality improvements with native plantings and improve wildlife habitat. She stated that on April 9th and 11th volunteers will be planting 800 plants, shrubs and trees. She encouraged the establishment of “Friends of Borough Park.”

Mrs. Aversa added that the Council should have enough information to consider a recommendation of the park planting plan, but would need more information, including input from the County, on a Conceptual Master Plan for All Borough Parks.

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.

Mr. Isabella asked if there were comments or questions from Council or the public. Ms. Maxion noted that residents will be receiving their 2010 Census this week. She stressed the importance to the Borough in residents honestly stating the number of children in a household because park and recreation grants are allocated by population.

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 adoption of the WWTP Streamlining **Ordinance 1046**.
2. Recommend soliciting Requests for Proposal (RFP's) for cleaning digester T-10. The digester first will be cleaned and then RFP's will be solicited for the cover removal, sandblasting, repairs, paint and reinstallation.

In other business the following was reviewed:

1. The February 2010 WWTP Supervisor's and Engineer's reports were reviewed.
2. Upper Dublin Township intends to replace the culvert at Farm Lane, requiring the lowering of approximately 80 feet of Borough water pipe. Upper Dublin will trench the area and Ambler Borough will supply the pipe.
3. Whitmarsh Spring withdrawal permit was approved on the March 3, 2010 docket of the Delaware River Basin Commission.
4. Borough Water Department had intended to apply for CDBG grant monies for water main infrastructure upgrades in the Borough. Because of the recent notification that the School Crossing Signal grant request was not funded, the Borough will be changing its application to apply for signal funding through the CDBG program.

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 **February** invoices in the amount of **\$425,505.85** be paid as follows: General (\$129,010.74); Street Lights (\$5,390.44); Fire (\$192.95); Parks & Rec. (\$161.25); Water (\$73,657.76); Sewer (\$11,051.59); WWTP (\$200,274.21); Rail Corridor (\$0.00); Road Overlay (\$0.00); Debt Fund (\$0.00); Water Capital (\$0.00); Liquid Fuels (\$5,766.91), and with voided checks totaling \$0.00.
2. Recommend adoption of **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 adoption of **Resolution 2010-2** Expressing Support for a Statewide Lost or Stolen Handgun Reporting Law.

In New Business this evening:

1. Recommend adoption of **Resolution 2010-3** authorizing the submittal of the Revitalization Grant Application for Lindenwold Parking Lot Improvements.
2. Recommend funding a Feasibility and Design Study for the Lindenwold Parking Lot improvement project at a cost of \$18,000 feasibility study and \$16,000

schematic design phase. The Borough had applied for a grant for a feasibility study which was not approved. These costs may be included in a Revitalization Grant match.

3. Recommend that Council approve and grant Land Development for Amy's On Main Street. Ambler Borough Planning Commission at its March 9, 2010 Special Meeting approved the Land Development for Amy's On Main Street located at 61 North Main Street, recommending that council grant Land Development. This approval is subject to three waivers: aerial photograph within 400 feet radius; use of drill holes and PK markers for the lot borders; and the donation of two street trees to the Borough with two existing trees to remain on property, in lieu of the planting of four trees on the property as is required by Ordinance.
4. Larson Allen will make a presentation on their 2009 Audit to the Finance and Planning Committee and to Borough Council at the April Committee meeting to be held April 6, 2010 at 6:30 p.m.

In other business the following was reviewed:

1. The Borough Engineer's February 2010 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.

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. 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 Mrs. Strus moves:

Recommend authorizing the Borough to apply for CDBG grant funding for School Crossing Signals for St. Anthony School and Mattison Avenue Elementary School. Seconded. Carried.

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

Recommend awarding a 5-year contract for 2010 Lawn Care Bid to Lawn Rangers at a 5-year contract price of \$149,500. Seconded. Carried.

Recommend approval of the design for park planting for the riparian buffer project at Ambler Borough Park. Seconded. Carried.

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

Recommend adoption of the WWTP Streamlining **Ordinance 1046**. Seconded. Carried.

Recommend soliciting Requests for Proposal (RFP's) for cleaning digester T-10. Seconded. Carried.

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

Recommend that the **February** invoices in the amount of **\$425,505.85** be paid. Seconded. Carried.

Recommend adoption of **Ordinance 1047** Increasing the Quarterly Trash Fee from \$66 to \$75. Seconded. Poll Council. All Aye.

Recommend adoption of **Resolution 2010-2** Expressing Support for a Statewide Lost or Stolen Handgun Reporting Law. Seconded. Carried.

Recommend adoption of **Resolution 2010-3** authorizing the submittal of the Revitalization Grant Application for Lindenwold Parking Lot Improvements. Seconded. Carried.

Recommend funding a Feasibility and Design Study for the Lindenwold Parking Lot improvement project at a cost of \$18,000 feasibility study and \$16,000 schematic design phase. Seconded. Carried.

Recommend that Council approve and grant Land Development for Amy's On Main Street. 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