

AMBLER BOROUGH COUNCIL MINUTES

October 19, 2010

The regular monthly meeting of Ambler Borough Council was held Tuesday, October 19, 2010 at 7:00 p.m. at Borough Council Chambers located at 122 E. Butler Avenue, Ambler, Pennsylvania 19002. Vice President Peter Amento presided.

The meeting was preceded at 6:30 p.m. by a presentation on the Borough's pension plan by Joe Duda of Duda Actuarial and Scott Repke of Alliance Bernstein and with Tim Swartley of Univest present.

Mr. Duda stated that the police pension fund is sound and requires no employee contribution at this time. This is the result of an actuarial calculation using "smoothing" which brings the portfolio value to 130% (above the minimum requirement of 125%). However, he recommended that a meeting should be held early in 2011 (a valuation year) to review the calculation of the current market value of the portfolio to determine if the portfolio is continuing above the 125% threshold. If the value is at the 125% level or above, no employee funding would be necessary. Mr. Duda also presented the valuation of the municipal pension plan which will continue to require a Minimum Municipal Obligation (MMO) contribution along with the 3% contribution from employees to maintain the required balance in this fund.

Mr. Repke addressed the asset allocations of the pension funds for both police and municipal employees. He encouraged the Borough to consider shifting from value investing to growth investing, with a growth portfolio comprised half of U.S. equities and half of value stocks to capture diversity in the market.

At the conclusion of the pension presentation, Mr. Amento led the public in the Pledge of Allegiance and a moment of silence. The meeting proceeded.

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

A motion was made to approve Minutes of the September 21, 2010 meeting with revisions. Seconded. Carried.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

The Committees of the Ambler Borough Council met on Tuesday, October 5, 2010 at 7:00 p.m. in Borough Council Chambers located at 122 E. Butler Ave. Present: Mr.

Isabella, Mr. Amento, 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 and Mr. Kenney 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 adoption of **Ordinance 1050** which will permanently prohibit parking on Highland Avenue between Park Avenue and Church Street.
2. Consider amending the Borough Fee Schedule to include the setting of fines in a handicap zone or in front of a fire hydrant at \$50.00 and the setting of fees for an accident report at \$15.00 and for color photos at \$10.00.

In other business the following was reviewed this evening:

1. The Police Department and Fire Department September 2010 reports were received.
2. The September 2010 Public Works, Safety Minutes and Code Enforcement reports were reviewed.
3. The Police Department received a grant for \$10,000 to purchase portable speed display devices to be placed on telephone poles.
4. Staff will request quotes for the permanent repairs needed at the Maple Avenue culvert. Temporary repairs will be made by Borough employees.
5. The Borough Solicitor is corresponding with the EPA solicitor in reference to remediation work proposed for the Kane Core site.

Discussion ensued. Ms. Maxion asked for a progress report. The Borough Solicitor, Mr. Bresnan stated that there had been issues regarding water testing and pipes which had been reviewed and that at present responsibility for maintenance was under review.

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. Maxion.

The Committee will consider the following actions this evening:

1. Consider authorizing the Borough Solicitor to prepare an easement to continue allowing vehicular access to Ambler Borough Park by the three residents who use the driveway to access their properties.

In other business the following was reviewed this evening:

1. A letter from the Borough Planning Commission in reference to a Wetlands Ordinance proposed by the EAC was received.

Discussion ensued. Mr. Tom Reilley of 309 Valley Brook Road stated that the Wetlands Ordinance essentially would allow the “taking” of real property by Ambler Borough with residents being required to pay taxes on land they cannot use. It was determined by Council that no action will be taken on the proposed Wetlands Ordinance.

2. Park benches have been ordered for Ricciardi Park. Basketball nets and backboards are scheduled to be replaced in Borough Parks.

Ms. Maxion 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. S. Pasceri.

The Committee will consider the following actions this evening:

1. Authorization to purchase 65 gallon rollcart recycling containers for use by Borough residents for the collection of all recyclables at an approximate cost of \$88,000 is requested.
2. Consider approving an easement agreement with Upper Dublin for the South Main Street grant project being completed by Upper Dublin.
3. Consider purchasing electricity for all Borough electricity needs through Great Lakes Energy with a three year rate guarantee.

Discussion ensued. Finance Manager Bernie Wojciechowski made a brief presentation, stating he had contacted seven electric companies and two brokers. He stated that a number of companies he contacted were reluctant to make an electricity cost package commitment until PECO Energy went on record as to what they intend to charge. Mr. Wojciechowski stated that more negotiation with electric companies is possible and that he would like to report back to Committee at the November meeting. It was determined by Council not to take further action this evening.

The following was recommended at the Committee Meeting:

1. Recommendation to adopt **Ordinance 1049** amending Chapter 20 Ordinances on Solid Waste, Recycling, Leaf Waste Collection and Burn Ordinances to assure the Borough is in full compliance with Act 101 and Act 140. (Seconded. Carried. 7-Aye).

In other business the following was reviewed this evening:

1. The September 2010 WWTP Supervisor's and Engineer's reports were received.
2. Staff continues to communicate with the DEP in response to the DEP technical review of plans for the rehabilitation of Loch Alsh Reservoir.
3. The revised cost sharing agreement for the storm water coalition was signed and submitted.
4. The trash hauler request for bids will be advertised.
5. The plant engineer continues the process of preparing specs and RFP's for he removal and replacement of the load interrupter and transformer.

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.

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 **SEPTEMBER** invoices in the amount of **\$794,884.72** be paid as follows: General (**\$239,148.51**); Street Lights (**\$6,613.01**); Fire (**\$49,429.15**); Parks & Rec. (**\$2,014.24**); Water (**\$111,229.31**); Sewer (**\$127,321.48**); WWTP

(\$259,031.26); Rail Corridor (\$0.00); Road Overlay (\$0.00); Debt Fund (\$0.00); Water Capital (\$0.00); Liquid Fuels (\$97.66).

2. Consider a request to discuss and create an ordinance prohibiting outdoor vending machines.

Discussion ensued. Mr. Kenney stated he favored a recommendation to permit vending machines under specific guidelines including placement and usage to be established by the Borough Solicitor.

3. Consider purchasing through COSTARS a new 2010 Chevy 4x4 pickup with snow plow to replace truck #2 (circa 1996). Mileage per gallon for the Chevy pickup is quoted as 12-13 mpg city and 15-16 mpg highway.
4. Consider scheduling workshops and a public meeting to review the FY 2011 Budget.
5. Consider scheduling a meeting with the newly established pension committee to evaluate and make recommendations on the Borough's current pension plan.

In other business the following was reviewed this evening:

1. The Borough Engineer's September 2010 report was reviewed.
2. A draft Zoning Ordinance for MR-Mixed Dwelling Unit and Garden Apartment Districts including a maximum impervious coverage per dwelling type will be forwarded to the Planning Commissions for review.
3. A draft Sign Ordinance amendment will be forwarded to the Borough and County Planning Commissions for review, which will include additional language on building setback sign height and neon or florescent lighting.
4. A draft Downtown Commercial ordinance amendment will be forwarded to the Borough and County Planning Commissions, providing language for an ordinance prohibiting in all zoning districts a building from having an unusual appearance such as that of an object or product that might be sold in the building.
5. 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.
6. Staff is researching alternatives for implementation of an inspection process for residential sales.

7. A memorandum detailing the Earned Income Tax collection was received. Effective January 1, 2012 Berkheimer will be the official tax collector of earned income tax and local service tax for all municipalities in Montgomery County.

In new business:

1. The November Committee meeting will be held Wednesday, November 3, 2010 due to Election Day on November 2nd.

Mr. Kenney asked if there were questions or comments from Council or the public. There being nothing further, 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 no actions this evening:

RECOMMENDATIONS

Public Safety Committee – The Committee recommends and Mrs. Strus moves:

Recommend adoption of **Ordinance 1050** which will permanently prohibit parking on Highland Avenue between Park Avenue and Church Street. Seconded. Carried.

Recommend preparing a Resolution amending the Borough Fee Schedule to include the setting of fines in a handicap zone or in front of a fire hydrant at \$50.00 and the setting of fees for an accident report at \$15.00 and for color photos at \$10.00. Seconded. Carried.

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

Recommend authorizing the Borough Solicitor to prepare an easement to continue allowing vehicular access to Ambler Borough Park by the three residents who use the driveway to access their properties. Seconded. Carried.

Public Utilities Committee – The Committee recommends and Mr. S. Pasceri moves:

Recommend authorization to purchase 65 gallon rollcart recycling containers for use by Borough residents for the collection of all recyclables at an approximate cost of \$88,000. Seconded. Carried.

Consider approving an easement agreement with Upper Dublin for the South Main Street grant project being completed by Upper Dublin. Seconded. Carried.

Approved at Committee Meeting: Recommendation to adopt **Ordinance 1049** amending Chapter 20 Ordinances on Solid Waste, Recycling, Leaf Waste Collection and Burn Ordinances to assure the Borough is in full compliance with Act 101 and Act 140. (Seconded. Carried. 7-Aye).

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

Recommend that **SEPTEMBER** invoices in the amount of **\$794,884.72** be paid. Seconded. Carried.

Recommend permitting use of vending machines and authorizing the Borough Solicitor to establish specific guidelines for vending machines, including their placement and usage. Seconded. Carried.

Recommend purchasing through COSTARS a new 2010 Chevy 4x4 pickup with snow plow to replace truck #2 (circa 1996). Seconded. Carried.

Recommend scheduling workshops and a public meeting to review the FY2011 Budget. Seconded. Carried.

Recommend scheduling a meeting with the newly established pension committee to evaluate and make recommendations on the Borough's current pension plan. Seconded. Carried.

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

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

Respectfully submitted,

Elizabeth Russell
Administrative Assistant
Borough of Ambler