

AMBLER BOROUGH COUNCIL MINUTES

September 21, 2010

The regular monthly meeting of Ambler Borough Council was held Tuesday, September 21, 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, 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 Minutes of the August 17, 2010 meeting with revisions. Seconded. Carried.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

The Committees of the Ambler Borough Council met on Tuesday, September 7, 2010 at 7:00 p.m. in Borough Council Chambers located at 122 E. Butler Ave. Present: Mr. Isabella, Mr. G. Pasceri, Mr. Kenney, Mr. Amento, Mr S. Pasceri, Ms. Maxion, Mrs. Strus, Ms. Tomlinson and Mr. Curtis. 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, 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 advertising for adoption proposed Ordinance which permanently prohibits parking on Highland Avenue between Park Avenue and Church Street.
2. Consider Police Department recommendations to make improvements to the N. Main Street & Walnut Avenue crosswalk.
3. Consider adopting new procedures and requirements for block parties.

In other business the following was reviewed this evening:

1. The Police Department and Fire Department August 2010 reports were received.
2. The August 2010 Public Works, Safety Minutes and Code Enforcement reports were reviewed.
3. Staff will make a recommendation on necessary short-term repairs to the Maple Avenue Culvert, including struts and other reinforcing features, which will cost approximately \$40,000. It is anticipated that the culvert will need to be reinforced to carry extra loads from truck traffic during the EPA construction period. Quotes will be obtained.

Discussion ensued. Ms. Tomlinson asked what the cost would be for permanent improvements to the culvert. Ms. Aversa stated that the price tag would be about \$200,000.00 and that she anticipated that permanent improvements would be made in two years. She further stated that heavy truck traffic at the culvert was seen as a temporary, short term traffic pattern.

4. The Borough Solicitor is corresponding with the EPA solicitor on the remediation work at the Kane Core site.
5. An update on the speed survey data from N. Main Street was reviewed and discussed.
6. The Police Department is considering implementing seasonal 'no parking' on North Street and Park Avenue along the perimeter of the park during peak use months.

Mrs. Strus asked if there were comments or questions from Council or the public. Mr. Amento asked when SEPTA repairs would be made at Mt. Pleasant Avenue and Railroad Avenue. Ms. Aversa stated repairs would begin within 15 days. There being nothing further, 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 approval of preliminary skate park design, initiate engineering review and obtain price quotes on the resurfacing. Staff has worked with Frankin's Paine Skate Park Fund creating the skate park.

Discussion ensued. Mayor Wahl asked that planting be incorporated into the plan to soften the look and provide a noise buffer.

In other business the following was reviewed this evening:

1. The Planning Commission is reviewing a proposed Wetlands Ordinance. Residents who may be impacted by the Ordinance have been contacted to attend and participate in a PC Meeting scheduled for September 28, 2010 at 7:00 pm at Borough Hall.
2. The Committee has completed its Friday night family movie summer series and has begun plans for the 2011 season. *Coneheads* was thanked for contributing free water ice during the summer movie events.

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. Amento.

The Committee will consider the following actions this evening:

1. Authorization is requested to prepare bid documents and advertise for bid the Trash, Recycling and Yard Waste Collection and Disposal Contract. The current contract with Mascaro ends December 31st. Solicitation will ask for 3- and 5-year cost proposals with single stream recycling.
2. Authorization to advertise for adoption an Ordinance amending §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. Ordinance must be considered for adoption at the October 5, 2010 Committee Meeting.

Discussion ensued. Mayor Wahl stated that the Borough was one of only two boroughs in the Northern Montgomery Recycling Commission whose leaf collection ordinance was current and at the standards requested by the Commission.

In New Business:

1. DEP has declared a statewide drought watch or warning for all counties, with Montgomery County now under a drought warning. Residential customers are asked to voluntarily reduce water use by 10-15 percent.
2. A revised Stormwater Coalition cost-sharing agreement has been distributed.

The following was recommended at the Committee Meeting:

1. Recommendation to award the existing fine screens/RAM compactor removal contract to Eastern Environmental Contractors in the amount of \$58,330. Seconded. Carried (9-Aye).

In other business the following was reviewed this evening:

1. The August 2010 WWTP Supervisor's and Engineer's reports were received.
2. The DEP Technical Review of proposed rehabilitation plans for Loch Alsh Reservoir has been received and is being reviewed by the Water Engineer who currently is preparing a response to the DEP.

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 **AUGUST** invoices in the amount of **\$943,004.19** be paid as follows: General (**\$330,707.90**); Street Lights (**\$5,759.45**); Fire (**\$356.65**); Parks & Rec. (**\$3,195.43**); Water (**\$68,200.00**); Sewer (**\$476,204.06**); WWTP (**\$247,962.37**); Rail Corridor (\$0.00); Road Overlay (\$0.00); Debt Fund (\$0.00); Water Capital (\$0.00); Liquid Fuels (**\$3,801.87**).
2. Consider having the Solicitor prepare an Ordinance amending the Sign Ordinance to include additional language on building setback, sign height and neon or florescent lighting.
3. Consider having the Solicitor prepare an Ordinance amending the Zoning Ordinance for MR-Mixed Dwelling Unit including a maximum impervious coverage per dwelling unit.
4. Consider adoption of **Resolution 2010-08** opposing any measure initiative or plan by the PA General Assembly that mandates the forced merger or consolidation of local government.
5. Consider adoption of **Resolution 2010-09** recognizing the actuarial condition of the Borough's Police Employee Pension Plan.

Discussion ensued. Ms. Tomlinson asked for further explanation of the obligation. Solicitor Bresnan stated that monies to satisfy the obligation come from Harrisburg.

6. Consider adoption of **Resolution 2010-10** recognizing the actuarial condition of the Borough's Municipal Employee Pension Plan

In other business the following was reviewed this evening:

1. The Borough Engineer's August 2010 report was reviewed.
2. A draft proposed Downtown Commercial ordinance amendment is being reviewed which provides 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.
3. 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.
4. Staff is researching an option for design and final plans for a parking deck. A grant application was submitted to Pennsylvania's Community Transportation Initiative (PCTI) for design and construction of a parking deck.
5. The Borough is looking for a resident interested in serving on a committee to evaluate and make recommendations on the Borough's current pension plan. Mr. Robert Quittner and Mr. Martin Brown have stated interest in serving on the committee.
6. Staff is reviewing alternatives for implementation of an inspection process for residential sales.
7. Joe Duda of Duda Actuarial, Scott Repke from Alliance Bernstein and Tim Swartley from Univest will make a presentation to Borough Council on October 19, 2010 on the Borough's pension plan.
8. Staff is in the process of preparing the 2011 budget and has distributed copies to Committee. The Committee will meet in October to review the budget. A public meeting will be scheduled.

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 no actions this evening:

In other business the following was reviewed this evening:

1. Staff will be meeting over the next few months to determine the impact new Health Care Reform requirements will have on the Borough's health insurance policies. DVIT will send an information packet.

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 advertising for adoption proposed Ordinance which permanently prohibits parking on Highland Avenue between Park Avenue and Church Street. Seconded. Carried.

Recommend accepting Police Department recommendations to make improvements to the N. Main Street & Walnut Avenue crosswalk. Seconded. Carried.

Recommend adopting proposed new procedures and requirements for block parties. Seconded. Carried.

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

Recommend approval of preliminary skate park design, initiate engineering review and obtain price quotes on the resurfacing. Seconded. Carried.

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

Recommend authorization to prepare bid documents and advertise for bid the Trash, Recycling and Yard Waste Collection and Disposal Contract. Seconded. Carried.

Recommend authorization to advertise for adoption an Ordinance amending §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. [Ordinance must be considered for adoption at the October 5, 2010 Committee Meeting.] Seconded. Carried.

APPROVED at the September 5, 2010 Committee Meeting: Recommendation to award the existing fine screens/RAM compactor removal contract to Eastern Environmental Contractors in the amount of \$58,330. Seconded. Carried (9-Aye).

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

Consideration that **AUGUST** invoices in the amount of **\$943,004.19** be paid. Seconded. Carried.

Recommend having the Solicitor prepare an Ordinance amending the Sign Ordinance to include additional language on building setback, sign height and neon or florescent lighting. Seconded. Carried.

Recommend having the Solicitor prepare an Ordinance amending the Zoning Ordinance for MR-Mixed Dwelling Unit including a maximum impervious coverage per dwelling unit. Seconded. Carried.

Recommend adoption of **Resolution 2010-08** opposing any measure initiative or plan by the PA General Assembly that mandates the forced merger or consolidation of local government. Seconded. Carried.

Recommend adoption of **Resolution 2010-09** recognizing the actuarial condition of the Borough's Police Employee Pension Plan.

Recommend adoption of **Resolution 2010-10** recognizing the actuarial condition of the Borough's Municipal Employee Pension Plan

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

TREATY OF TWINSHIP – DIPLOMATIC VISIT BY MAIDA, ITALY DELEGATION

A delegation from the Italian town of Maida, headed by Maida Mayor Natale Amantea attended this evening's Council Meeting. Mr. Isabella introduced the guests to the public. A diplomatic exchange of flags, a plaque and a key to the city were exchanged between Mayor Wahl and Mayor Amantea. A "Treaty of Twinship" was signed and witnessed. The document reads as follows:

"The mayors of the city halls of Maida and Ambler, with their signatures on the following declaration of twinship would like to improve the relationship between the two towns based on mutual trust and understanding.

The following joint agreement is meant to enhance the bond of friendship that already exists, also because of the sentimental and historical ties between our communities.

The further intents are the following:

- 1) The Administrations of Maida and Ambler will do its best to promote the full respect of human rights and dignity in all its possible expressions;
- 2) Further bilateral relationships based on the cooperation of both our towns;
- 3) Promote the participation of reciprocal delegations on the occasion of events that concern culture, society, sport competitions, politics and economy;
- 4) Broaden economic and business relations;
- 5) Encourage the diffusion of typical products of both our countries;
- 6) Make cultural exchange easier between our communities on subjects of common interest such as book publishing and information, courses for the diffusion of culture of both our countries and exhibitions of painting and photography;
- 7) Support all those initiatives of cultural exchange that concern young people;
- 8) Cooperate with the intent of helping the local communities in its socio-economic and cultural development.”

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

Respectfully submitted,

Elizabeth Russell
Administrative Assistant
Borough of Ambler