

AMBLER BOROUGH COUNCIL MINUTES

December 20, 2011

The regular monthly meeting of Ambler Borough Council was held Tuesday, December 20, 2011 at 7:00 p.m. at Borough Council Chambers located at 122 E. Butler Avenue, Ambler, Pennsylvania 19002. Vice President Peter Amento presided.

Mayor Wahl led the public in the Pledge of Allegiance and a moment of silence. Mayor Wahl expressed condolences to the Isabella family for the sudden loss of Suzanne Isabella, wife of Council President Antonio Isabella and also a Borough employee for the last five years.

A presentation was made by Robert B. Royal on behalf of Nancy Algeo to award winners of the 3rd Annual Holiday Window Display Contest. First place was taken by Pure Spa and second place by Ambler Skate Shop.

Mayor Wahl presented Council Resolution 2011-27 (passed this evening 7-0 Aye) recognizing Council Person Mary Maxion for her years of service to Borough Council and the community.

Mayor Wahl presented Council Resolution 2011-26 (passed this evening 7-0 Aye) to Evelyn Calhoun, wife of Officer Robert Calhoun, recognizing his 24 years of dedicated service to the Ambler Police Department and the community. Officer Calhoun's achievements also were recognized with a plaque from State Senator Stewart Greenleaf. Rep.'s Todd Stephens and Kate Harper, who were in attendance, spoke about Officer Calhoun's contributions. Finally, Montgomery County FOP Lodge #14 and Borough Chief William Foley recognized Officer Calhoun.

A Proclamation of the Mayor was read commending Sergeant Jeff Borkowski and Patrolman Ryan Rhodes for their act of heroism on July 27, 2011. The assembly briefly adjourned for a reception in honor of all recognized this evening. The assembly reconvened with a call to order by Vice President Amento at 7:50 p.m.

Roll Call – Present: Mr. Amento, Mr. G. Pasceri, Mr. Kenney, Ms. Maxion, Mr. S. Pasceri, Mrs. Strus, Ms. Tomlinson and Mr. Curtis. Mayor Wahl, Solicitor Bresnan and Chief William Foley also were in attendance. Council President Isabella and Mrs. Aversa, Borough Manager, were absent.

A motion was made to approve Minutes of the November 15, 2011 meeting. Seconded. Carried.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

The Committees of the Ambler Borough Council met on Tuesday, December 6, 2011 at 7:00 p.m. in Borough Council Chambers located at 122 E. Butler Ave. Present: Mr. Isabella, Mr. Amento, Mr. G. Pasceri, Mr. Kenney, Ms. Maxion, Mr. S. Pasceri, Mrs. Strus, Ms. Tomlinson and Mr. Curtis. Mayor Wahl, Chief Foley, Solicitor Bresnan and Borough Manager 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. Recommend formal passage of Resolution 2011-26 recognizing Patrolman Robert Calhoun for his years of service with the Ambler Police Department and to the people of Ambler.

In other business the following was reviewed this evening:

1. The November 2011 Police Department report was received and the Fire Department report will be distributed.
2. The November 2011 Public Works and Code Enforcement reports and November Safety Minutes were received.
3. Mayor Wahl will present a Proclamation to Sergeant Borkowski and Patrolman Rhodes at this evening's meeting.

Mrs. Strus asked if there were comments or questions from Council or the public. 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. Recommend forwarding the draft Planting Ordinance regarding listed invasive species to be removed, prepared by the Solicitor, to the Planning Commissions for review and approval.

2. Recommendation offered by Mrs. Strus: Recommend adoption of **Resolution 2011-27** recognizing Council Person Mary Maxion for her service to Borough Council and to the people of Ambler.

In other business the following was reviewed this evening:

Park rules for the Knight Park Skate Park will be determined and the Solicitor will prepare an Ordinance for adoption. The type and size of fencing to be installed at the skate park is being discussed and quotes will be obtained. The skateboard community discussed park use with Borough Council

Ms. Maxion asked if there were comments or questions from Council or the public. There being nothing further, 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. Recommend adopting **Ordinance 1062** to increase sewer rates from \$5.00 to \$6.00 per thousand gallons of usage.
2. Recommend hiring Princeton Hydro, LLC (\$15,748.00) and Gilmore & Associates (\$22,500) to update and complete dam breach analysis for Loch Alsh Dam.

In other business the following was reviewed this evening:

1. The November 2011 WWTP Supervisor's and Engineer's reports were received.
2. DEP has approved enhanced drainage control plans for Loch Alsh Reservoir that include construction of a new 24-inch drawdown pipe and the addition of an upstream slide gate control structure and upgrade of the existing downstream control valve to a 24-inch resilient gate valve.

Mr. S. Pasceri 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.

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 **NOVEMBER 2011** invoices in the amount of **\$511,608.03** be paid as follows: General (**\$188,265.74**); Street Lights (**\$6,207.63**); Fire (**\$652.25**); Parks & Rec. (**\$5,634.04**); Water (**\$134,112.09**); Sewer (**\$10,411.38**); WWTP (**\$161,109.73**); Rail Corridor (**\$0.00**); Road Overlay (**\$0.00**); Debt Fund (**\$0.00**); Water Capital (**\$0.00**); Liquid Fuels (**\$5,215.17**).
2. Recommend adoption of the **2012 Budget**.
3. Recommend adopting **Ordinance 1063** Fixing the Real Estate Tax for the Year 2012.
4. Recommend adopting **Resolution 2011-25** appropriating specific funds estimated per the 2012 Budget.

Approved at Committee Meeting:

1. Recommend passage of **Resolution 2011-24** declaring formal action as described in **Resolution 2011-23** (invalidating the Sign Ordinance for its prohibition of offsite advertising) as it relates to signage is substantively invalid in part as it relates to regulation of billboards (9-Aye).

In other business the following was reviewed this evening:

1. The Borough Engineer's November 2011 report was received.
2. A list of 2012 Committee vacancies was provided and letters of interest are being accepted. Vacant seats will be appointed at the 2012 Reorganizational Meeting.
3. The 2012 Meeting Schedule will be advertised.
4. A bill of sale to convey utilities from Station Square to the Borough of Ambler was received.
5. A draft codification of the Borough Code was received and staff is reviewing the document.

6. Terms and payment options for borrowing funds for the Lindenwold Parking Lot Paving project are being solicited.

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:

In other business the following was reviewed this evening:

1. The Solicitor has preparing a Drug & Alcohol Policy for Borough employees. The policy must be presented to the Union before Council may vote on adoption of the policy.

Mr. S. Pasceri 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.

RECOMMENDATIONS

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

Recommend formal passage of **Resolution 2011-26** recognizing Patrolman Robert Calhoun for his years of service with the Ambler Police Department and to the people of Ambler. Seconded. Carried.

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

Recommend forwarding the draft Planting Ordinance regarding listed invasive species to be removed, prepared by the Solicitor, to the Planning Commissions for review and approval. Seconded. Carried.

Recommendation offered by Mrs. Strus: Recommend adoption of **Resolution 2011-27** recognizing Council Person Mary Maxion for her service to Borough Council and to the people of Ambler. Seconded. Carried.

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

Recommend adopting **Ordinance 1062** to increase sewer rates from \$5.00 to \$6.00 per thousand gallons of usage. Seconded. Carried.

Recommend hiring Princeton Hydro, LLC (\$15,748.00) and Gilmore & Associates (\$22,500) to update and complete dam breach analysis for Loch Alsh Dam. Seconded. Carried.

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

Recommend that **NOVEMBER 2011** invoices in the amount of \$511,608.03 be paid. Seconded. Carried.

Recommend adoption of the **2012 Budget**. Seconded. Carried.

Recommend adopting **Ordinance 1063** Fixing the Real Estate Tax for the Year 2012. Seconded. Carried.

Recommend adopting **Resolution 2011-25** appropriating specific funds estimated per the 2012 Budget. Seconded. Carried.

Approved at Committee Meeting: Recommend passage of Resolution 2011-24 declaring formal action as described in Resolution 2011-23 (invalidating the Sign Ordinance for its prohibition of offsite advertising) as it relates to signage is substantively invalid in part as it relates to regulation of billboards (9-Aye).

Salary & Personnel Committee – The Committee will make no recommendations this evening stated 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