

AMBLER BOROUGH COUNCIL MINUTES

February 15, 2011

The regular monthly meeting of Ambler Borough Council was held Tuesday, February 15, 2011 at 7:00 p.m. at Borough Council Chambers located at 122 E. Butler Avenue, Ambler, Pennsylvania 19002. President Antonio Isabella presided. The meeting was preceded by a presentation on Police and Municipal Employee Pensions by Joe Duda of Duda Actuarial Consulting of Fort Washington. At the conclusion of his presentation Mr. Duda advised Council that pension ordinances should be updated to reflect current IRS issues such as maximum compensation and rollovers.

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, Solicitor Bresnan, Sgt. Keefer and Mrs. Aversa also were present. Ms. Maxion was absent.

A motion was made to approve Minutes of the January 18, 2010 meeting as submitted. Seconded. Carried.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

The Committees of the Ambler Borough Council met on Tuesday, February 1, 2011 at 7:00 p.m. in Borough Council Chambers located at 122 E. Butler Ave. Present: Mr. Isabella, Mr. Amento, Mr. G. Pasceri, Mrs. Strus, Ms. Tomlinson and Mr. Curtis. Chief Foley, Solicitor Bresnan and Mrs. Aversa also were present. Absent: Mr. Kenney, Mr. S. Pasceri, Ms. Maxion and Mayor Wahl.

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 awarding a plowing and salting services contract for the Wissahickon Fire Station lot with lowest, responsive quote obtained from contractor Matt Sylvestra.
2. Consider, upon review of a sample ordinance, undertaking research and drafting an ordinance intended to prevent vacant buildings from becoming a safety issue, a

quality of life issue for neighboring buildings, and a loss of revenue concern for the Borough.

Discussion ensued. Solicitor Bresnan stated that Council would have to consider how it would enforce such an ordinance that essentially levies 'vacancy fees' if a property's taxes are current and the building is up to code.

In other business the following was reviewed this evening:

1. The Police Department January 2011 report was received and the Fire Department's 2010 Annual Report and January 2011 report was received.
2. The January 2011 Public Works, Safety Minutes and Code Enforcement reports were received.

Mrs. Strus asked if there were comments or questions from Council or the public. Sgt. Keefer stated that the police department had received grant monies which allowed for the purchase and installation of video cameras around the perimeter of Borough Hall. 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. Tomlinson.

The Committee will consider no actions this evening.

In other business the following was reviewed this evening:

1. Final plans for the Knight Park Skate Park are being reviewed by the Borough Engineer and Code Enforcement Officer.

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 is requested by the Water Department to purchase nine chlorine analyzers from LRM at a total cost of \$28,800 for new ground water rule 4-log removals that goes into effect April 1, 2011.
2. Authorization is requested by WWTP to award the contract for the Cleaning of Digester ET-15 Project to Aqua Wastewater at a total bid cost of \$15,908.00.
3. Authorization is requested by WWTP to purchase a new truck for the plant, with a capital item budgeted cost of \$30,000, through PA Co-Stars (State Contract Purchasing).
4. Authorization is requested by WWTP to have the plant engineer prepare the specifications, bid document and advertisement for installing shear gates at the ends of the scum pipes on clarifiers ET-2 & 3, ET-6 & 7, ET-8 & 9, and ET-12 & 13 which will mostly eliminate additional recycle flow back to the main pumping station (PS-1) during high flows (rain events). This was a Capital item in the 2011 budget (\$30,000).

In other business the following was reviewed this evening:

1. The January 2011 WWTP Supervisor's and Engineer's reports were received.
2. The Water Line Protection Program brochure is complete and will go to print. The customer contract is being prepared by the Borough Solicitor.

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 **JANUARY 2011** invoices in the amount of **\$656,676.65** be paid as follows: General (**\$396,518.79**); Street Lights (**\$6,746.89**); Fire (**\$3,621.10**); Parks & Rec. (**\$158.06**); Water (**\$87,618.40**); Sewer (**\$10,870.98**); WWTP (**\$141,477.39**); Rail Corridor (**\$0.00**); Road Overlay (**\$0.00**); Debt Fund (**\$0.00**); Water Capital (**\$0.00**); Liquid Fuels (**\$12,833.58**) and check voids totaling \$4,168.54.
2. Consider preparation of an Outdoor Vending Machine Ordinance after review of the Borough Planning Commission's letter and draft language.

Discussion ensued. Solicitor Bresnan suggested Council consider whether to include language limiting the number of machines allowed “per qualified business.” Ms. Tomlinson suggested the ordinance language limit the number of machines allowed “per tax parcel or postal address.”

3. Recommend approval of the Caddick Minor Land Development at 254 S. Main Street, which was approved at the January 25, 2011 meeting of the Borough Planning Commission subject to the conditions of the Engineer’s letter of January 21, 2011 and the County Planner’s letter of January 25, 2011.
4. Recommend the Borough Planning Commission update the Borough’s Comprehensive Plan.

Discussion ensued. Mr. Stephen Ware, Chairman of the Planning Commission, stated that it had been 10 years since the Plan had been updated, that the Plan needed minor revisions, and the Planning Commission should review existing components and update the Plan to reflect 2010 Census Data.

5. Recommend making a reimbursement to Calvary United Church in the amount of \$3,548.80 for damage to the Church’s drain pipe due to the curb and sidewalk project along Lindenwold Avenue near Park Avenue.

In other business the following was reviewed this evening:

1. The Borough Engineer’s January 2011 report was received.
2. Joe Duda, Actuarial will make a presentation to Council at the February 15, 2011 meeting.
3. The Ambler Borough Planning Commission at its January 25, 2011 Meeting elected the following members as Officers for 2011: Stephen Ware-Chairman; Robert LaGreca-Vice Chairman and George Benigno-Secretary.
4. Notice has been received that Ambler BH Development Partners L.P. (Ambler Boiler House) will be submitting a Conditional Use Application for shared parking on behalf of Ambler BH Development and LTK.
5. The Planning Commission reviewed the Parking Ordinance to identify possible amendments. The Committee has reviewed recommended changes.

Discussion ensued. Mr. Stephen Ware provided an overview on the intention to consider the Downtown Commercial District in its entirety and proposed an overall reduction of 25 percent in parking requirements to even the playing field. He stated that as the Downtown Commercial District has expanded and as changes in use have occurred, the issue of metered parking has worsened. Mr. Isabella stated his concern that businesses on

side streets are treated differently. Mr. Gerald Rath, Solicitor for the Zoning Hearing Board stated that Mixed Use properties pose a difficulty regarding parking requirements. He noted that businesses cannot be singled out and denied use of municipal lots just because they are on side streets. Solicitor Bresnan stated that other than creating an Ordinance amendment to reduce parking requirements by 25 percent, no other changes need to be made because parking is an enforcement issue, not an ordinance issue. He also noted that property holders can go before the Zoning Hearing Board to seek a variance.

In New Business

1. Glen Mawr Home Sites (4 lots) conditions of approval for a subdivision plan approved by Council in 1986 were received. Acknowledgement that the 1986 conditions appear on the plan to be recorded and that the conditions are on the plan, per the engineer. The property is located at Edgewood Drive (East), Valley Brook Road (North) and are lands of John R. Betts.

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.

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 awarding a plowing and salting services contract for the Wissahickon Fire Station lot with lowest, responsive quote obtained from contractor Matt Sylvestra. Seconded. Carried.

Recommend researching and drafting an ordinance intended to prevent vacant buildings from becoming a safety issue, a quality of life issue for neighboring buildings, and a loss of revenue concern for the Borough. Seconded. Carried.

Parks & Recreation Committee – The Committee will make no recommendations this evening states Ms. Tomlinson.

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

Recommend the Water Department purchase nine chlorine analyzers from LRM at a total cost of \$28,800 for new ground water rule 4-log removals that goes into effect April 1, 2011. Seconded. Carried.

Recommend the WWTP award the contract for the Cleaning of Digester ET-15 Project to Aqua Wastewater at a total bid cost of \$15,908.00. Seconded. Carried.

Recommend the WWTP purchase a new truck for the plant, with a capital item budgeted cost of \$30,000, through PA Co-Stars (State Contract Purchasing). Seconded. Carried.

Recommend the WWTP have the plant engineer prepare the specifications, bid document and advertisement for installing shear gates at the ends of the scum pipes on clarifiers ET-2 & 3, ET-6 & 7, ET-8 & 9, and ET-12 & 13 which will mostly eliminate additional recycle flow back to the main pumping station (PS-1) during high flows (rain events). Seconded. Carried.

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

Recommend that **JANUARY 2011** invoices in the amount of **\$656,676.65** be paid. Seconded. Carried. Seconded. Carried.

Recommend authorizing the Borough Solicitor to prepare a final Outdoor Vending Machine Ordinance which additionally shall limit the number of machines allowed “per tax parcel or postal address.” Seconded. Carried.

Recommend approval of the Caddick Minor Land Development at 254 S. Main Street, which was approved at the January 25, 2011 meeting of the Borough Planning Commission subject to the conditions of the Engineer’s letter of January 21, 2011 and the County Planner’s letter of January 25, 2011. Seconded. Carried.

Recommend the Borough Planning Commission update the Borough’s Comprehensive Plan and prepare certain minor revisions, review existing components and update to reflect 2010 Census Data. Seconded. Carried.

Recommend making a reimbursement to Calvary United Church in the amount of \$3,548.80 for damage to the Church’s drain pipe due to the curb and sidewalk project along Lindenwold Avenue near Park Avenue. Seconded. Carried.

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