

AMBLER BOROUGH COUNCIL MINUTES

July 19, 2011

The regular monthly meeting of Ambler Borough Council was held Tuesday, July 19, 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 Bud Wahl led the public in the Pledge of Allegiance and a moment of silence.

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, Sgt. Keefer and Mrs. Aversa also were present. Mr. Isabella was absent.

A motion was made to approve Minutes of the June 21, 2011 meeting with recommended revisions. Seconded. Carried.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

The Committees of the Ambler Borough Council held no meetings in July. 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 adopting **Resolution 2011-09** for the purchase of seven new police radios under County bond to upgrade the County communication system at an estimated cost of \$850.00 per year per radio for 10 years.
2. Consider adoption of **Ordinance 1058** changing Water Street direction of travel to southerly.

Additional items reviewed this evening:

1. The Police Department and Fire Department June 2011 reports were received.

2. The June 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. A discussion was held regarding dissatisfaction with the quality of work from the PennDOT contractor who installed handicap ramps at the intersection of Butler Avenue and Main Street. Code Enforcement Officer Ron Myers stated the contractor had made a monolithic concrete pour for the sidewalk/curb and that it could cost \$12-15,000 per corner to jackhammer out and repour the curb and sidewalk. He stated a 30-day waiting period exists where PennDOT determines if the signals operate and are timed properly. He further stated that PennDOT probably would not come back to redo work that the Borough was not satisfied with. It was agreed that Solicitor Bresnan would review the issue of structural integrity with Mr. Myers. 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 recommendations this evening:

1. Consider contracting with the lowest bidder for the flat concrete work (Phase 2 – replacement of surfaces) for the Skate Park/Multi-Purpose surface at Knight Park, to be undertaken once the ramp work is complete.
2. Consider sponsoring another Band Night this summer.

Discussion ensued. It was announced that due to the heatwave, the July 22nd Movie Night had been cancelled. It was agreed to reschedule the film in September and to put off holding another Band Night until next summer.

3. Consider, independent of the Green Building Grant request for Knight Park, continuing plans for the Wissahickon Trail Connection Project at Church and Main Streets.

Discussion ensued. Mrs. Aversa stated that consideration of the trail connector as a separate project would cost the Borough \$40-50,000 in matching funds. Mr. Pasceri stated that the Borough did not have money for this project. Council asked whether Mrs. Aversa could determine if work-in-kind would be acceptable to the County. It was agreed to defer action on this issue until Mrs. Aversa could determine obligation of the Borough in undertaking this project.

Additional items reviewed this evening:

1. State Representative Todd Stephens will be hosting an Ice Cream Social at 6:30 pm on July 22nd at Ricciardi Park.
2. A list of invasive species to be removed from the Planting Ordinance was sent to the Planning Commissions.

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 is requested to contract with Exelon Energy for AWWTP for electric usage through December 2012 at generation and transmission low quote of \$0.06348/KWH. The current rate for generation only with PECO is \$0.08480. Quotes were received from three other suppliers: Glacial Energy (\$0.0710); PP&L Energy (\$0.06566) and The Energy Cooperative (\$0.0866).

Discussion ensued. Ms. Tomlinson asked for further clarification of the composition of the proposed energy rate charges and for an explanation as to why the contract would be for only one year. After much discussion, it was agree to defer action on this matter until Mrs. Aversa could speak with Bruce Junes, WWTP Supervisor.

Additional items reviewed this evening:

1. The June 2011 WWTP Supervisor's and Engineer's reports were received.

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 **JUNE 2011** invoices in the amount of **\$505,203.45** be paid as follows: General (**\$168,246.90**); Street Lights (**\$11,719.70**); Fire (**\$5,294.52**); Parks & Rec. (**\$4,905.68**); Water (**\$96,596.24**); Sewer (**\$11,561.22**); WWTP (**\$215,636.12**);

Rail Corridor (**\$0.00**); Road Overlay (**\$0.00**); Debt Fund (**\$0.00**); Water Capital (**\$0.00**); Liquid Fuels (**\$226.27**) and voided checks totaling \$8,983.20.

2. Consider adoption of **Resolution 2011-10** in support of H.R. 1489, "The Return to Prudent Banking Act."

Additional items to be reviewed this evening.

1. The Borough Engineer's June 2011 report was received.
2. The Planning Commission has prepared a letter with recommended changes in the Downtown Commercial Zoning District Parking requirements.

Discussion ensued. Ms. Tomlinson asked for a copy of County Planner Ennis' letter regarding the ratio of parking in surrounding municipalities.

3. A draft copy of the 2010 audit was received. The auditors will attend the August 16, 2011 Council meeting.
4. The Committee is preparing procedures for filling volunteer committee/council vacancies.

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.

There was no further business reviewed this evening:

RECOMMENDATIONS

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

Consider adopting **Resolution 2011-09** for the purchase of seven new police radios under County bond to upgrade the County communication system at an estimated cost of \$850.00 per year per radio for 10 years. Seconded. Carried.

Consider adoption of **Ordinance 1058** changing Water Street direction of travel to southerly. Seconded. Carried.

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

Consider contracting with the lowest bidder for the flat concrete work (Phase 2 – replacement of surfaces) for the Skate Park/Multi-Purpose surface at Knight Park, to be undertaken once the ramp work is complete. Seconded. Carried.

Public Utilities Committee – The Committee will make no recommendations this evening stated Mr. S. Pasceri.

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

Consideration that **JUNE 2011** invoices in the amount of **\$505,203.45** be paid. Seconded. Carried.

Consider adoption of **Resolution 2011-10** in support of H.R. 1489, "The Return to Prudent Banking Act." Seconded. Carried.

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

IN NEW MATTERS:

Mr. S. Pasceri made a motion to cancel the scheduled August Committee Meeting due to numerous scheduling conflicts of Councilpersons. Seconded. Carried.

Mr. Philip Benigno, Water Supervisor advised Council that current water production during the summer heatwave is 1,690 gallons per minute (gpm), that demand is currently 1,450 gpm, leaving a surplus of only 249 gpm. He asked the community to voluntarily reduce its consumption of water.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Elizabeth Russell
Administrative Assistant
Borough of Ambler