

AMBLER BOROUGH COUNCIL MINUTES

June 21, 2011

The regular monthly meeting of Ambler Borough Council was held Tuesday, June 21, 2011 at 7:00 p.m. at Borough Council Chambers located at 122 E. Butler Avenue, Ambler, Pennsylvania 19002. President Antonio Isabella presided.

Mayor Bud 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, Ms. Maxion, Mr. S. Pasceri, Mrs. Strus, Ms. Tomlinson and Mr. Curtis. Mayor Wahl, Solicitor Bresnan, Chief Foley and Mrs. Aversa also were present.

A motion was made to approve Minutes of the May 18, 2011 meeting as submitted. Seconded. Carried.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

The Committees of the Ambler Borough Council met on Tuesday, June 7, 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 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. The Environmental Advisory Council has asked the Police Department to review a Borough street lighting list which the EAC has marked up, suggesting certain street lights for removal to save on the amount of electricity used. The committee will recommend **against** removal of street lights in the Borough.

2. Authorization is requested, and approval has been recommended by the Police Department, to install a 'reserved disabled' parking sign for a resident on North Ridge Avenue.
3. Authorization is requested by the Police Department for the purchase of six new police radios, the purchase under County bond, with an estimated cost of \$850 per year for 10 years.

Discussion ensued. Chief Foley explained in response to Mr. Curtis' inquiry regarding radio frequencies, that all jurisdictions in the County are to be on the same digital frequency and that the County would like neighboring Counties and peripheral areas to be on board as well. He stated that the Borough radio will continue to operate as a separate system. In response to Ms. Tomlinson's question as to when this all will occur, Mrs. Aversa stated that the County wants an assurance that the Borough will move forward on this, that she has requested a sample resolution to be drafted by the County and that bond probably will be established this year with the equipment purchase next year.

4. Recommend advertising for adoption and Ordinance which amends §15 Part 207 of the Code, "One Way Streets Established," to change the traffic flow direction of Water Street currently from south-to-north to that of north-to-south.

Discussion ensued. Ms. Strus asked whether the surrounding streets had received notice of the intention to change the traffic directional. Mr. Amento asked whether motorists would be given "education time" to adjust to the new traffic flow. Chief Foley stated that notices had been distributed in the surrounding area and that the Police Department would be lenient with motorists until they became accustomed to the change in traffic pattern.

In other business the following was reviewed this evening:

1. The Police Department and Fire Department May 2011 reports were received.
2. The May 2011 Public Works, Safety Minutes and Code Enforcement reports were received.
3. A memo was received from the Solicitor regarding an ordinance under review intent on preventing vacant buildings from becoming a safety issue.

Discussion ensued. Solicitor Bresnan reiterated to Council that if a building is up to code and the taxes are paid, Council cannot pass an ordinance penalizing a property owner for allowing a structure to be vacant.

Mrs. Strus asked if there were comments or questions from Council or the public. Chief Foley stated he would like to recognize Dick Hill of the 125th American Legion Post for enabling the Police Department to receive additional AED Equipment (CPR equipment)

so that the PD could have station-based equipment. 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 make the following recommendations this evening:

1. Authorization is requested to send the Planting Ordinance to the Borough and County Planning Commissions recommending removal of invasive species.

In other business the following was reviewed this evening:

1. The ‘Movie Night in the Park’ and ‘Band Night in the Park’ schedule for the 2011 season is as follows:
 - Band Night – “Six Packs” plays May 6th at Knight Park from 7:00-8:30 pm.
 - Movie Night – “How to Train Your Dragon” at Pickering Field on June 24th at dusk
 - Movie Night – “Megamind” at Ricciardi Park July 22 at dusk
 - Movie Night – “Toy Story 3” at Knight Park on August 19th at dusk
2. State Representative Todd Stephens will be hosting an Ice Cream Social at 6:30 pm on June 24th, prior to Family Movie Night.
3. Ambler/YMCA Summer Camp will run from June 20-July 29, 2011 from 9:00-3:00 pm daily.

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 have the plant engineer receive quotes for installing new waste gas burners that will replace the two existing waste gas burners, one located on B-4 and one on EB-1. Replacement units are now made of stainless steel instead of carbon steel. Funds are available in Capital, balance digester cleaning/repairs.

In other business the following was reviewed this evening:

1. The May 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 **MAY 2011** invoices in the amount of **\$555,811.32** be paid as follows: General (**\$135,312.04**); Street Lights (**\$6,774.44**); Fire (**\$67,692.56**); Parks & Rec. (**\$16,986.30**); Water (**\$97,409.90**); Sewer (**\$37,482.82**); WWTP (**\$193,908.34**); Rail Corridor (**\$0.00**); Road Overlay (**\$0.00**); Debt Fund (**\$0.00**); Water Capital (**\$0.00**); Liquid Fuels (**\$640.36**) and voided checks totaling \$395.44.
2. Consider signing a 4-year contract with ADP for payroll services.

Discussion ensued. Mrs. Aversa stated that due to an officer's imminent retirement, final data for the final audit report would be forthcoming.

In other business the following was reviewed this evening:

1. The Borough Engineer's May 2011 report was received.
2. The Committee is considering the creation of a new zoning district to resolve parking issues for Downtown Commercial properties that are not on Butler Avenue.
3. A formal ribbon cutting and unveiling of a plaque will take place at the new Ambler Train Station on Sunday, July 17th at 2:00 pm.
4. A letter of interest to fill the Environmental Advisory Council vacancy was received from Karen Salvadore.
5. A recommendation from the Wissahickon Valley Public Library to re-appoint Karen Kaiser and Denny Whalen to the WVPL Board of Trustees was received.

Mr. Kenney asked if there were questions or comments from Council or the public. Mr. Kenney stated that the new gateway sign at Butler Avenue and Bethlehem Pike looks

great. 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:

Recommend **against** the EAC’s request for removal of street lights in the Borough. Seconded. Carried.

Recommend approval per Police Department recommendation, to install a ‘reserved disabled’ parking sign for a resident on North Ridge Avenue. Seconded. Carried.

Authorization is requested by the Police Department for the purchase of six new police radios, the purchase under County bond, with an estimated cost of \$850 per year for 10 years. Seconded. Carried.

Recommend advertising for adoption and Ordinance which amends §15 Part 207 of the Code, “One Way Streets Established,” to change the traffic flow direction of Water Street currently from south-to-north to that of north-to-south. Seconded. Carried.

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

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

Authorization is requested to send the Planting Ordinance to the Borough and County Planning Commissions recommending removal of invasive species. Seconded. Carried.

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

Recommend that **MAY 2011** invoices in the amount of **\$555,811.32** be paid. Seconded. Carried.

Consider signing a 4-year contract with ADP for payroll services. Seconded. Carried.

Recommend appointing Karen Salvadore to the Environmental Advisory Council. Seconded. 6-Aye;3-Nay (Ms. Tomlinson, Mrs. Strus, Mr. Curtis). Carried.

Recommend re-appointing Karen Kaiser and Denny Whalen to the WVPL Board of Trustees. Seconded. 6-Aye;3-Nay (Ms. Tomlinson, Mrs. Strus, Mr. Curtis). Carried.

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

IN NEW MATTERS:

Ms. Tomlinson and Ms. Maxion stated their concern that not enough time was spent on the volunteer ‘search’ to fill the EAC and WVPL vacancies. Mr. Curtis asked why the applicants were not in attendance at the Council meeting. Ms. Maxion asked that creation of a volunteer search policy be placed on the next Committee agenda. It was agreed that such a policy review would be placed on the next Committee agenda.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Elizabeth Russell
Administrative Assistant
Borough of Ambler