

AMBLER BOROUGH COUNCIL MINUTES

September 20, 2011

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

Mr. Isabella 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. Solicitor Bresnan, Chief Foley and Borough Manager Mrs. Aversa also were present. Mayor Wahl was absent.

A motion was made to approve Minutes of the August 16, 2011 meeting. Seconded. Carried.

Mr. Isabella stated his appreciation of efforts undertaken during and after Tropical Storm Lee by Borough Supervisors, Fire and Police, such efforts being above and beyond the call of duty.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

The Committees of the Ambler Borough Council met on Tuesday, September 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 make no recommendations this evening:

In other business the following was reviewed this evening:

1. The Police Department report for August 2011 was received and the Fire Department 2011 report has yet to be received.
2. The August 2011 Public Works and Code Enforcement reports were received.
3. The August 2011 Safety Committee meeting minutes were reviewed.
4. Damage caused by Hurricane Irene was discussed. Council received a listing of municipal damages caused by Tropical Storm Lee.
5. Mayor Wahl will present a Proclamation to Sergeant Borkowski and Patrolman Rhodes at the October Committee Meeting.

Mrs. Strus asked if there were comments or questions from Council or the public. An update was requested by Ms. Tomlinson regarding dissatisfaction with the quality of work from the PennDOT contractor who installed handicap ramps at the intersection of Butler Avenue and Main Street. Mrs. Aversa stated that a sampling showed that concrete depth was 9-10 inches and not the 3-4 inches originally poured, and as such digging up the area will not prove the contractor did not comply. 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 no recommendations this evening:

In other business the following was reviewed this evening:

1. The Movie Megamind will be shown on September 24th at Ricciardi Park. [Note: Movie was again cancelled due to inclement weather.]
2. A list of invasive species to be removed from the Planting Ordinance was sent to the Planning Commissions.
3. Concrete work at the Knight Park Skate Park is complete. Additional grading and landscaping is to be completed. A Saturday A.M. official opening will be scheduled.

Discussion ensued. Mr. S. Pasceri asked whether safety helmets are mandatory at the Skate Park. Mrs. Aversa stated they are, and that this is posted on the sign at the Skate

Park. Solicitor Bresnan suggested that the Committee **recommend adoption of Resolution 2011-17** recognizing the posted park rules requiring protective gear.

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. Amento.

The Committee will consider the following actions this evening:

1. Authorization is requested to contract with Interstate Waster Services for the sludge disposal contract for the low bid of \$57.00 per ton for five years.
2. Authorization is requested to award the project contract for the removal of old waste gas burners and installation of new ones to C&T Associates, Inc. for the low quote cost of \$10,960.00.
3. Authorization is requested to award the project contract cost for the removal, supply and installation of five new CPI's on the digester floating covers for the low quote of \$23,576.00.

Discussion ensued. Ms. Tomlinson asked whether these costs were at or below budget. Mrs. Aversa stated that all requests were below budget.

In other business the following was reviewed this evening:

1. The August 2011 WWTP Supervisor's and Engineer's reports were received.
2. Whitmarsh Pump Station was flooded twice, during Hurricane Irene and T.S. Lee causing damage to one of the pumps. Staff is working to get the facility back on line.
3. T.S. Lee caused Loch Alsh Reservoir dam to overflow and staff has been draining the resesrvoir with an additional rented pump. DEP approval is being sought to allow for additional permanent drainage at the site. The articulated concrete block (ACB) being laid as part of rehabilitation of the dam shifted and will need to be lifted and reset. Costs for damages have yet to be determined, however staff will apply to FEMA for mitigation monies.

Mr. Amento 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 **AUGUST 2011** invoices in the amount of **\$503,084.95** be paid as follows: General (**\$146,082.70**); Street Lights (**\$9,342.64**); Fire (**\$1,137.09**); Parks & Rec. (**\$39,478.13**); Water (**\$101,325.40**); Sewer (**\$38,914.74**); WWTP (**\$162,154.44**); Rail Corridor (**\$0.00**); Road Overlay (**\$0.00**); Debt Fund (**\$0.00**); Water Capital (**\$0.00**); Liquid Fuels (**\$4,649.81**).
2. Consider adoption of **Ordinance 1059** to be in compliance with Act 44 as recommended by Borough Actuarial Joseph Duda.
3. Consider preparing a draft Ordinance for Planning Commission review referencing changes to the Downtown Commercial Zoning District parking requirements.
4. Consider approving the County's new planning assistance contract.

Additional items to be reviewed this evening.

1. The Borough Engineer's August 2011 report was received.
2. Several local business owners will be discussing alternatives to the Business Privilege Tax and a list of suggested changes will be provided.
3. The Borough is required under GASB 54 to reclassify its fund balances. Council has received a memorandum from the Finance Department and the matter was reviewed.

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 the following actions this evening:

There was no further business reviewed this evening:

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 will make no recommendations this evening stated Mrs. Strus.

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

Recommend adoption of **Resolution 2011-17** recognizing the Knight Park skate park posted park rules requiring protective gear for skateboarders. Seconded. Carried.

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

Recommend contracting with Interstate Waster Services for the sludge disposal contract for the low bid of \$57.00 per ton for five years. Seconded. Carried.

Recommend awarding the project contract for the removal of old waste gas burners and installation of new ones to C&T Associates, Inc. for the low quote cost of \$10,960.00. Seconded. Carried.

Recommend awarding the project contract cost for the removal, supply and installation of five new CPI's on the digester floating covers for the low quote of \$23,576.00. Seconded. Carried.

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

Recommend that **AUGUST 2011** invoices in the amount of **\$503,084.95** be paid. Seconded. Carried.

Recommend adoption of **Ordinance 1059** to be in compliance with Act 44 as recommended by Borough Actuarial Joseph Duda. Seconded. Carried.

Recommend preparing a draft Ordinance for Planning Commission review referencing changes to the Downtown Commercial Zoning District parking requirements. Seconded. Carried.

Recommend approving the County's new planning assistance contract. Seconded. Carried.

Salary & Personnel Committee – The Committee recommends and Mr. S. Pasceri moves.

Consider authorizing the Solicitor to update the Borough drug and alcohol policy for employees, which was provided by the Delaware Valley Insurance Trust Co. (DVIT). Seconded. Carried.

IN NEW MATTERS:

A presentation was made by David Bittner of 9 Orange Avenue, representing as elected speaker the Orange Avenue neighborhood's concerns and appeals for Borough intervention from severe storm damage that occurred as a result of the September 8th flooding from Tropical Storm Lee. Mr. Bittner's focal points included Public Safety/Hazmat Analysis; Return to Acceptable Living Conditions and Resources Available; Vacant Homes; Communication Practices; and, Preparedness for the Future.

Mrs. Aversa responded that the County, DEP and Hazmat professionals had been on-site four times and that air sampling evaluation results showed that residents could return to their homes. Regarding vacant homes (numbers 3, 17 and 37), Mrs. Aversa stated the Borough has contacted owners and that clean-up is not forthcoming a contractor will be hired and the property will be lienied.

Mr. Bittner itemized the losses incurred by most residents, including electrical panels, water heaters, gas services, washer/dryer, and furnace. He stated that mold remediation, street cleaning and removal of toxin-holding plant life would be needed. Mr. Bresnan stated that while the Borough was aware of the items damaged or destroyed, the Borough itself could not acquire the items (as part of a group discounted purchase) for non-municipal purposes and that Council could not assist in such purchasing.

Mr. Bittner discussed resources and agencies offering assistance. Mrs. Aversa stated that the Borough was still waiting for a disaster relief declaration from FEMA. Mr. Bittner asked Council to consider establishing a permanent Public Relief Fund line item in its 2012 budget. Mr. Bresnan questioned whether Council had the authority to undertake this. Mrs. Aversa stated that a disaster relief fund had been opened at the request of the Borough at Ambler Savings Bank.

Mr. Bittner asked that in preparation for future events, the Borough keep the lines of communication open, with notifications being posted at the Borough, through mailings,

on the Internet, or in person. In response for his request for infrastructure preparedness, Mrs. Aversa stated the Borough had for several years now studies storm water management and that the Borough follows procedures outlined in emergency action plans for occurrences such as Tropical Storm Lee.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Elizabeth Russell
Administrative Assistant
Borough of Ambler