

## AMBLER BOROUGH COUNCIL MINUTES

April 17, 2012

The regular monthly meeting of Ambler Borough Council was held Tuesday, April 17, 2012 at 7:00 p.m. at Borough Council Chambers located at 122 E. Butler Avenue, Ambler, Pennsylvania 19002. President Antonio Isabella presided.

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, Mr. Curtis and Mr. Zaccone. Mayor Wahl, Solicitor Bresnan, Chief William Foley and Borough Manager Mary Aversa also were in attendance.

A motion was made to approve the Minutes of the March 20, 2012 meeting. Seconded. Carried.

Mayor Wahl greeting Boy Scouts from Troop 540 (St. Joseph's) who were in attendance at this evening's meeting as part of a requirement towards earning merit badges.

### **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

The Committees of the Ambler Borough Council met on Tuesday, April 3, 2012 at 7:00 p.m. in Borough Council Chambers located at 122 E. Butler Ave. Present: Mr. Amento, Mr. G. Pasceri, Mr. Kenney, Mr. S. Pasceri, Mrs. Strus, Ms. Tomlinson Mr. Curtis and Mr. Zaccone. Mayor Wahl, Chief Foley, Solicitor Bresnan and Borough Manager Mrs. Aversa also were present. Mr. Isabella was absent.

At the Council Meeting this evening, the Committees conducted business as follows:

#### **Public Safety Committee – Mrs. Strus, Chairperson**

Committee members: Mr. G. Pasceri and Mr. Curtis

The Public Safety Committee report was given this evening by Mrs. Strus.

**The Committee will consider no actions this evening.**

**In other business the following was reviewed this evening:**

1. The March 2012 Police Department and Fire Department reports were received.

2. The March 2012 Public Works and Code Enforcement reports were received.

Mrs. Strus asked if there were comments or questions from Council or the public. Mrs. Judy Baigis of 172 Tennis Avenue inquired about the decking currently under construction in front of Deterra Restaurant. Code Enforcement Officer Myers stated the decking is within code, is not on Borough property and that ADA clearance is being complied with. Mrs. Strus invited the public to attend the Wissahickon Fire House All-You-Can-Eat Pasta Night fundraiser with food prepared by The Fireside on Saturday, April 28<sup>th</sup> from 4:30-7:00 pm. There being nothing further, it was moved the report be accepted as filed. Seconded, carried.

**Parks and Recreation Committee – Mr. Curtis, Chairperson**

Committee members: Mr. Kenney and Ms. Tomlinson

The Parks and Recreation Committee report was given this evening by Mr. Curtis.

**The Committee will consider no actions this evening.**

**In other business the following was reviewed this evening:**

1. The schedule for this summer's Movies in the Parks and Band Nights in the Parks was announced: Preliminary Schedule: MOVIES: May 4<sup>th</sup> "Megamind" at Knight Park; June 1<sup>st</sup> "Toy Story 3" at Ricciardi Park ; September 7<sup>th</sup> to be determined at Pickering Field. BANDS: July 13<sup>th</sup> and August 3<sup>rd</sup> at Pickering Field.
2. The Borough is working with the Ambler YMCA to schedule the 2012 YMCA Summer Camp Program.

Mr. Curtis 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 and Mr. Zaccone

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 award the job of Nitrification Tower T-2 Media Removal Replacement to Eastern Environmental Contractors Inc. for \$1,194,400.

Discussion ensued. Mrs. Aversa stated the lowest bid was \$40,000 over projected budget, but that monies are available at WWTP to make up the difference. Boy Scout Ben Babiak asked where all of this money would come from. Mrs. Aversa stated that several jurisdictions pay for use of the sewage facility, and that Ambler Borough's portion is 18-19%. The revenues are part of the water/sewer/trash bill for Borough residents.

**In other business the following was reviewed this evening:**

1. The March 2012 WWTP Supervisor's and Engineer's reports were reviewed.

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: Mrs. Strus 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 **MARCH 2012** invoices in the amount of **\$619,381.43** be paid as follows: General (**\$298,553.63**); Street Lights (**\$6,355.43**); Fire (**\$15,832.89**); Parks & Rec. (**\$2,693.27**); Water (**\$105,212.97**); Sewer (**\$16,652.85**); WWTP (**\$174,959.56**); Rail Corridor (**\$0.00**); Road Overlay (**\$0.00**); Debt Fund (**\$0.00**); Water Capital (**\$0.00**); Liquid Fuels (**\$2,581.70**) with voided checks totaling \$3,460.87.

**In other business the following was reviewed this evening:**

1. The Borough Engineer's March 2012 report was received.
2. Staff has prepared a list of streets for paving in 2012-2013.
3. A draft Codification of the Borough Code was received and staff is waiting for the update to be returned from General Code.
4. The Zoning Hearing Board meeting schedule for the Billboard Application was cancelled.
5. Staff has met with the surrounding Townships to discuss the possibility of a Boys' and Girls' Club program in our area.

6. Mr. Martin Brown of Ambler Savings Bank is scheduled to discuss funding options available to the Borough for a parking garage.

Mr. Brown stated that the financing of a deck over the existing parking lot at Lindenwold and Race Streets could be realized through bonds issued either by the Borough, a Parking Authority or through private financing. He stressed the importance of undertaking a feasibility study for the project which would assist in obtaining financing. The feasibility study should determine from an engineering perspective whether the project can be done and also, from a financing perspective the project's anticipated revenues. Mr. Brown stated it was his understanding that the Borough would like to use County Grant money received, which must be used by the end of 2012, to fund the feasibility study.

Mrs. Aversa stated the Parking Authority is dormant yet still exists and can be activated with a board consisting of five members appointed. The Authority would be allowed to oversee only one lot and would not be required to be responsible for other lots in the Borough. She stated she did not think the County would object to using grant funds for a feasibility study. Mr. Brown stated the Authority would not be rated because the project would be under \$10 million and the Authority would involve only with one project.

Mrs. Strus asked that Gilmore engineers prepare a quote to conduct a feasibility study as well as a preliminary design. Mr. Jim Dougherty, Borough Engineer, stated that the nearby site where Bottom Dollar will be locating consisted of bedrock within 20 feet of the surface, and as such he felt this was a realistic project to consider.

Mr. Kenney asked whether the Borough would be the guarantor for the Parking Authority. Mrs. Aversa stated any debt would be Parking Authority debt. Mr. Brown felt that better financing opportunities would exist if the Borough had some involvement. Mayor Wahl stated the Borough must spend money for a feasibility study to know once and for all what is feasible and that the Borough could back into the finances to determine what to charge for parking.

Mrs. Baigis inquired as to whether older studies conducted when the lot was first designed could be used. Mrs. Aversa stated any studies undertaken 30 years ago would not be valid because the compacting studies would be 30 years out of date.

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. Amento and Mr. Zaccone

The Salary and Personnel Committee report was given this evening by Mr. S. Pasceri.

**The Committee will consider the following actions this evening:**

1. Recommend adopting Ordinance 1065 setting the annual compensation for members of Borough Council and the Mayor.

Discussion ensued. Mrs. Baigis asked what motivated creating the ordinance given the current economy. She questioned whether Council would be in line with the State borough code and stated her preference for the continued flat rate of compensation. Mr. S. Pasceri stated that more than 15 years ago compensation for the Borough Council President and Mayor were set higher than that of the rest of Council. Fifteen years ago Council changed compensation to a flat rate of \$2,500 per member. The ordinance, therefore would return compensation to the prior level and would be in line with the State borough code. Mr. Kenney added that while the ordinance would increase the budget by \$5,000 a year, it must be recognized that the Council President and Mayor put in an extraordinary amount of time on government affairs.

2. Recommend adopting Borough employee Drug & Alcohol Policy.

**No other business was 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 will make no recommendations this evening stated Mr. Curtis.

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

Authorization is requested to award the job of Nitrification Tower T-2 Media Removal Replacement to Eastern Environmental Contractors Inc. for \$1,194,400. Seconded. Carried.

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

Recommend the March bills totaling \$619,381.43 be paid. Seconded. Carried.

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

Recommend adoption of Ordinance 1065 setting the annual compensation for Borough Council and the Mayor. Seconded. Carried.

Recommend adopting the Borough employee Drug & Alcohol Policy. Seconded. Carried.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Elizabeth Russell  
Administrative Assistant  
Borough of Ambler