

AMBLER BOROUGH COUNCIL MINUTES

December 18, 2012

The regular monthly meeting of Ambler Borough Council was held Tuesday, December 18, 2012 at 7:00 p.m. at Borough Council Chambers located at 122 E. Butler Avenue, Ambler, Pennsylvania 19002. President Antonio Isabella presided.

Councilman Kenney led the public in the Pledge of Allegiance and for a moment of thoughts and prayers this holiday season for the families in Newtown, Connecticut.

Roll Call – Present: Mr. Isabella, Mr. Amento, Mr. Kenney, Mrs. Strus, Mr. S. Pasceri, Ms. Tomlinson, Mr. Curtis and Mr. Zaccone. Solicitor Bresnan, Chief William Foley and Borough Manager Mary Aversa also were in attendance. Mr. G. Pasceri and Mayor Wahl were absent.

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

COMMITTEE REPORTS

The Committees of the Ambler Borough Council met on Tuesday, December 4, 2012 at 7:00 p.m. in Borough Council Chambers located at 122 E. Butler Ave. Present: Mr. Isabella, Mr. Amento, 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. G. Pasceri and Mr. Kenney were 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 November 2012 Police Department report and Community Ambulance report were received and the Fire Department will be provided.
2. The November 2012 Public Works and Code Enforcement reports were received.

3. The Planning Commission has provided the language for a new section to the Property Maintenance Code relative to the issue of Parking Control Device Regulations and permanent pylons.

Discussion ensued. Solicitor Bresnan stated that he had reviewed the proposed language and suggested that the language should be 'beefed up' to clarify that should a property owner decide to cordon off parking spaces certain criteria must be met. He stated he could revise the proposed language and prepare the document in ordinance format and that the document should be returned to the Planning Commission and the County Planning Commission for final review before being presented to Council. Ms. Tomlinson noted that a requirement that pylons be set 18-inches from the curb ignored the fact that in most areas sidewalks exist and therefore the requirement should be for a setback from the edge of the sidewalk and not the curb.

Mrs. Strus 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.

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. A revised list of procedures for events held at the Skate Park and for other park events is being prepared by the Police Department and should be ready for distribution to Council by the January meeting.

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 no actions this evening.

In other business the following was reviewed this evening:

1. The November 2012 WWTP Supervisor's and Engineer's reports were reviewed.
2. The recoating of Houston Road Water Tank is complete.

3. DEP's annual inspection of Loch Alsh Reservoir was conducted on October 25, 2012. The Reservoir received good marks for its embankment, downstream area, spillway, outlet works, upstream/downstream/crest concrete and masonry. No directive requiring investigation or repair was issued.
4. Water Department has been in contact with the property owner at Well 11 who is considering subdividing his land and offering the garage for sale to the Borough. The Borough currently has an easement to access the well. Staff is obtaining an asking price for the garage.

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 **November 2012** invoices in the amount of **\$732,904.39** are to be paid as follows: General (**\$133,356.46**); Street Lights (**\$5,873.19**); Fire (**\$0.00**); Parks & Rec. (**\$3,654.46**); Water (**\$344,071.96**); Sewer (**\$44,944.55**); WWTP (**\$190,363.88**); Rail Corridor (**\$0.00**); Road Overlay (**\$9,804.04**); Debt Fund (**\$0.00**); Water Capital (**\$0.00**); Liquid Fuels (**\$835.85**).
2. Recommend adopting **Ordinance 1067** Fixing the Real Estate Tax for FY2013.
3. Recommend considering allowing use of the Borough Parking Lot #1 which is adjacent to the SEPTA tracks for use by a Farmer's Market.

Discussion ensued. It was announced the market would operate from 9-1:00 pm on Saturdays and that the entrance would be cordoned off during operating hours. It was stated the preferred lot was at the TRAX Café, but that no agreement had been reached on using that lot.

4. Recommend adopting **Resolution 2012-10** setting Budget Appropriations for FY2013.
5. Recommend consideration of allocation of additional funds for Ambler Junior Baseball even while the 2013 budget had been approved at the December Committee Meeting.

Discussion ensued. Mr. Kenney stated that the Committee was not prepared to consider adjusting Parks Department allocations at the Council meeting and would take no action on the matter this evening.

In other business the following was reviewed this evening:

1. The Borough Engineer's November 2012 report was received.
2. Borough Engineers are preparing bid documents for the Lindenwold Parking Deck Project.
3. The 2013 Borough meeting schedule will be advertised, with Committee meetings to schedule on first Tuesdays and Council meetings to schedule on third Tuesdays. The January Committee Meeting will be held January 2, 2013 due to New Year's Day holiday and there will be no Committee Meeting held in July.
4. The Flood Plain Ordinance has been sent to the Planning Commission for its recommendation to modify Borough Code Ch. 27, Part 2 ("Definitions") and Ch. 27, Part 19 ("Floodplain Conservation District.")
5. The request for sealed bids for Borough vehicles was advertised and bids were awarded for each vehicle at the Committee Meeting.
6. An Ordinance approving penalty, interest and fee schedule for collection of delinquent real estate taxes is being reviewed by the Borough Solicitor.
7. The Planning Commission has submitted its "Comprehensive Plan Update" for review. The Update will be presented in booklet format with color photographs, maps and charts and will maintain the vision and goals of the 2001 plan.

Discussion ensued. Ms. Tomlinson stated she thought the Update was too lengthy and should be condensed. Additionally, she stated her concern about printing costs.

8. Borough is submitting a application for a total project cost of \$3.4M for the Lindenwold Parking Deck to the Redevelopment Assistance Capital Program (RACP) requesting \$1.7M towards the project to reduce the burden of debt service. The Borough also is participating in a joint RACP application with Upper Dublin Township and Whitpain Township to deal with flooding issues from streams above the Church & Main area.

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. Consideration to be given to appoint members of the community to the following Borough committees, boards and councils for terms ending December 31, 2012: Vacancy Board (1 seat); Planning Commission (1 seat); Zoning Hearing Board (1 seat & 1 alternate seat); Environmental Advisory Council (1 seat); Appeals Board (1 seat); and Civil Service Commission (1 seat).

Discussion ensued. Mr. S. Pasceri stated the Committee would offer nominations and make appointments at the January Committee meeting.

In other business the following was reviewed this evening:

2. An Executive Session was held.
3. An Executive Session is needed regarding a personnel matter and regarding the Police Department employee contract.

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.

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

Public Utilities Committee – The Committee will make no recommendations this evening.

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

Recommend that **November 2012** invoices in the amount of **\$732,904.39** be paid. Seconded. Carried.

Recommend adopting **Ordinance 1067** Fixing the Real Estate Tax for FY2013. Seconded. Carried.

Recommend allowing use of the Borough Parking Lot #1 which is adjacent to the SEPTA tracks for use by a Farmer's Market. Seconded. Carried.

Recommend adopting **Resolution 2012-10** setting Budget Appropriations for FY2013. Seconded. Carried.

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

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

Respectfully submitted,

Elizabeth Russell
Administrative Assistant
Borough of Ambler