

## AMBLER BOROUGH COUNCIL MINUTES

January 17, 2012

The regular monthly meeting of Ambler Borough Council was held Tuesday, January 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. 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. Mr. G. Pasceri, Mr. Amento and Mr. Kenney were absent.

A motion was made to approve Minutes of the December 20, 2011 meeting. Seconded. Carried. A motion was made to approve Minutes of the January 3, 2012 Reorganization Meeting with suggested revisions. Seconded. Carried.

### **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

The Committees of the Ambler Borough Council met on Tuesday, January 3, 2012 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, 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.

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 the following actions this evening:**

1. Recommend adopting **Resolution 2012-1** adopting an Emergency Operations Plan for the Borough of Ambler.

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

1. The December 2011 Police Department and Fire Department reports were distributed.
2. The December 2011 Public Works and Code Enforcement reports and Safety Minutes were received.
3. The Mayor presented **Resolution 2012-2** and a key to Ambler Borough to State Representative Todd. (Motion seconded. Approved 9-0 at Committee Meeting).

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 make no recommendations this evening.**

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

1. A draft Planting Ordinance prepared by the Solicitor that lists invasive species to be removed was sent to the Planning Commissions for review and approval.
2. Park rules for the Knight Park Skate Park will be determined and the Solicitor will prepare an Ordinance for adoption. The type and size of fencing to be installed at the skate park is being discussed and quotes will be obtained.

Discussion ensued. Mrs. Aversa stated the Borough continues to obtain quotes and is considering the aesthetics of the fence as well as fence line and height. Ms. Tomlinson asked that Council be given a layout diagram of the proposed fence.

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. S. Pasceri.

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

1. The Borough has applied to FEMA for hazard mitigation funds to cover increased rehabilitation and redesign project costs at Loch Alsh Dam caused by the effect of

T.S. Lee. Costs to be considered include improved drainage and additional spillway improvements. The additional expense for FEMA consideration is approximately \$275,000. Authorization to proceed is requested.

2. Authorization is requested to have the WWTP plant engineer prepare the RFP for the Digester ET-16 cleaning and repairs project.
3. Authorization is requested to have the WWTP plant engineer prepare the RFP for the Nitrification Tower Filter Media Removal and Replacement Project.
4. Authorization is requested to have the Water Engineer prepare bid specs/documents and to advertise for bid the Houston Road Tank Lead Primer Removal & Tank Recoating Project.

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

1. The December 2011 WWTP Supervisor's and Engineer's reports were reviewed.
2. Eastern Environmental Contractors, Inc. stated the Grit Chamber Pump Relocation Project. The pump will be placed in service once the insulation contractor completes his work.
3. Staff awaits the contractor to begin the Electric Actuator E-3 project.
4. Heisey Mechanical, Ltd. Has fabricated the scum trough pipes for the secondary clarifiers.

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.

**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 Ms. Tomlinson.

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

1. Consideration that **DECEMBER 2011** invoices in the amount of **\$434,975.35** be paid as follows: General (**\$221,924.45**); Street Lights (**\$1,162.06**); Fire (**\$550.59**); Parks & Rec. (**\$1,148.37**); Water (**\$65,590.87**); Sewer (**\$29,829.52**); WWTP (**\$114,458.86**);

Rail Corridor (\$0.00); Road Overlay (\$0.00); Debt Fund (\$0.00); Water Capital (\$0.00); Liquid Fuels (\$247.63).

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

1. The Borough Engineer's December 2011 report was received.
2. MC Outdoor LLC will be making a presentation at the February Meeting to discuss their current application for a billboard sign in the Borough.

Discussion ensued. Solicitor Bresnan stated the applicant has decided to wait to make a presentation at a time when "conditional" leases have been secured. They have a 30-day extension until the February Committee Meeting. Mr. Bresnan stated that Council is obligated within a 6-month timeframe from the date the sign ordinance was repealed to adopt billboard criteria. Mr. Bresnan stated courts have found that billboard companies have a right to make a living and that Council must come up with defensible criteria. Since we have not allowed billboards at all, we have absolutely no criteria at present. Mr. Bresnan stated the applicant will probably hold onto industry standards, that Council must allow billboards, however, not to the extent of a 10'x30' highway-sized billboard. Responding to an inquiry from Mayor Wahl, Mr. Bresnan stated the current "Gateway Sign" is an exclusion and does not meet billboard criteria. Mr. Bresnan advised Council to consider zoning requirements to restrict placement of billboards. Mr. S. Pasceri stated the LRB Club has been approached to lease out 640 square feet of space for a billboard and that it was his intention to vote against allowing the billboard on LRB property. Ms. Tomlinson asked Mr. Bresnan to forward criteria to Council so they could act upon it in a timely manner.

3. Peter Penna, owner of 30 S. Bethlehem Pike (lessee Ambler Donut and three apartments) spoke to the issue of being granted an exemption from the trash ordinance so that he could continue to pay for trash removal (commercial and residential) on his property. Due to space limitations on the property, Mr. Penna has used one commercial-size dumpster to co-mingle commercial and residential trash. He has had to pay approximately \$900 in unused trash fees.

Discussion ensued. Solicitor Bresnan advised Council that the Gateway Ordinance would need to be amended to allow for this option. The Committee stated they would like to meet at Committee in February to further discuss this request.

4. A draft codification of the Borough Code was received and staff is reviewing the document.
5. Terms and payment options for borrowing funds for the Lindenwold Parking Lot Paving project are being solicited.

6. The Ambler Theater has submitted a Preliminary Application for Revitalization Funding from the County for the purchase of digital movie equipment. A resolution supporting the project is requested so the Theater may prepare its Final Application.
7. Borough Council appointed volunteers to vacant committee seats at its January 3, 2012. Volunteer opportunities still exist on the Environmental Advisory Council and the Appeals Board.
8. A Parking Symposium was held at Ambler Theater on January 10<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 pm involving Council, Ambler Main Street, merchants and interested parties in a discussion on downtown commercial parking issues.

Discussion ensued. Mrs. Aversa, responding to Ms. Tomlinson's inquiry as to how the Borough might move forward, stated (a) the Borough intends to speak with local business owners with parking on their properties who might make spaces available after hours; (b) the Borough will study improved/additional parking signage; (c) will review terms of parking including extended parking hours, continuation or discontinuation of free parking during December and during lunch hours; and (d) will consider purchase/rental of a transit trolley.

Ms. Tomlinson 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 no actions this evening:**

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

1. The Solicitor has preparing a Drug & Alcohol Policy for Borough employees. The policy will be presented to the Union before Council votes on adoption of the policy.

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 recommends and Mrs. Strus moves:

Recommend adopting **Resolution 2012-1** adopting an Emergency Operations Plan for the Borough of Ambler. Seconded. Carried.

**Parks & Recreation Committee** – The Committee will make no recommendations this evening stated Mr. Curtis.

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

The Borough has applied to FEMA for hazard mitigation funds to cover increased rehabilitation and redesign project costs of approximately \$275,000 at Loch Alsh Dam caused by the effect of T.S. Lee. Recommend authorization to proceed. Seconded. Carried.

Recommend authorizing the WWTP plant engineer to prepare the RFP for the Digester ET-16 cleaning and repairs project. Seconded. Carried.

Recommend authorizing the WWTP plant engineer to prepare the RFP for the Nitrification Tower Filter Media Removal and Replacement Project. Seconded. Carried.

Recommend authorizing the Water Engineer to prepare bid specs/documents and to advertise for bid the Houston Road Tank Lead Primer Removal & Tank Recoating Project. Seconded. Carried.

**Finance & Planning Committee** – The Committee recommends and Ms. Tomlinson moves:

Recommend the **DECEMBER 2011** invoices in the amount of **\$434,975.35** be paid. Seconded. Carried.

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

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

Respectfully submitted,

Elizabeth Russell  
Administrative Assistant  
Borough of Ambler