

AMBLER BOROUGH COUNCIL MINUTES

October 16, 2012

The regular monthly meeting of Ambler Borough Council was held Tuesday, October 16, 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. Kenney, 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 and Mr. S. Pasceri were absent.

A motion was made to approve the Minutes of the September 18, 2012 meeting. Seconded. Carried.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

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

3. Permits have been issued and work has begun at Finn McCool's.
4. A request was received from the Planning Commission to review and make recommendations for after hours use of the Borough Building Lot. This will be worked out privately with the Borough.
5. SEPTA will conduct public hearings on proposed changes to Route 94. Weeknight and Saturday evening service as well as all Sunday service is to be discontinued. Several residents have called with concerns about the propose change. Public hearings are scheduled for October 17th at 10:00 a.m. at Lansdale Borough Hall and at 3:00 p.m. at MCCC Science Center Auditorium.

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. Staff is preparing procedures for events held at the Skate Park and for other park events.

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 have the plant engineer prepare the RFP for the utility water line replacement at WWTP. Funds are available in the remaining portion of the paving line item.
2. Authorization is requested to award Gannett Fleming a contract for \$24,000 to conduct a new water hydraulic study to establish a current hydraulic model for the

water distribution system with study results being utilized to identify pipeline improvement projects needed in the system.

In other business the following was reviewed this evening:

1. The September 2012 WWTP Supervisor's and Engineer's reports were reviewed.
2. The WWTP Engineer has begun preparing the RFP for the replacement of pumps P-15 and P-16 in PS-3.
3. Electric service award for electric at the WWTP for 2013 and 2014 was given to Exelon Energy, based on a quoted charge of \$0.05267 per kilowatt hour.
4. The bid for Liquid Aluminum Sulfate has been advertised with bid opening scheduled for November 5, 2012 at 3:00 p.m. A recommendation for award will be prepared for the November Council meeting.
5. Princeton Hydro Engineers have completed an Inundation Map Update for Loch Alsh Reservoir Dam for utilization in the Emergency Action Plan (EAP). Council received copies of the Hydrology Report and Inundation Maps.

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 **September 2012** invoices in the amount of **\$1,679,219.02** be paid as follows: General (**\$138,859.35**); Street Lights (**\$6,020.49**); Fire (**\$46,270.81**); Parks & Rec. (**\$5,016.02**); Water (**\$272,553.99**); Sewer (**\$120,240.91**); WWTP (**\$1,090,097.33**); Rail Corridor (**\$0.00**); Road Overlay (**\$0.00**); Debt Fund (**\$0.00**); Water Capital (**\$0.00**); Liquid Fuels (**\$195.32**) and voided checks **\$25.20**.
2. Recommend adopting Resolution 2012-07 recognizing the actuarial condition of the Borough's Police Employee Pension Plan.
3. Recommend adopting Resolution 2012-08 recognizing the actuarial condition of the Borough's Municipal Employee Pension Plan.

4. Recommend, upon Council review of the Lindenwold Parking Deck Feasibility Report, determine further action.

Discussion ensued. Mr. Kenney announced the Committee's support of Parking Deck Option 3 which, at a cost of \$2.5M would result in a net gain of 101 spaces. He stated the Committee had met with Ambler Savings Bank and projected that financing of this project could be accomplished by obtaining a 30 year mortgage for \$2.5M at three percent interest. This would result in a monthly outlay of \$10,540 which could be offset as follows: (1) increased property tax revenue from the Ambler Savings Bank expansion would result in increased tax revenues of \$2,500, (2) increasing the reserved parking fee from 83 cents-per-day to \$2 per day for the 100 new spaces would result in increased revenues of \$3,300 per month, and (3) extending 70 metered spots 5 hours at 50 cents-per-hour would result in increased revenues of \$5,250 per month. Therefore, without even including revenues from the Business Privilege Tax which currently are being held in escrow, or the possibility of obtaining additional grant money, the Committee was confident that the debt can be serviced without encumbering residents of the Borough with tax increases. Mr. Kenney stated that the construction of the Lindenwold Parking Deck was the logical next step for Borough revitalization.

Mrs. Aversa stated the intention to shift all reserved parking to the Lindenwold Lot to free up available metered spaces at the Cavalier Lot. Mr. Curtis asked if the Borough could consider extra spaces at the Bottom Dollar Food Store location. Mr. Myers, Code Enforcement Officer, stated there are no extra spaces at that location.

Responding to Mr. Amento's concern over the Borough's bond rating, should the Borough incur this debt, Mr. Bresnan stated a municipality can incur 2.5 times its annual revenue in debt and therefore the size of this project, the Borough should be fine. Mr. Sal Boccuti of the Planning Commission asked that the Borough consider adjusting street parking limitations.

Ms. Tomlinson stated it is the intention of the Committee, based on their review of the feasibility study, to recommend moving forward on the project. This would involve budgeting for the preparation of architectural design plans. Mrs. Aversa stated construction would begin after completion of the new Ambler Saving Bank facility. She stated staff would look for additional funding resources including obtaining additional grant money from the County.

Approved at the Committee Meeting:

1. Recommendation to adopt Resolution 2012-09 in support of the continued use of Mattison Avenue Elementary School by the Wissahickon School District. Seconded, 9-Aye.

In other business the following was reviewed this evening:

1. The Borough Engineer's September 2012 report was received.

2. The Flood Plain Ordinance has been sent to the Planning Commission to be reviewed and compared with the model ordinance and which is to be amended or replaced to be compliant with the National Flood Insurance Program.
3. The 2012 paving project has begun.
4. The request for sealed bids for Borough vehicles will be advertised.
5. Staff is working on the draft 2013 budget.
6. The Planning Commission does not recommend a text amendment to the Ambler Borough Code in reference to Institutional Zoning to modify the permitted uses.

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. Amento.

The Committee will consider no actions this evening:

In other business the following was reviewed this evening:

1. An Executive Session was held regarding contract negotiations.

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.

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 recommends and Mr. Amento moves:

Recommend authorizing the plant engineer prepare the RFP for the utility water line replacement at WWTP. Seconded. Carried.

Recommend awarding Gannett Fleming a contract for \$24,000 to conduct a new water hydraulic study to establish a current hydraulic model for the water distribution system. Seconded. Carried.

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

Recommend that **September 2012** invoices in the amount of **\$1,679,219.02** be paid. Seconded. Carried.

Recommend adopting Resolution 2012-07 recognizing the actuarial condition of the Borough's Police Employee Pension Plan. Seconded. Carried.

Recommend adopting Resolution 2012-08 recognizing the actuarial condition of the Borough's Municipal Employee Pension Plan. Seconded. Carried.

Recommend approval of the Lindenwold Parking Deck Project to involve securing architectural design plans and moving forward on the construction and completion of the Lindenwold Parking Deck. Seconded. Carried.

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

Approved at the Committee Meeting:

Recommendation to adopt Resolution 2012-09 in support of the continued use of Mattison Avenue Elementary School by the Wissahickon School District. Seconded, 9-Aye.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Elizabeth Russell
Administrative Assistant
Borough of Ambler