

## AMBLER BOROUGH COUNCIL MINUTES

January 15, 2013

The regular monthly meeting of Ambler Borough Council was held Tuesday, January 15, 2013 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. Kenney, Mr. S. Pasceri, Mrs. Strus, Ms. Tomlinson and Mr. Curtis. Mayor Wahl, Solicitor Bresnan, Chief William Foley and Borough Manager Mary Aversa also were in attendance. Mr. G. Pasceri, Mr. Amento and Mr. Zaccone were absent.

Mayor Wahl presented a Mayoral Proclamation to Ashley Orehek for achieving all requirements for the Girl Scouts' highest rank, the Girl Scout Gold Award.

A motion was made to approve the Minutes of the December 18, 2012 Meeting. Seconded. Carried.

### **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

The Committees of the Ambler Borough Council met on Wednesday, January 2, 2013 at 7:00 p.m. in Borough Council Chambers located at 122 E. Butler Ave. Present: Mr. Amento, Mr. Kenney, 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, Mr. G. Pasceri and Mr. S. Pasceri 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 December 2012 Police Department report, Fire Department report and Community Ambulance report were received.

2. The December 2012 Public Works and Code Enforcement reports were received.
3. The December 2012 Safety Committee Meeting Minutes were received.
4. 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. The Solicitor is preparing an Ordinance for adoption.

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 was prepared and distributed by the Police Department.

Discussion ensued. Mrs. Strus stated her concern about the ‘up-front money’ needed to host an event calling for a \$500 park usage fee and a refundable \$250 security deposit. She stated that while the security deposit was not excessive, the Committee should determine whether the \$500 usage fee is excessive. Mr. Isabella stated the Committee should consider establishing different usage fees for different types of 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. S. Pasceri.

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

1. Authorization to have the WWTP engineer prepare an RFP for the T-1 Nitrification Tower filter media removal and replacement project. [Project budget: \$1,315,000]

2. Authorization to have the WWTP engineer prepare an RFP for the Digester T-9 (cleaning & repairs) Project. [Project budget: \$220,000]
3. Authorization to contract with Heisey Mechanical, LTD to fabricate and install the remaining scum trough pipes-primary, ET-2&3 and secondary clarifiers ET-12&13. [Project budget \$71,000]

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

1. The December 2012 WWTP Supervisor's and Engineer's reports were reviewed.
2. 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. 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 Mr. Kenney.

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

1. Consideration that **December 2012** invoices in the amount of **\$586,061.13** are to be paid as follows: General (**\$373,526.48**); Street Lights (**\$1,150.10**); Fire (**\$839.47**); Parks & Rec. (**\$2,299.23**); Water (**\$75,544.94**); Sewer (**\$40,077.37**); WWTP (**\$78,822.19**); Rail Corridor (**\$0.00**); Road Overlay (**\$10,299.77**); Debt Fund (**\$0.00**); Water Capital (**\$0.00**); Liquid Fuels (**\$5,077.56**) and voided checks totaling \$1,505.98.
2. Recommend Council consider authorizing Solicitor to prepare Ordinance allowing for a map change for St. Joseph's Church property from Institutional to Downtown Commercial Zoning.

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

1. The Borough Engineer's December 2012 report was received.
2. Borough Engineers are preparing bid documents for the Lindenwold Parking Deck Project.

3. 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.”) The Ordinance will be sent to Montgomery County Conservation District for MCCD or MCPC review. The County review and the municipal ordinance will go to DCED and eventually FEMA for review.
4. An Ordinance approving penalty, interest and fee schedule for collection of delinquent real estate taxes is being reviewed by the Borough Solicitor.
5. 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. The Borough Manager is to meet with the County Planner to review proposed revisions to the document. Ambler Planning Commission will await the final determination of Council.
6. The Solicitor provided an update to Council on the PA Supreme Court decision on Business Privilege Tax.

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 hiring Ms. Tara Jones for the Receptionist/Cashier position.
2. Recommend hiring Richard Hummel for the vacant Water Operator position.
3. Consideration is asked by the Tax Collector to authorize increased compensation for 2014-2017.

Discussion ensued. Mr. S. Pasceri stated an **Executive Session** is to be held. [The Executive Session was held to discuss the Tax Collector’s request for increased compensation.]

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

1. At the Committee Meeting, Council recognized Ms. Susan Curry of the Environmental Advisory Council for her tireless efforts benefiting the environment and our community. Council thanked and recognized Ms. Curry for her years of service as presented in **Resolution 2013-01** adopted at Committee Meeting (All Aye).

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 recommends and Mr. S. Pasceri moves:

Authorization to have the WWTP engineer prepare an RFP for the T-1 Nitrification Tower filter media removal and replacement project. Seconded. Carried.

Authorization to have the WWTP engineer prepare an RFP for the Digester T-9 (cleaning & repairs) Project. Seconded. Carried.

Authorization to contract with Heisey Mechanical, LTD to fabricate and install the remaining scum trough pipes-primary, ET-2&3 and secondary clarifiers ET-12&13. Seconded. Carried.

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

Recommend that **December 2012** invoices in the amount of **\$586,061.13** be paid. Seconded. Carried.

Recommend Council authorize Solicitor to prepare Ordinance allowing for a map change for St. Joseph's Church property from Institutional to Downtown Commercial Zoning. Seconded. Carried.

Recommend execution of Agreement with Ambler Beverage and Bottom Dollar Food Store concerning shared driveways. Seconded. Carried.

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

Recommend hiring Ms. Tara Jones for the Receptionist/Cashier position. Seconded. Carried.

Recommend hiring Richard Hummel for the vacant Water Operator position. Seconded. Carried.

Recommend advertising for adoption an Ordinance increasing Tax Collector compensation for 2014-2017 from \$7,280 per year to \$7,780 per year. Seconded. Carried.

### **IN NEW BUSINESS**

At the conclusion of the meeting Mrs. Strus spoke about the closure of Mattison Avenue Elementary School. She stated she was disheartened by the School Board decision to close the school, a decision she felt was made despite efforts from members of the community to have the school remain open. She stated that four School Board seats are up this year, and that Ambler candidates are needed. Mr. S. Pasceri stated his dismay that Ambler Borough is not currently represented on the School Board. Solicitor Bresnan, in response to Mr. S. Pasceri's inquiry to petition the School Board for Ambler inclusion, stated that a district-wide referendum would be needed to reestablish ward (as opposed to at-large) representation.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Elizabeth Russell  
Administrative Assistant  
Borough of Ambler