

AMBLER BOROUGH COUNCIL MINUTES

July 16, 2013

The regular monthly meeting of Ambler Borough Council was held Tuesday, July 16, 2013 at 7:00 p.m. at Borough Council Chambers located at 122 E. Butler Avenue, Ambler, Pennsylvania 19002. President Antonio Isabella presided. A public hearing scheduled to be held at 6:30 p.m. to consider adoption of Ordinance 1072, amending the Transit Oriented Development (TOD) requirements was cancelled.

Councilman Tom Kenney led the public in the Pledge of Allegiance and a moment of silence.

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

A motion was made to approve the Minutes of the June 18, 2013 Meeting. Seconded. Carried.

The Finance & Planning Committee scheduled a presentation by Joe Duda on the Borough's MMO (Minimum Municipal Obligation) pertaining to police and general municipal pension plans. Mr. Duda remarked that the general municipal MMO has improved, due in part to the passing of two former employees, and is currently overfunded by \$301,000. A 4 percent return was realized. Mr. Duda stated the MMO will use the 2011 evaluation and that the Borough should anticipate State aid in the amount of \$61,000. As to the police pension, Mr. Duda stated the surplus has decreased from \$2 million to \$1.4 million, and that a 4 percent return was realized. He stated the resulting MMO was considered to be positive and that the Borough should anticipate State aid in the amount of \$70,000.

Mr. Duda stated both MMO's assessments had been based on a 7.5 percent return. Upon consideration, Mr. Kenney asked that Council receive an end of year estimate going forward so that Council could determine whether a reassessment of investment strategy may be in order.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

The Committees of Ambler Borough Council held no meetings in July. At the Council Meeting this evening, the Committees conducted business as follows:

Public Safety Committee – Mrs. Strus, Chairperson

Committee members: Mr. Curtis, Mr. Dooley

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 June 2013 Police Department report and Fire Department report were received.
2. The June 2013 Public Works and Code Enforcement reports were received.
3. The June 2013 Community Ambulance report was received.

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. Movie Nights in the Parks have been scheduled as follows: “The Lion King” will be shown July 25th at Pickering Field; and “Hotel Transylvania” will be held September 13th at Knight Park.

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 June 2013 WWTP Supervisor’s and Engineer’s reports were reviewed.

2. Water Supervisor is obtaining quotes for the proposed Supervisory Control & Data Acquisition (SCADA) System maintenance/upgrade project.

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 **June 2013** invoices in the amount of **\$500,661.21** are to be paid as follows: General (**\$171,931.61**); Street Lights (**\$2,083.69**); Fire (**\$5,331.94**); Parks & Rec. (**\$5,465.82**); Water (**\$102,775.75**); Sewer (**\$12,255.78**); WWTP (**\$200,816.62**); Rail Corridor (**\$0.00**); Road Overlay (**\$0.00**); Debt Fund (**\$0.00**); Water Capital (**\$0.00**); Liquid Fuels (**\$0.00**).
2. Consideration to adopt Ordinance 1072, a proposed text amendment to the Transit Oriented Zoning District (TOD), as recommended by the Borough and County Planning Commissions.

Discussion ensued. Mr. Kenney stated the hearing had been cancelled and would be rescheduled.

3. Consideration to grant Conditional Use and separately to grant Preliminary/Final approval for the proposed Ambler Crossings project on S. Chestnut Street, which comprises 115 apartment units and an amenity building, with approval subject to satisfying the engineer's recommendations and the adoption of the proposed TOD Ordinance Amendment.

Discussion ensued. Mr. Kenney stated that due to the cancellation of the hearing on proposed Ordinance 1072, no recommendation will be made at this time.

4. Consideration to adopt Resolution 2013-09, as requested by Whitpain Township, forming a "Joint Redevelopment Committee" comprised of officials from neighboring municipalities to promote revitalization along Maple Avenue.

Discussion ensued. Ms. Aversa stated the request was made by Whitpain Township so that consistent zoning would be in place for future developers. Ms. Tomlinson asked whether Councilpersons would be considered as members of the committee. Mr. Isabella asked for a clearer explanation of which sections of Maple Avenue were under consideration for redevelopment or would be impacted by a joint municipal agreement. Mrs. Aversa stated she would obtain additional information and report to Council.

In other business the following was reviewed this evening:

1. The Borough Engineer's June 2013 report was received.
2. The Flood Plain Ordinance to modify Borough Code Ch. 27, Part 2 ("Definitions") and Ch. 27, Part 19 ("Floodplain Conservation District.") is in the review process.
3. The Solicitor is awaiting revised language to an Ordinance approving penalty, interest and fee schedule for collection of delinquent real estate taxes.

Discussion ensued. Mr. Bresnan stated he had recently learned that the Ordinance has been placed on the 'back burner' due to the PA Supreme Court's decision not to accept the County's case on appeal and stating that a jurisdiction may use the tax collector of their choosing. Separate bills are before the state legislature and the issue of a 5% add-on has not been resolved. Council requested that Ms. Aversa remove consideration of this Ordinance from the Agenda.

4. The Borough is working with the Borough Engineer to prepare bid documents for the repaving of a large portion of Butler Avenue. All sidewalk repair notifications have been made.

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. Pasceri, Chairperson

Committee members: Mr. Amento and Mr. Zaccone

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

An Executive Session was held to discuss a matter involving a union employee and, separately, to consider hiring a part-time police officer, without benefits, due to the long-term situation anticipated with a police officer out on disability.

In other business the following was reviewed this evening:

1. Volunteers are being sought to serve on the Environmental Advisory Council (3 vacancies now exist) and Appeals Board (1 vacancy).
2. Staff has advertised for the position of Finance Manager for a vacancy due to retirement that will occur in December.

Mr. 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 **June 2013** invoices in the amount of **\$500,661.21** be paid. Seconded. Carried.

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

Recommend the Police Chief hire a part-time police officer to fill in for a regular officer who is out on disability. Seconded. Carried.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Elizabeth Russell
Manager's Assistant
Borough of Ambler