

AMBLER BOROUGH COUNCIL MINUTES

March 19, 2013

The regular monthly meeting of Ambler Borough Council was held Tuesday, March 19, 2013 at 7:00 p.m. at Borough Council Chambers located at 122 E. Butler Avenue, Ambler, Pennsylvania 19002. President Antonio Isabella presided. The meeting was preceded by a Public Hearing held at 6:30 p.m. to consider rezoning the St. Joseph's Church property to the DC-Downtown Commercial District. A motion to approve the zoning map change was made, seconded and carried (All-Aye).

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

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

Council President Isabella made a presentation of **Council Resolution 2013-04** expressing sympathy and mourning the loss of Councilman George Pasceri to the extended Pasceri family who were present. The Pasceri family then adjourned to the Police Department for a private reception.

Representatives of Plymouth Township were present to thank Ambler Borough's Police Department and their families for their support given to the Township during the events of the tragic shooting death last fall of Officer Fox. Plymouth Township officials stated their appreciation to all of the boroughs, townships and precincts in Montgomery County for 'being there' for them during their time of need.

The regularly scheduled meeting then resumed. A motion was made to approve the Minutes of the February 19, 2013 Meeting. Seconded. Carried.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

The Committees of Ambler Borough Council met Tuesday, March 5, 2013 at 7:00 p.m. in Borough Council Chambers located at 122 E. Butler Ave. Present: Mr. Isabella, Mr. Amento, Mr. Kenney, Mrs. Strus, Mr. S. Pasceri, 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. Curtis

The Public Safety Committee report was given this evening by Mrs. Strus.

The Committee will consider the following actions this evening:

1. Consider adoption of **Ordinance 1069** for a new section to the Property Maintenance Code relative to regulations for the use of Parking Control Devices.

In other business the following was reviewed this evening:

1. The February 2013 Police Department report, Fire Department report and Community Ambulance report were received.
2. The February 2013 Public Works and Code Enforcement reports were received.
3. The February 2013 Safety Committee Meeting Minutes were 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 the following actions this evening:

1. Consider amending proposed language for procedures for events held at Ambler Borough Parks to include a fee schedule specific to usage of the parks and determine to vote on adoption of such procedures at the April Council meeting.

Discussion ensued. Mr. Curtis stated that upon the Committee's review of the proposed procedures the Committee suggested the Borough charge a usage fee of \$60 for non-profit groups from the Borough and adjacent townships and a \$150 usage fee for non-resident/adjacent community and for-profit groups. Events held at the Skate Park would be assessed a \$250 fee. Further, there should be no charge assessed to groups of fewer than 12 people or to organized 'leagues' and Council should have the authority to waive fees. Further, PD security fees will be set and a \$250 refundable security deposit will be required for an event.

In other business the following was reviewed this evening:

1. Movie Nights in the Parks will be scheduled.

2. YMCA Knight Park Summer Camp registration will be held at Borough Hall on May 8th from 5-7 p.m. camp will run June 24 – August 2. Proof of residency is required.

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 to award the Digester T-9 repairs contract to Eastern Environmental Contractors Inc., for the amount of \$153,790.00.
2. Cricket Communications seeks to continue leasing water tower space for their antennas at a decreased rate of rent to be set at \$1,200 per month with a 6-month back out clause for either party. Lease is set to terminate April 15 at Broad Axe Tank on early-June at Houston Tank.

Discussion ensued. Mrs. Aversa stated that the Water Department advised against lowering Cricket's monthly rental because the rate was set at market price. She stated they would need to schedule decommissioning the site early in April and that Council needed to act this evening on this matter.

3. Authorization to contract with Pace Analytical Services (Ormond Beach, FL) for \$16,580.00 for water analysis to comply with the EPA's UCMR3 drinking water analysis requirement, with sampling scheduled to begin August 2013.

In other business the following was reviewed this evening:

1. The February 2013 WWTP Supervisor's and Engineer's reports were reviewed.
2. Water Supervisor is obtaining quotes to retrofit the aging SCADA (water computer) system. It is anticipated a 2-year equipment purchase and software upgrade will commence in 2013.

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 **February 2013** invoices in the amount of **\$371,859.83** are to be paid as follows: General (**\$132,973.82**); Street Lights (**\$6,239.05**); Fire (**\$0.00**); Parks & Rec. (**\$2,067.91**); Water (**\$100,321.84**); Sewer (**\$11,769.61**); WWTP (**\$110,845.90**); Rail Corridor (**\$0.00**); Road Overlay (**\$2,351.93**); Debt Fund (**\$0.00**); Water Capital (**\$0.00**); Liquid Fuels (**\$5,289.77**).
2. Recommend adoption of **Ordinance 1070** allowing for a map change for St. Joseph's Church property from Institutional to Downtown Commercial Zoning.
4. Consider approval of the Planning Commission's 'Comprehensive Plan Update.'
5. Consider adoption of **Resolution 2013-06** authorizing application to the Community Development Block Grant program for funds for a Youth/Community Center.

Approved at Committee Meeting:

1. Approval of a \$5,000 contribution by Ambler Borough in 2013 to the Ambler Junior Baseball organization. Motion to approved. Seconded. Carried (8-Aye)

In other business the following was reviewed this evening:

1. The Borough Engineer's February 2012 report was received.
2. Borough Engineers are preparing bid documents for the Lindenwold Parking Deck Project.
3. 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.
4. An Ordinance approving penalty, interest and fee schedule for collection of delinquent real estate taxes is being reviewed by the Borough Solicitor.

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. Isabella.

The Committee will consider the following actions this evening:

1. Consider adoption of **Resolution 2013-05** authorizing an increase in the Tax Collector's fee for duplicate bills.
2. Resumes and letters of interest are being accepted for the Borough Council vacancy in Ward 2. Recommend nominations.
3. Volunteers are being sought to serve on the Environmental Advisory Council, Civil Service Commission and Appeals Board. A letter of interest to serve on the Civil Service Commission has been received. Recommend nominations.

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.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Public Safety Committee – The Committee recommends and Mrs. Strus moves:

Recommend adoption of **Ordinance 1069** adding a new section to the Property Maintenance Code relative to regulations for the use of Parking Control Devices. Seconded. Poll Council, all-aye. Carried.

Parks & Recreation Committee – The Committee recommends and Mr. Curtis moves:

Recommend that proposed language for procedures for events held at Ambler Borough Parks, to include a fee schedule specific to usage of the parks, be included in a Resolution to be voted upon for adoption at the April Council meeting. Seconded. Carried.

Public Utilities Committee – The Committee recommends and Mr. Amento moves:

Recommend awarding the WWTP Digester T-9 repairs contract to Eastern Environmental Contractors Inc., for the amount of \$153,790.00. Seconded. Carried.

Recommend against altering the terms of the tower leases (rent) with Cricket Communications which are set to terminate April 15 at Broad Axe Tank on early-June at Houston Tank. Seconded. Carried.

Recommend contracting with Pace Analytical Services (Ormond Beach, FL) for \$16,580.00 for water analysis to comply with the EPA's UCMR3 drinking water analysis requirement, with sampling scheduled to begin August 2013. Seconded. Carried.

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

Recommend that **February 2013** invoices in the amount of **\$371,859.83** be paid. Seconded. Carried.

Recommend adoption of **Ordinance 1070** for a zoning map change for St. Joseph's Church property from Institutional to Downtown Commercial Zoning. Seconded. Poll Council, all-aye. Carried.

Recommend adoption of the "Comprehensive Plan Update" as provided by the Planning Commission. Seconded. Carried.

Recommend adoption of **Resolution 2013-06** authorizing application to the Community Development Block Grant program for funds for a Youth/Community Center. Seconded. Carried.

Approved at Committee Meeting:

Approval of a \$5,000 contribution by Ambler Borough in 2013 to the Ambler Junior Baseball organization. Motion to approved. Seconded. Carried (8-Aye)

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

Recommend adoption of **Resolution 2013-05** authorizing an increase in the Tax Collector's fee for duplicate bills. Seconded. Carried.

Nomination of Mr. Paul Dooley to serve as Councilman on the vacant seat in Ward 2 made by Mrs. Strus. Seconded by Mr. Zaccone. All-Aye, carried.

Nomination of Mr. Dick Hill to serve on the Civil Service Commission made by Mr. Amento. Seconded by Mrs. Strus. All-Aye, 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