

AMBLER BOROUGH COUNCIL MINUTES

October 21, 2014

The regular monthly meeting of Ambler Borough Council was held Tuesday, October 21, 2014 at 7:00 p.m. at Borough Council Chambers located at 122 E. Butler Avenue, Ambler, Pennsylvania 19002. Council President Sal Pasceri presided.

Mr. Pasceri called the Council Meeting to order. Mayor Sorg led the public in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll Call – Present: Mr. Pasceri, Mr. Amento, Mr. Zaccone, Mr. Curtis, Mr. DeRuosi, Mrs. Deininger, Mrs. McCormick, Mr. Palumbo and Mr. Sheward. Mayor Sorg, Solicitor Bresnan, Chief William Foley and Borough Manager Mary Aversa also were in attendance.

A motion was made to approve the Minutes of the September 16, 2014 Council Meeting. Seconded. (7-Aye; 1-Nay (Mrs. McCormick); Mr. Sheward had not yet arrived at the meeting at the time of the motion). Carried. Mr. Pasceri noted that Mrs. McCormick had voted “nay” and invited her to speak publicly on her vote. Mrs. McCormick focused her remarks on the following sentence: “He [Solicitor Bresnan] stated that after Executive Sessions, council always reconvened to cast a formal, public vote.” She stated that the sentence was inaccurate and after much discussion among Council and the Solicitor it was suggested that the sentence should have communicated that it always generally has been the practice after an Executive Session where a consensus has been taken in Session that Council reconvenes and casts a public vote on what was discussed in Executive Session.

It was suggested that Council consider revising the Minutes. Mr. Curtis reminded Council that a vote has already been taken and asked for a clarification of Robert’s Rules. Solicitor Bresnan stated the vote to accept the Minutes was binding, however a motion could be made to set aside the vote to reconsider the Minutes. Mr. Pasceri asked for a Motion, none was offered, and acceptance of the Minutes therefore was sustained. Council then proceed to hear Committee reports.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

The Committees of Ambler Borough Council met on Tuesday, October 7, 2014 at 7:00 p.m. in Borough Council Chambers located at 122 E. Butler Avenue. Present: Mr. Pasceri, Mr. Amento, Mr. Curtis, Mr. Zaccone, Mr. DeRuosi, Mrs. Deininger, Mrs. McCormick, Mr. Palumbo and Mr. Sheward. Mayor Sorg, Solicitor Bresnan, Chief Foley and Borough Manager Aversa also were present.

At the Council Meeting this evening, the Committees conducted business as follows:

Public Safety Committee – Mr. Curtis, Chairperson

Committee members: Mrs. McCormick, Mr. Sheward

The Public Safety Committee report was given this evening by Mr. Curtis.

The Committee will consider the following actions this evening:

1. Consider authorizing the Police Department to lease purchase a new police vehicle to be included in the 2015 budget at a cost of \$26,409.00.
2. Consider appointing Fire Marshall Richard Lockhart to the position of Emergency Management Coordinator.
3. Consider authorizing a match of \$7,500.00 to complete work on the Rose Valley Creek Flood Hazard Analysis Study. [A public meeting will be held November 12 from 7-9 p.m. at First Presbyterian Church of Ambler.]

In other business the following was reviewed this evening:

1. The September 2014 Police Department and Fire Department reports were received.
2. The September 2014 Ambulance Association report was received.
3. The September 2014 Public Works, Code Enforcement and Safety Reports were reviewed.

Mr. Curtis asked if there were comments or questions from Council or the public. There being nothing further, it was moved the Committee's report be accepted as filed. Seconded, carried.

Parks and Recreation Committee – Mr. DeRuosi, Chairperson

Committee members: Mrs. Deininger, Mrs. McCormick, Mr. Palumbo

The Parks and Recreation Committee report was given this evening by Mr. DeRuosi.

The Committee will consider no actions this evening.

In other business the following was reviewed this evening:

1. Bike racks have been installed and park rules signs have been ordered.
2. The new soccer nets were installed at Pickering and Ricciardi Parks.

Mr. DeRuosi asked if there were comments or questions from Council or the public. He invited Council and the public to attend the November 19th (7:00 pm) meeting of the Environmental Advisory Council for a discussion about Ambler Borough Park maintenance and proposed uses. There being nothing further, it was moved the Committee's report be accepted as filed. Seconded, carried.

Public Utilities Committee – Mr. Amento, Chairperson

Committee members: Mr. Curtis, Mr. Zaccone

The Public Utilities Committee report was given this evening by Mr. Amento.

The Committee will consider the following actions this evening:

1. Authority is requested to award a 3-year liquid aluminum sulfate purchasing contract to Univar USA for the quoted price of \$1.994/GAL, \$402.00/DRY TON.
2. Authorization is requested to approve the AT&T antenna lease amendment for AT&T's Broad Axe Tank lease.
3. Authorization is requested to approve Constellation Energy's electricity contract at the WWTP at an October 21st quoted cost of 0.04783/kW with an RTO ("transmission") charge of 0.05864.
4. Authorization is requested to approve and executive a Grant Agreement for \$134,925.00 for the Well 8 Chlorine Contact Tank Project with the Department of Community and Economic Development.

Approved at the October 7, 2014 Committee Meeting:

1. Award of a contract for the removal and replacement of the pump controller in PS-1 to Sigma Controls for the low quote of \$16,920.00. Seconded. Carried.

In other business the following was reviewed this evening:

1. The WWTP Supervisor's and Engineer's reports were reviewed.

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. Sheward, Chairperson

Committee Members: Mr. DeRuosi, Mrs. Deininger

The Finance and Planning Committee report was given this evening by Mr. Sheward.

The Committee will consider the following actions this evening:

1. Consideration that **September 2014** invoices in the amount of **\$791,147.00** be paid as follows: General (**342,858.46**); Street Lights (**\$6,437.40**); Fire (**\$50,291.34**); Parks & Rec. (**\$2,882.50**); Water (**\$126,898.37**); Sewer (**\$120,943.99**); WWTP (**\$141,109.92**); Rail Corridor (**\$0.00**); Road Overlay (**\$0.00**); Debt Fund (**\$0.00**); Water Capital (**\$0.00**); Liquid Fuels (**\$279.00**).
2. Authorization is requested to adopt **Resolution 2014-06** for the Federal Aid Grant Agreement providing funding received in 2005 for sidewalk improvements.

3. Authorization is requested to adopt **Resolution 2014-07** appointing Finance Manager Gail Gordon the Tax Collection Committee.
4. Authorization is requested to adopt **Resolution 2014-08** Recognizing the Actuarial Condition of the Borough's Municipal Employee Pension Plan.
5. Authorization is requested to adopt **Resolution 2014-09** Recognizing the Actuarial Condition of the Borough's Police Pension Plan.
6. Authorization is requested to adopt **Resolution 2014-10** renewing the Montgomery County Planning Commission's County Planning Assistance Agreement.

Discussion ensued. Mrs. Deininger responded to a question from the public regarding the process of determining whether to renew this contract, by stating that Council wanted to hear from members of Ambler's Planning Commission regarding the value of renewing the contract.

In other business the following was reviewed this evening:

1. The Borough Engineer's report was received.
2. The Flood Plain Ordinance to modify Borough Code is in the review process at the Montgomery County Planning Commission.
3. The Borough has asked the Planning Commission to review the Parking Ordinance for specific uses.
4. Draft language for a proposed Communications Ordinance is being reviewed by a Federal Telecommunications Act specialist.
5. The FY 2015 Draft Budget is being prepared. Budget meetings will be scheduled in the coming weeks.

Mr. Sheward asked if there were questions or comments from Council or the public. Mr. Bresnan requested that a new issue be placed on Council and the Planning Commission's agenda regarding a review of Borough Ordinance that may require revision to the existing Ordinance which lacks a provision allowing for "automobile sales" as a permitted use. He stated the Borough must allow every legal use in the Borough, and because the Ordinance lacks this language a Court could impose upon the Borough where car sales would be permitted. He stated this issue came to light when a property owner sought to change use from vehicle repair to vehicle sales. As present, Zaccone Motors is the only grandfathered auto sales business in the Borough.

There being nothing further, it was moved the report be accepted and filed. Seconded, carried.

Salary and Personnel Committee – Mr. Zaccone, Chairperson

Committee members: Mr. Amento, Mr. Curtis, Mr. Palumbo

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

The Committee will consider no action this evening.

In other business the following was reviewed this evening:

1. The Environmental Advisory Council has several vacancies and is looking for interested candidates.
2. Applications have been received and interviews are being scheduled for the position of Highway Laborer and of Code Enforcement Officer.

Mr. Zaccone 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 Mr. Curtis moves:

Authorize the Police Department to lease purchase a new police vehicle to be included in the 2015 budget at a cost of \$26,409.00. Seconded. Carried.

Appoint Fire Marshall Richard Lockhart to the position of Emergency Management Coordinator. Seconded. Carried.

Authorize a match of \$7,500.00 to complete work on the Rose Valley Creek Flood Hazard Analysis Study. Seconded. Carried.

Parks & Recreation Committee – The Committee will make no recommendations this evening.

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

Award a 3-year liquid aluminum sulfate purchasing contract to Univar USA for the quoted price of \$1.994/GAL, \$402.00/DRY TON. Seconded. Carried.

Approve the AT&T antenna lease amendment for AT&T's Broad Axe Tank lease. Seconded. Carried.

Approve Constellation Energy's electricity contract at the WWTP at an October 21st quoted cost of 0.04783/kW with an RTO ("transmission") charge of 0.05864. Seconded. Carried.

Approve and executive a Grant Agreement for \$134,925.00 for the Well 8 Chlorine Contact Tank Project with the Department of Community and Economic Development. Seconded. Carried.

Approved at the October 7, 2014 Committee Meeting:

Award a contract for the removal and replacement of the pump controller in PS-1 to Sigma Controls for the low quote of \$16,920.00. Seconded. Carried.

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

Consideration that **September 2014** invoices in the amount of **\$791,147.00** be paid. Seconded. Carried.

Adopt **Resolution 2014-06** for the Federal Aid Grant Agreement providing funding received in 2005 for sidewalk improvements. Seconded. Carried.

Adopt **Resolution 2014-07** appointing Finance Manager Gail Gordon the Tax Collection Committee. Seconded. Carried.

Adopt **Resolution 2014-08** Recognizing the Actuarial Condition of the Borough's Municipal Employee Pension Plan. Seconded. Carried.

Adopt **Resolution 2014-09** Recognizing the Actuarial Condition of the Borough's Police Pension Plan. Seconded. Carried.

Adopt **Resolution 2014-10** renewing the Montgomery County Planning Commission's County Planning Assistance Agreement. Seconded. Carried.

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

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

Respectfully submitted,
Elizabeth Russell
Assistant Secretary
Borough of Ambler