

AMBLER BOROUGH COUNCIL MINUTES

December 16, 2014

The regular monthly meeting of Ambler Borough Council was held Tuesday, December 16, 2014 at 7:00 p.m. at Borough Council Chambers located at 122 E. Butler Avenue, Ambler, Pennsylvania, 19002. The meeting was preceded by the third of three Special Public Meeting held on the Proposed 2015 Municipal Budget. This evening, Council President Sal Pasceri presided.

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

Roll Call – Present: Mr. Pasceri, 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. Mr. Amento was absent.

A motion was made to approve the Minutes of the November 18, 2014 Council Meeting. Seconded. Carried. Council then proceeded to hear Committee reports.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

The Committees of Ambler Borough Council met on Tuesday, December 2, 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 and Mr. Sheward. Mayor Sorg, Solicitor Bresnan, Chief Foley and Borough Manager Aversa also were present. Mr. Palumbo was absent.

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 no actions this evening.

In other business the following was reviewed this evening:

1. The November 2014 Police Department report was received.
2. The November 2014 Ambulance Association report was received.
3. Mr. Curtis advised that staff is looking into the removal of school crossing signals and their possible relocation/retrofit for use at Butler Avenue crosswalks.

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. The Committee, members of Council and the EAC met November 19th to discuss future plans for Ambler Borough Park. It was decided to prepare a survey to receive community input on future uses of the park. The survey will include FEMA revisions and recommendations.

Discussion ensued regarding whether volunteer work at the park would conflict with the labor union's contract. Solicitor Bresnan stated the Borough obtains a sign-off from the union for volunteer activities. Mrs. Aversa stated union employees have in the past worked in conjunction with volunteers. Mrs. McCormick noted that the weeding of "invasive species" as determined by an expert probably is not usual Borough work.

2. Environmental Advisory Council President Steve Maakestad made a presentation to Council on the "EAC – 2014 Year End Review." He stated that the EAC contributes to the environmental health of Ambler in several arenas. EAC's undertakings include: Rain Gardens Campaign; Wissahickon Stream Clean-Up; Battery/Bulb Recycling Campaign; Ambler Wastewater Treatment Plant and Covanta Trash-to-Steam Plant Tours; Composting Workshop; Participation in Borough Processes; BoRit CAG Membership; and a Facebook Page. In 2015, EAC intends to continue its Rain Garden Program; host an Earth Day Event; initiate a Water Conservation Campaign; and host a Borough Park Clean-Up Day.

Mr. DeRuosi 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.

Public Utilities Committee – Mr. Amento, Chairperson

Committee members: Mr. Curtis, Mr. Zaccone

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

The Committee will consider the following action this evening:

1. Ambler Wastewater Treatment Plant seeks authority to join a coalition represented by Hall & Associates upon advice of plant engineer Bill Brown.

In other business the following was reviewed this evening:

1. The WWTP Supervisor's and Engineer's reports were reviewed.
2. The Public Utility Commission has approved Ambler Water Department's rate increase request. The new rate structure will go into effect January 1, 2015.

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.

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 **November 2014** invoices in the amount of **\$556,986.85** be paid as follows: General (**\$165,131.90**); Street Lights (**\$15,235.39**); Fire (**\$0.00**); Parks & Rec. (**\$3,691.68**); Water (**\$64,378.71**); Sewer (**\$10,054.49**); WWTP (**\$302,568.49**); Rail Corridor (**\$0.00**); Road Overlay (**\$0.00**); Debt Fund (**\$0.00**); Water Capital (**\$0.00**); Liquid Fuels (**\$5,849.84**).
2. Council shall consider adoption of proposed **Ordinance 1080** Fixing the Real Estate Tax for 2015.
3. Council shall consider adoption of **Resolution 2014-11** setting 2015 Budget Appropriations.
4. Authorization is requested to consider executing an agreement with Berkheimer to collect Local Services Tax for the Borough.
5. Council shall set the 2015 Meeting Schedule.
6. Authorization is requested to have Borough Solicitor Bresnan represent the Borough at Zoning Hearing Board Meetings to be held on the Ambler Savings Bank appeal.

Discussion ensued. Mr. Bresnan stated he had attended and was awaiting the Commonwealth Court decision on an appeal on the set-back and height variance given to Ambler Savings Bank. He stated a separate appeal on the granting of the building permit based on the parking space calculation had yet to be calendared. Mr. Bresnan stated he

would need to participate since he had worked with Code Enforcement to calculate the number of spaces needed. He added that the citizen who had filed the appeals had not sought a stay of the building project itself.

Recommended at the Committee Meeting

1. Approval of \$200,000 grant from the Montgomery County Commissioners for parking lot construction at the new Borough Hall site. Recommendation to award contracts for the following: General Contractor bid in the amount of \$110,000 to Uhrig Construction; Electrical Contractor bid in the amount of \$23,400 to Albarell Electric. (Seconded, 8-Aye, Carried.)
2. Recommend awarding contract for Waste Disposal to Covanta Trash-to-Steam for a 5-year contract at \$54.00 per ton. (Seconded, 8-Aye, Carried.)

In other business the following was reviewed this evening:

1. The Borough Engineer's report was received.
2. The Borough has asked the Planning Commission to review the Parking Ordinance for specific uses.
3. The Planning Commission is reviewing zoning ordinances to include automotive sales as a permitted use.
4. Draft language for a proposed Communications Ordinance is being reviewed by a Federal Telecommunications Act specialist.

Mr. Sheward 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. 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 the following actions this evening:

1. Considering approval of a Proclamation recognizing Ambler Branch Library Manager Louis McMullen for her years of service.
2. Recommend appointing Mary Margaret Monser to the Environmental Advisory Council.

In other business the following was reviewed this evening:

1. The Accounting Clerk position has been advertised and interviews will be scheduled. This will now be a salaried, non-union position.
2. Letters were mailed to current volunteer committee members whose terms expire end of the year to determine whether they would like to be considered for reappointment. Council will consider appointments at its January Committee Meeting.

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 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. Pasceri moves:

Authorization given to Ambler Wastewater Treatment Plant to join a coalition represented by Hall & Associates upon advice of plant engineer Bill Brown. Seconded. Carried.

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

Consideration that **November 2014** invoices in the amount of **\$556,986.85** be paid. Seconded. Carried.

Council shall consider adoption of proposed **Ordinance 1080** Fixing the Real Estate Tax for 2015. Seconded. Carried.

Council shall consider adoption of **Resolution 2014-11** setting 2015 Budget Appropriations. Seconded. Carried.

Authorization is requested to consider executing an agreement with Berkheimer to collect Local Services Tax for the Borough. Seconded. Carried.

Council shall set the 2015 Meeting Schedule. Seconded. Carried.

Authorization is requested to have Borough Solicitor Bresnan represent the Borough at Zoning Hearing Board Meetings to be held on the Ambler Savings Bank appeal. Seconded. Carried.

Recommended at the Committee Meeting

Approval of \$200,000 grant from the Montgomery County Commissioners for parking lot construction at the new Borough Hall site. Recommendation to award contracts for the following: General Contractor bid in the amount of \$110,000 to Uhrig Construction; Electrical Contractor bid in the amount of \$23,400 to Albarell Electric. (Seconded, 8-Aye, Carried.)

Recommend awarding contract for Waste Disposal to Covanta Trash-to-Steam for a 5-year contract at \$54.00 per ton. (Seconded, 8-Aye, Carried.)

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

Considering approval of a Proclamation recognizing Ambler Branch Library Manager Louis McMullen for her years of service. Seconded. Carried.

Recommend appointing Mary Margaret Monser to the Environmental Advisory Council. Seconded. Carried.

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

Respectfully submitted,
Elizabeth Russell
Assistant Secretary
Borough of Ambler