

AMBLER BOROUGH COUNCIL MINUTES

October 20, 2015

The regular monthly meeting of Ambler Borough Council was held Tuesday, October 20, 2015 at 7:00 p.m. at Borough Council Chambers located at 131 Rosemary Avenue, Ambler, Pennsylvania, 19002.

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

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

MONTCOPA 2040 PRESENTATION: A presentation was made by the Montgomery County Planning Commission's Senior Planner Eric Jarrell and County Planner Lauren Van Dyk regarding "MONTCO2040." the County Comprehensive Plan. Mr. Jarrell stated the County is responsible for creating county plans and putting them into action. Specifically, the County involves with a comprehensive plan, municipal waste plan, cultural arts plan, stormwater management plan and hazard mitigation plan. His team tracks existing conditions, county trends and issues and provides community planning services to 31 municipalities and 4 regions.

Ms. Van Dyk stated Ambler has had a contractual arrangement with the Planning Commission for 42 years and counting. Current issues include the Rose Valley Creek Conservation District, Floodplain Ordinance, Parking Ordinance and Zoning Text Amendments. She stated the County has given Ambler Borough \$2,639,355 in revitalization program investment grants.

Mr. Jarrell concluded the presentation with an overview on the MONTCOPA 2040 Comprehensive Plan. He stated the plan, "A Shared Vision" provides goals and implementation strategies with themes focusing on 'Connected Communities,' 'Vibrant Economy,' and 'Sustainable Places.' For further information on the County's land use vision he suggested the public visit the County's website www.planning.montcopa.org.

ROSE VALLEY CREEK CONSERVATION DISTRICT PRESENTATION: Code Enforcement Officer Glenn Kucher and County Planner Lauren Van Dyk provided an overview on proposed draft ordinances that focus primarily on the Rose Valley Creek area. The purpose of the two ordinances, Riparian Corridor Conservation Overlay District Ordinance and the Steep Slope Conservation Overlay District Ordinance, is to provide additional standards for water quality issues affecting riparian buffers and steep slopes. The County will address longstanding concerns of flooding, the Wissahickon Watershed, land values and stewardship.

Borough Manager Aversa stated that the Borough would be sending out a letter to all affected residents to inform them of a meeting on these issues. She estimated that the timeframe for adoption, allowing for County review, advertisement and adoption, would be at least 60 days out.

Discussion ensued. Councilperson McCormick stated the area was already developed, that the ordinances sought to preserve after the fact and noted homeowner lack of freedom on privately-owned properties. Resident Jim Brown of 312 Edgewood Drive, stated concern that he would be prohibited from refurbishing a deck. Resident Tom Reilley of 309 Valley Brook Road noted that the two ordinances contradict permitted use. Solicitor Bresnan replied that when the two ordinances overlap, the more restrictive language will take precedence. Councilperson DeRuosi stated that the spirit of the ordinances is good, however the Borough must consider the impact of these ordinances on current residents. Responding to concerns about legislated restrictions, Senior Planner Jarrell stated that a permitted use is not a mandated use and that "best management" does not require a specified planting list.

Mr. Timothy Alexi of 320 Edgewood Drive stated that the steep slope language might force a homeowner to build before the ordinance goes into effect. He added that this ordinance decreases his property value because of the limitations it will impose. Mr. Jarrell stated the County must review the ordinances because of the FEMA mandate and that ordinance changes must be accommodated. Ms. Jennifer Marshall of 157 Edgewood Drive asked that if the new standards were not mandated until after the FEMA mandate goes into effect, why would the Borough change ordinances before the fact. Mr. Brian Quinn of 319 Valley Brook Road asked that Council allow a discussion on the reasonable use of property.

Mrs. Aversa again stated that Council would schedule a Public Meeting to discuss these proposed ordinances. The discussion concluded.

The Council Meeting continued. Council President Pasceri made a motion was made to approve the Minutes of the September 15, 2015 Council Meeting. Seconded. Carried. Council then proceeded to hear Committee reports.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

The Committees of Ambler Borough Council met Tuesday, October 6, 2015 at 7:00 p.m. at Borough Council Chambers located at 131 Rosemary Avenue, Ambler, Pennsylvania, 19002. Present: Mr. Pasceri, Mr. Amento, Mr. Curtis, Mr. DeRuosi, Mrs. Deininger and Mr. Sheward. Mayor Sorg, Solicitor Bresnan, Chief Foley and Borough Manager Mary Aversa also were in attendance. Mr. Zaccone, Mrs. McCormick and Mrs. Polesir were 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 Mrs. McCormick.

The Committee will consider the following actions this evening:

1. Authorization is requested to execute documents for the purchase of emergency services radios and to participate in the County interest-free funding program.

In other business the following will be discussed:

1. The September 2015 Police report was received.
2. The September 2015 Ambulance Association report was received.
3. The Public Works and Code Enforcement reports were received.

Mrs. McCormick 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

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 discussed:

1. The park survey results and invasive plant maintenance proposals were reviewed by the Environmental Advisory Council (EAC) which will contract with Redtail for control of invasive plants at Ambler Borough Park.
2. Ambler Borough Park rules are being revised to allow for leased dogs in the Park.
3. Liz Kunzier provided an update on Ambler Main Street events.

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. Amento.

The Committee will consider the following action this evening:

1. Authorization to approve an Agreement with Whitpain Township which allows the Township's placement of radio antenna(s) and equipment on the Houston Road Tank.
2. Authorization to advertise a 30-day public comment period and a public meeting date to respond to the Borough's MS4 (municipal stormwater) Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) Strategy. The Borough must submit the Strategy to the DEP by December 31, 2015.

Recommended at the Committee Meeting:

1. Recommendation to award the John's Lane Pipeline Project to Passerini & Sons for their low bid of \$42,282.50. (6-Aye).

In other business the following was discussed:

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 2015** invoices in the amount of **\$1,047,230.63** be paid as follows: General (**\$276,151.19**); Street Lights (**9,968.53**); Fire (**\$49,611.28**); Parks & Rec. (**\$2,290.41**); Water (**\$94,688.59**); Sewer (**\$130,738.22**); WWTP (**\$324,651.70**); Debt Fund (**\$0.00**); Water Capital (**\$14,130.30**); Liquid Fuels (**\$145,000.41**).
2. Consideration that authorization be given for the Preliminary / Final Subdivision Plan for PFP Management, LLC – 368 Fairview Avenue (3 lot) project, with the condition that all engineering requirements are met and that sidewalk installation be discussed after an opinion is received from PennDOT.

Discussion ensued. Carissa Hazelton of 345 Fairview Avenue stated that she supported the walkability of Ambler streets and that she was in favor of sidewalks being installed on the abutting lots to this project on Bethlehem Pike.

In other business the following was discussed:

1. The Borough Engineer's report was received.
2. The Borough Planning Commission has reviewed the Parking Ordinance and provided draft language for consideration. Further discussion will be held in November.
3. The Zoning Amendment Ordinance for Auto Sales as a permitted use will be advertised for adoption and a hearing will be scheduled.
4. Citations were prepared for Zion Baptist Church recognizing their 120th Anniversary and for Ambler Church of the Brethren recognizing their 175th Anniversary.
5. Representatives from Bernstein will attend the November Council Meeting to discuss the Pension Plans.
6. The Borough's Minimum Municipal Obligation (MMO) Statements were presented to Borough Council at the September 15, 2015 meeting.

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

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

The Committee will make the following recommendation this evening:

1. Recommend hiring a part-time Interim Consultant at the Waste Water Treatment Plant to work with Plant Superintendent Bruce Jones, who has announced his retirement at the end of this year.

In other business the following was discussed:

1. A vacancy exists on the Environmental Advisory Council and resumes are being accepted.

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 Mrs. McCormick moves:

Authorization is requested to execute documents for the purchase of emergency services radios and to participate in the County interest-free funding program. Seconded. Carried.

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

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

Authorization to approve an Agreement with Whitpain Township for their placement of radio antenna(s) and equipment on the Houston Road Tank. Seconded. Carried.

Authorization to advertise a 30-day public comment period and a public meeting date to respond to the Borough's MS4 (municipal stormwater) Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) Strategy. Seconded. Carried.

Recommended at the Committee Meeting: Recommendation to award the John's Lane Pipeline Project to Passerini & Sons for their low bid of \$42,282.50. (6-Aye).

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

Consideration that **September 2015** invoices in the amount of **\$1,047,230.63** be paid. Seconded. Carried.

Consideration that authorization be given for the Preliminary / Final Subdivision Plan for PFP Management, LLC – 368 Fairview Avenue (3 lot) project, with the condition that all engineering requirements are met and that sidewalk installation be discussed after an opinion is received from PennDOT. Seconded. Carried

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

Recommend hiring a part-time Interim Consultant at the Waste Water Treatment Plant. 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