

AMBLER BOROUGH COUNCIL MINUTES

February 17, 2015

The regular monthly meeting of Ambler Borough Council was held Tuesday, February 17, 2015 at 7:00 p.m. at Borough Council Chambers located at 122 E. Butler Avenue, Ambler, Pennsylvania, 19002.

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.

Roll Call – Present: Mr. Pasceri, Mr. Amento, Mr. Zacccone, 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 January 20, 2015 Council Meeting. Seconded. Carried. Council then proceeded to hear Committee reports.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

The Committees of Ambler Borough Council met on Tuesday, February 3, 2015 at 7:00 p.m. in Borough Council Chambers located at 122 E. Butler Avenue. Present: Mr. Pasceri, Mr. Curtis, Mr. Zacccone, Mr. DeRuosi, Mrs. Deininger, Mrs. McCormick, Mr. Palumbo and Mr. Sheward. Mayor Sorg, Solicitor Bresnan, Chief Foley and Borough Manager Aversa also were present. Mr. Amento 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 January 2015 Police and Fire Department reports were received.
2. The January 2015 Ambulance Association report was received.
3. Mr. Curtis stated Chief Foley is obtaining pricing for relocation and retrofit of school crossing signals 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 the following actions this evening:

1. Consider authorization to advertise for bid the Lawn Maintenance Bid.

In other business the following was reviewed this evening:

1. The Committee has prepared a community survey with questions on future uses of Ambler Borough Park.
2. YMCA Summer Camp will offer an extended day Summer Camp this year.

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. Consider authorizing advertising for adoption a proposed Ordinance setting Water Rates for Ambler Borough customers (water service inside the Borough).

Discussion ensued. Mrs. Aversa clarified that the Ordinance would set water rates inside the Borough at the same rate, put in place on January 1, 2015, for water customers outside the Borough.

2. Authorization is requested to have the WWTP plant engineer (EE&MA) prepare RFP's for the Digester T-10 Phase I (cleaning) and Phase II (repairs).
3. Recommendation to proceed with a proposal from Keystone Alliance for water service tapping fee calculations.

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 **January 2015** invoices in the amount of **\$710,718.64** be paid as follows: General (**\$489,473.62**); Street Lights (**\$1,753.55**); Fire (**\$0.00**); Parks & Rec. (**\$3,554.22**); Water (**\$77,799.71**); Sewer (**\$12,101.34**); WWTP (**\$115,390.35**); Rail Corridor (**\$0.00**); Road Overlay (**\$0.00**); Debt Fund (**\$0.00**); Water Capital (**\$0.00**); Liquid Fuels (**\$10,645.85**).
2. Consider authorization to sign a Release between the County and the Borough regarding the dissolution of the Waste System Authority.
3. Consider authorization to execute the \$200,000 New Borough Hall Parking Lot Addition grant.
4. Consider adoption of Resolution 2015-05 authorizing sale of 122 E Butler Avenue (Borough Hall Building) with bid documents to be prepared and advertised.
5. Authorization to send an Ordinance recommending a Zoning Map Change for 122 E Butler Avenue from Institutional Zoning to Downtown Commercial Zoning to the Planning Comissions for review.

Discussion ensued. Mrs. Judy Baigis of Tennis Avenue remarked that the Borough had previously received grant monies for landscaping at Cavalier Lot, noting that the Borough had done a poor job of maintaining the plantings. Additionally, Mrs. Baigis stated the Borough has a commitment to maintain the grounds at the Liquor Store (until September 30, 2017) and that the use of herbicides, especially during drought, had caused the killing off of the inkberry shrubs. She asked whether the Borough intended to continue maintaining those grounds after the sale of Borough Hall. Mr. Pasceri stated that maintenance of the Liquor Store grounds would not transfer to the new owners of Borough Hall (122 E. Butler Avenue). Regarding maintenance at Cavalier Lot, Mrs. McCormick suggested the Borough review the original planting plans and work with Plant Ambler or the Environmental Advisory Committee to select replacement plants for the Cavalier Lot.

In other business the following was reviewed this evening:

1. The Borough Engineer's report was received.
2. Council is reviewing, at the request of the Planning Commission, proposed language for the Parking Ordinance.
3. The Planning Commission is reviewing zoning ordinances to include automotive sales as a permitted use.
4. Draft language for a proposed Communications Ordinance has been prepared and will be given to the Planning Commission for review.
5. The Zoning Hearing Board has scheduled a continuance in reference to permits issued to Ambler Savings Bank for February 26, 2015 (7:00pm)
6. The Ambler Environmental Advisory Council has submitted an overview of five proposed ordinances relevant to future development in the Borough. The EAC stated the ordinance language seeks to protect and encourage maintenance of our environmental resources.

Mr. Sheward asked if there were questions or comments from Council or the public. Mrs. Baigis stated that she had noticed that the Department of Weights and Measures inspection sticker on parking meters was dated '2009.' She asked about the Department's inspection schedule. Chief Foley stated inspections are good for at least five years and that he would look into the inspection schedule. 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 a recommendation for hiring an applicant for the Receptionist-Cashier position.
2. Consider appointing Charles Charlesworth to the vacant Environmental Advisory Council seat.
3. An Executive Session is needed on a matter of litigation. [The Executive Session was held.]

4. Consider a Motion recognizing Glenn Kucher as Ambler Borough's Zoning & Code Enforcement Officer whereby he shall be given all of the powers of a Law Enforcement Officer as provided by law.

Approved at Committee Meeting:

1. Appointment to the vacated Planning Commission seat, replacing Steve Ware who has resigned, of Josh Kanaplue to complete the term ending 2016. [Seconded. 8-Aye. Carried]

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 recommends and Mr. DeRuosi moves:

Authorization given to advertise for bid the Lawn Maintenance Bid. Seconded. Carried.

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

Authorization to advertise for adoption a proposed Ordinance setting Water Rates for Ambler Borough customers (water service inside the Borough). Seconded. Carried.

Authorization to have the WWTP plant engineer (EE&MA) prepare RFP's for the Digester T-10 Phase I (cleaning) and Phase II (repairs). Seconded. Carried.

Authorization to proceed with a proposal from Keystone Alliance for water service tapping fee calculations. Seconded. Carried.

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

Consideration that **January 2015** invoices in the amount of **\$710,718.64** be paid. Seconded. Carried.

Authorization to sign a Release between the County and the Borough regarding the dissolution of the Waste System Authority. Seconded. Carried.

Consider authorization to execute the \$200,000 New Borough Hall Parking Lot Addition grant. Seconded. Carried.

Consider adoption of Resolution 2015-05 authorizing sale of 122 E Butler Avenue (Borough Hall Building) with bid documents to be prepared and advertised. Seconded. Carried.

Authorization to send an Ordinance recommending a Zoning Map Change for 122 E Butler Avenue from Institutional Zoning to Downtown Commercial Zoning to the Planning Comissions for review. Seconded. Carried.

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

Considering a recommendation for hiring an applicant for the Receptionist-Cashier position. Seconded. Carried.

Consider appointing Charles Charlesworth to the vacant Environmental Advisory Council seat. Seconded. Carried.

Consider a Motion recognizing Glenn Kucher as Ambler Borough's Zoning & Code Enforcement Officer whereby he shall be given all of the powers of a Law Enforcement Officer as provided by law. Seconded. Carried.

Recommended at the Committee Meeting

Appointment to the vacated Planning Commission seat, replacing Steve Ware who has resigned, of Josh Kanaplue to complete the term ending 2016. [Seconded. 8-Aye. 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