

AMBLER BOROUGH COUNCIL MINUTES

April 21, 2015

The regular monthly meeting of Ambler Borough Council was held Tuesday, April 21, 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. The Mayor presented a Proclamation prepared by Rep. Mary Jo Daley to Mr. Jesse Hayden in recognition of his 60 years of volunteer service to the Wissahickon Fire Company. The Mayor also recognized the efforts of the Environmental Advisory Council for their efforts in providing the Ambler community with our first Earth Fest event.

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 Foley and Borough Manager Mary Aversa also were in attendance.

A motion was made to approve the Minutes of the March 17, 2015 Council Meeting. Seconded. Carried. Council then proceeded to hear Committee reports.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

The Committees of Ambler Borough Council met on Tuesday, April 7, 2015 at 7:00 p.m. in Borough Council Chambers located at 122 E. Butler Avenue. Present: Mr. Amento, Mr. Curtis, Mr. Zaccone, Mr. DeRuosi, Mrs. Deininger, Mrs. McCormick, Mr. Palumbo and Mr. Sheward. Solicitor Bresnan, Chief Foley and Borough Manager Aversa also were present. Mr. Pasceri and Mayor Sorg 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 Mr. Curtis.

The Committee will consider the following actions this evening:

1. Authorization to hold a “Criterium Bike Race” in Ambler. A presentation followed.

Mr. Derek Dureka and crew were present to outline the specs of a Criterium Bike Race, which was likened to a “NASCAR on bikes.” This spectator friendly short-circuit event

was proposed to be held August 15, 2015 and would involve 6 to 8 staged races of about one mile in length with the participation of approximately 300-400 racers. The Dureka team outlined their intention to publicize the event, notify residents and coordinate with fire, police, ambulance and volunteers. They stated proceeds would be given back to community charities.

In other business the following was discussed:

1. Valet Parking service for the four Butler Avenue restaurants located between Lindenwold and Ridge (From the Boot, Massa, Dettera and Lucky Well) is being considered, using the pull-off in front of the Ambler Theatre with parking space options to include Borough spaces at the new Borough Hall. Valet service would be offered Friday and Saturday evenings and would be provided by the company that provides valet parking at Bridget's Restaurant.
2. The March 2015 Police and Fire Department reports were received.
3. The March 2015 Ambulance Association report was received.
4. Chief Foley is obtaining pricing for relocation and retrofit of school crossing signals for use at Butler Avenue crosswalks. Staff is researching funding options and 'Liquid Fuels' would cover the project.
5. The Public Works and Code Enforcement Reports were received.

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 award of Lawn/Grounds Maintenance 5-year contract to lowest, responsive bidder M&M Landscaping for the contract amount of \$146,479.00.

In other business the following was discussed:

1. The Committee has prepared a community survey with questions on future uses of Ambler Borough Park. The survey website has been published on the Borough's website and in the Spring 2015 Hometown News.

2. Staff is reviewing family movie selections and showing dates for the summer Movies in the Parks series. All movies are free and will begin at dusk.
3. YMCA Camp Registration will be held May 6th from 5-7 p.m. at Ambler Borough Hall and from May 7th on at the Ambler Area YMCA. Proof of Ambler residency is required at registration. Camp runs from June 22-July 31 from 8:30-4:00 p.m. Monday through Friday. Camp fee is \$40 per week.
4. A presentation was made by Eagle Scout candidate Maxwell Salvadore on his Eagle Scout Project. Maxwell outlined his plans to plant 10 bare root trees in carefully selected locations in Ambler Borough Park. He reviewed his project plans, motivation, safety considerations and funding progress. He stated the 10 trees would help diminish runoff concerns at the park, consuming 100-1,000 gallons of water per day. He stated he had purchased trees from the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society.

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 for Solicitor to pursue collection of costs associated with repair to the recoating of Houston Tank from U.S. Tank Painting, Inc. of New Jersey in the amount of \$29,255.41.

Adopted at Committee Meeting:

1. Recommendation to adoption **Ordinance 1082** Setting a Tapping Fee for Water Connections. Seconded (8-Aye). Carried.

In other business the following was discussed:

1. The WWTP Supervisor's and Engineer's reports were reviewed.
2. Staff is working on refinancing the Water Bond.
3. Water Department is compiling information and obtaining quotes for a new water billing and water infrastructure software system.
4. Borough Solicitor has been in communication with Verizon regarding their request to amend and continue a lease agreement at the Houston Tank.

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 **March 2015** invoices in the amount of **\$797,616.62** be paid as follows: General (**\$569,394.28**); Street Lights (**\$6,197.23**); Fire (**\$4,964.18**); Parks & Rec. (**\$1,154.01**); Water (**\$83,771.75**); Sewer (**\$14,976.81**); WWTP (**\$115,548.58**); Rail Corridor (**\$0.00**); Road Overlay (**\$0.00**); Debt Fund (**\$0.00**); Water Capital (**\$0.00**); Liquid Fuels (**\$1,609.78**).
2. Consider adoption of **Ordinance 1083** on Wireless Communications Facilities.
3. Consider authorization for Solicitor to prepare and advertise an Ordinance regarding automotive sales as a permitted use. The Borough Planning Commission has reviewed the proposed revised Zoning Map.
4. Consider adoption of **Resolution 2015-07** authorizing the sale of the property of 122 East Butler Avenue to include the option of sale by auction.

Adopted at Committee Meeting:

1. Recommendation to adopt **Resolution 2015-06** authorizing application to the Community Development Block Grant program for a sewerage project. Seconded (8-Aye). Carried.

In other business the following was discussed:

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 Zoning Hearing Board has scheduled a continuance in reference to permits issued to Ambler Savings Bank for April 29, 2015 (7:00pm)
4. An ordinance recommending a Zoning Map change for 122 East Butler Avenue from Institutional to Downtown Commercial was advertised for adoption. A hearing is scheduled for May 5, 2015 at 6:30 p.m.

5. BPT is an annual \$240 flat tax imposed upon those who conduct business within the Borough. Presently the Borough will not be collecting BPT for 2015 for the conduct of business involving the rental of real estate. At issue, and presently upon appeal before the PA Supreme Court, is taxation related to rental income. If, upon appeal, the Court upholds the tax, Ambler will resume the taxation of rental income at that time.

Discussion ensued. Ms. Francine Tomlinson of Forest Avenue asked about the tax deficit caused by this action. Borough Manager Aversa replied that an approximate \$50,000 reduction in collection would result.

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. Chief Foley has requested an Executive Session.

At the conclusion of the Executive Session, Council President Pasceri stated that Chief Foley has sought permission to hire two part-time officers to fill in for a retiring officer and an officer out on leave. Mr. Pasceri added that exams would not be given until July and that the Borough hires officers through the Consortium.

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:

Recommend to hold a “Criterium Bike Race” in Ambler on August 15, 2015. Seconded. Carried.

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

Recommend award of Lawn/Grounds Maintenance 5-year contract to lowest, responsive bidder M&M Landscaping for the contract amount of \$146,479.00. Seconded. Carried.

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

Authorization for Solicitor to pursue collection of costs associated with repair to the recoating of Houston Tank from U.S. Tank Painting, Inc. of New Jersey in the amount of \$29,255.41. Seconded. Carried.

Adopted at Committee Meeting: Recommendation to adoption **Ordinance 1082** Setting a Tapping Fee for Water Connections. Seconded (8-Aye). Carried.

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

Consideration that **March 2015** invoices in the amount of **\$797,616.62** be paid. Seconded. Carried.

Consider adoption of **Ordinance 1083** on Wireless Communications Facilities. Seconded. Carried.

Consider authorization for Solicitor to prepare and advertise an Ordinance regarding automotive sales as a permitted use. Seconded. Carried.

Consider adoption of **Resolution 2015-07** authorizing the sale of the property of 122 East Butler Avenue to include the option of sale by auction. Seconded. Carried.

Adopted at Committee Meeting: Recommendation to adopt **Resolution 2015-06** authorizing application to the Community Development Block Grant program for a sewerage project. Seconded (8-Aye). Carried.

Salary & Personnel Committee – The Committee will make no recommendation 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