

AMBLER BOROUGH COUNCIL MINUTES

June 16, 2015

The regular monthly meeting of Ambler Borough Council was held Tuesday, June 16, 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 commended staff, police officers, firefighters and EMTs for their participation in the Ambler Arts & Music Festival.

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

Council President Pasceri announced that Council would elect an individual to fill the vacant Council seat in Ward 2. He stated that letters of interest had been received from three residents: Matthew Cooley, Karen Polesir and Patricia Strus. Voice vote first round resulted as follows: Matthey Cooley (in favor – Mr. Sheward, Mrs. McCormick, Mrs. Deininger, Mr. Zaccone); Karen Polesir (in favor – Mr. Curtis, Mr. Amento, Mr. Pasceri); Patricia Strus (in favor – Mr. DeRuosi). No majority candidate was elected, requiring a second round of voting between the two lead candidates, which tallied as follows: Matthew Cooley (in favor – Mr. Sheward, Mrs. McCormick, Mrs. Deininger, Mr. Zaccone); Karen Polesir (in favor – Mr. DeRuosi, Mr. Curtis, Mr. Amento, Mr. Pasceri).

After several minutes of discussion, a “tie” was declared by Mr. Pasceri, wherein he stated that a Special Meeting would need to convene at which time, the Borough Vacancy Board, consisting of Borough Council plus one previously appointed citizen, Norman LaMastra, would vote to fill the vacancy in Ward 2. Solicitor Bresnan reviewed the law, stating that a Special Meeting would need to convene no fewer than 5 days and no more than 10 days from this date. Mrs. Deininger stated she would be out of the country, and Council stated they would request that Mrs. Deininger phone-in her vote. Solicitor Bresnan stated Council could proceed in this manner as long as there was a quorum and as long as Mrs. Deininger is able to hear and be heard at the Special Meeting. It was agreed that the Special Meeting would be advertised and scheduled for Tuesday, June 23, 2015 at 7:00 p.m. The matter of election concluded for the evening.

A motion was made to approve the Minutes of the May 20, 2015 Council Meeting. Seconded. Carried. Council then proceeded to hear Committee reports.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

The Committees of Ambler Borough Council met on Tuesday, May 5, 2015 at 7:00 p.m. in Borough Council Chambers located at 122 E. Butler Avenue. Present: Mr. Pasceri, Mr. Amento, Mrs. Deininger, Mrs. McCormick and Mr. Sheward. Mayor Sorg, Solicitor Bresnan, Chief Foley and Borough Manager Aversa also were present. Mr. Curtis, Mr. Zaccone and Mr. DeRuosi 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. Consider authorization for staff to order through Costars Purchasing 2,100 64-GAL Toter roll-out carts and 100 32-GAL Toter roll-out carts for trash/refuse to be distributed to Borough residents at a cost of \$91,880.00.

2. In other business the following was discussed:

1. The May 2015 Fire Department report was received.
2. The May 2015 Ambulance Association report was received.
3. The Public Works and Code Enforcement reports were received.

Mr. Curtis asked if there were comments or questions from Council or the public. Chief Foley announced that Sgt. Bill Frank will retire this week, taking his Last Ride on Thursday with a luncheon being scheduled for Friday at From the Boot. 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 the following actions this evening:

1. Consider authorization to apply for a 2015 Growing Greener Watershed Protection Grant, due July 10, 2015.

In other business the following was discussed:

1. Showing dates for the summer Movies in the Parks series are as follows (All movies are free and will begin at dusk):

Annie (2014), Knight Park, Wed., June 24

Big Hero 6 (2014), New Borough Hall, Thurs., Aug 6

Cinderella (2015) Pickering Field., Fri., Sept. 18

2. YMCA Camp Registration was held May 6th at Ambler Borough Hall. Residents may still register campers 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.
3. A piece of playground equipment at Knight Park is broken and cannot be properly repaired. Staff will recommend a replacement piece of equipment.

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 have the EE&MA Plant Engineer prepare the Request for Proposal for the Plant Paving Phase III Project.
2. Authorization to have the Water Engineer prepare specs and bid documents and to advertise for bid the Well 8 Chlorine Contact Tank Project. This project will be financed in part by a grant of \$134,925 from the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, Commonwealth Financing Authority.
3. Authorization is requested to have the Water Engineer prepare specs and bid documents, and to advertise for bid, the John's Lane Pipeline Replacement project. This project involves replacement of approximately 300 feet of pipe.

Adopted at Committee Meeting:

1. Recommendation to adopt **Ordinance 1085** – Refinancing of the 2009 Bond and authorization of a loan with Susquehanna Bank. Seconded. Carried.

In other business the following was discussed:

1. The WWTP Supervisor's and Engineer's reports were reviewed.
2. Water Department is compiling information and obtaining quotes for a new water billing and water infrastructure software system.
3. Borough Solicitor has been in communication with Verizon regarding their request to amend and continue a lease agreement at the Houston Tank. The executed document has been received and is ready for review.
4. Staff is working with the Water Engineer on the purchase and installation of an electric operative valve at Loch Alsh Reservoir.

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 **May 2015** invoices in the amount of **\$846,580.06** be paid as follows: General (**\$625,757.90**); Street Lights (**\$660.81**); Fire (**\$5.27**); Parks & Rec. (**\$5,636.88**); Water (**\$83,021.47**); Sewer (**\$19,434.17**); WWTP (**\$111,784.56**); Rail Corridor (**\$0.00**); Road Overlay (**\$0.00**); Debt Fund (**\$0.00**); Water Capital (**\$0.00**); Liquid Fuels (**\$279.00**).
2. Consideration award of the 2015 Road Paving Project to Associated Paving, Inc. and the low, responsive bid price of \$718,608.08.

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 County and Borough Planning Commissions have reviewed the revised Zoning Map amendment to include automotive sales as a permitted use. The Solicitor has prepared a draft Ordinance.

4. A proposed Ordinance amending the Subdivision and Land Development language to clarify that an approved plan does not expire after 5 years, thus making our Ordinance compliant with State Law, will be sent to the Planning Commission.

Discussion ensued. Mr. Brian Quinn of Valley Brook Road asked about the registering of a plan. Solicitor Bresnan stated that a plan is required, yet if one does not register a plan, it is not voided. Mr. Bresnan stated that State Law is not explicit on this. Mr. Bresnan stated the propose Ordinance would make the Borough consistent with Section 508.1(i) of the State Planning Code.

5. A proposed Ordinance granting Council the express authority to waive the Ordinance requirement that each step of land development (tentative, preliminary and final) be voted on separately before moving on to the next step, will be sent to the Planning Commission.

Discussion ensued. Mr. Bresnan stated that Council relies on the Borough Engineer to determine compliance with each step, and would point out to Council whether any problem would exist by combining these steps. Mr. Bresnan stated the Borough would be protected because it has the authority to not issue permits.

6. Proposed Ordinance language will be reviewed requiring Conditional Use approval from Council on proposed future larger space (8,000 sqft +) use which will include regulation of Drive-Thru Service along Butler Avenue.
7. Auction House Proposals from auctioneers have been requested by staff for the purpose of conducting the future sale of the Borough Building located at 122 East Butler Avenue. Commission is anticipated to be set at 5% of sale, with seller paying anticipated advertising fees which may range from \$5,000 to \$7,000.
8. 2014 Audit Report has been provided. Nancy Gunza of Clifton Larson Allen was present to provide an overview.

Ms. Gunza stated the Borough has a good result and that Clifton Larson Allen has an unmodified or clean opinion that there are no internal control weaknesses. She noted improvements in the Finance Department. She stated the Borough's equity has increased to \$710,000 for the year that that the prime operating fund shows a 2 ½ month reserve. She noted a \$239,000 increase in Water and Sewer equity.

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 consider no actions this evening.

In other business the following was discussed:

1. A WWTP employee will be retiring in July, and the vacancy has been advertised.
2. Applications are being accepted for seasonal work.

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:

Authorization for staff to order through Costars Purchasing 2,100 64-GAL Toter roll-out carts and 100 32-GAL Toter roll-out carts for trash/refuse to be distributed to Borough residents at a cost of \$91,880.00. Seconded. Carried.

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

Authorization to apply for a 2015 Growing Greener Watershed Protection Grant, due July 10, 2015. Seconded. Carried.

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

Authorization to have the EE&MA Plant Engineer prepare the Request for Proposal for the Plant Paving Phase III Project. Seconded. Carried.

Authorization to have the Water Engineer prepare specs and bid documents and to advertise for bid the Well 8 Chlorine Contact Tank Project. This project will be financed in part by a grant of \$134,925 from the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, Commonwealth Financing Authority. Seconded. Carried.

Authorization is requested to have the Water Engineer prepare specs and bid documents, and to advertise for bid, the John's Lane Pipeline Replacement project. This project involves replacement of approximately 300 feet of pipe. Seconded. Carried.

*Adopted at Committee Meeting: Recommendation to adopt **Ordinance 1085** – Refinancing of the 2009 Bond and authorization of a loan with Susquehanna Bank. Seconded. Carried.*

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

Consideration that **May 2015** invoices in the amount of **\$846,580.06** be paid. Seconded. Carried.

Consideration award of the 2015 Road Paving Project to Associated Paving, Inc. and the low, responsive bid price of \$718,608.08. Seconded. Carried.

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

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

Respectfully submitted,
Elizabeth Russell
Assistant Secretary
Borough of Ambler