

AMBLER BOROUGH COUNCIL MINUTES

December 20, 2016

The regular monthly meeting of Ambler Borough Council was held Tuesday, December 20, 2016 at 7:00 p.m. at Borough Council Chambers located at 131 Rosemary Avenue, Ambler, Pennsylvania, 19002. The meeting was preceded by a Public Meeting at 6:00 p.m. at Borough Council Chambers on the Draft 2017 Municipal Budget.

Council President Pasceri called the Council Meeting to order. Mayor Sorg led the public in the Pledge of Allegiance. Mayor Sorg asked Council and the public to observe a Moment of Silence to for the passing of Helen Leadbeater.

Roll Call – Present: Mr. Pasceri, Mr. Curtis, Mr. Zacccone, Mr. DeRuosi, Mrs. Deininger, Mrs. McCormick, Mr. Sheward, Ms. Tomlinson and Ms. Hertz. Mayor Sorg, Solicitor Bresnan, Chief Foley and Borough Manager Aversa were present.

Approval of Minutes: Mr. Pasceri made a motion to approve the Minutes of the November 15, 2016 Council Meeting. Seconded. Carried. Council then proceeded with Committee Reports.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

The Committees of Ambler Borough Council met Tuesday, December 6, 2016 at 7:00 p.m. at Borough Council Chambers located at 131 Rosemary Avenue, Ambler, Pennsylvania, 19002. Present: Mr. Pasceri, Mr. Curtis, Mr. Zacccone, Mr. DeRuosi, Mrs. Deininger, Mrs. McCormick, Mr. Sheward, Ms. Tomlinson and Ms. Hertz. Chief Foley, Solicitor Bresnan and Borough Manager Mary Aversa also were in attendance. Mayor Sorg 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 action this evening.

In other business the following was reviewed:

1. The Fire Department and Police Department reports were received.
2. The Community Ambulance Association report will be provided.

3. The Public Works and Code Enforcement reports were received.

Mr. Curtis asked if there were comments or questions from Council or the public. Mr. Curtis, having reviewed the Police report, noted that the Borough had experienced a great year, highlighting that misdemeanors were down. He offered his appreciation to the officers and the Chief. Resident John Kunzier of 360 Mattison Avenue stated his appreciation for the new one-way signs on Mattison Avenue. He added that the communication plan for the new signage could be improved.

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, Ms. Hertz

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:

1. County Planner Lauren Van Dyk and Sarah Richardsen of the Montgomery County Planning Commission had made a presentation on potential use park concepts for the Borough-owned lot at Butler and Park Avenues. Borough Council was in favor of the designs submitted and requested the Planning Commission proceed.
2. Ambler Junior had submitted a request for the Borough to contribute funds toward the purchase of porous safety surfaces for 8 dugouts and the batter warm up area at an estimated cost of \$13,200 per field, 2 dugouts or \$6,100 per dugout for a total of \$52,800 for four fields. Additional information was requested.

Discussion ensued. Mr. DeRuosi stated his position that Council could give some funds, but that AJB should be charged with conducting fundraising. Ms. Hertz stated that AJB should begin by fundraising and come back to Council with a gap request to be drawn from the reserves account. Mrs. McCormick asked whether Council should offer a Commitment Letter. Mrs. Deininger also stated that AJB should plan fund raising activities. Finance Manager Gordon stated that \$10,000 could be withdrawn from the reserves account. Resident Mary Margaret Monser of 372 Forest Avenue requested that AJB work to decrease impervious surfaces and stated that fund raising is an appropriate course of action. It was decided to take no further action at this time.

Mr. DeRuosi asked if there were comments or questions from Council or the public. Jill Sanchez of 149 Rosemary Avenue asked for clarification on 'dog laws' due to the presence of an untethered dog next door to her residence. Solicitor Bresnan explained that the State Dog Law stated that a dog may not leave the premises without being tethered with a collar

and chain. He added that local ordinance can be amended to allow for a dog to move about in a fenced yard in lieu of being chained on premises.

Mary Margaret Monser commented that Borough crews had been instructed on how to properly trim and prune trees. She thanked resident David Morgan for organizing the instructional session. There being nothing further, it was moved the Committee's report be accepted as filed. Seconded, carried

Public Utilities Committee – Mr. Sal Pasceri, Chairperson

Committee members: Mr. Curtis, Mr. Zaccone

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

The Committee will consider no actions this evening.

Approved at Committee Meeting:

A change order for the CDBG is requested. The original grant amount of \$59,791.00. The new contract price is $\$59,791.20 + \$44,232.04 = \$104,023.24$. The Borough's cost will be $\$104,023.24 - \$41,126.00 = \$62,897.24$. It is recommended that the main be lined from man hole to man hole. Seconded. 9-Aye. Carried.

In other business the following was reviewed:

1. The Engineer's Report was received.
2. Quotes are being obtain for the demolition of the silo at the Ambler Water Water Treatment Plant.

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, Ms. Tomlinson

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 2016** invoices in the amount of **\$904,754.36** be paid as follows: General (**\$139,793.93**); Street Lights (**\$5,875.53**); Fire (**\$0.00**); Refuse (**\$35,405.70**); Parks & Rec. (**\$5,217.14**); Water (**\$147,523.89**); Sewer (**\$145,623.00**); WWTP (**\$374,839.74**); Debt Fund (**\$0.00**); Water Capital (**\$10,919.81**); Liquid Fuels (**\$39,555.62**).

2. Public Notice was advertised November 4, 2016 for a 30-day comment and review period regarding the Ambler Crossing Sewer Facilities Planning Module. Since the original approval in 2007, the two properties are no longer included in one combined application. A recommendation is requested to adopt **Resolution 2016-16** rescinding the original Planning Module and to adopt **Resolution 2016-17** submitting a new Planning Module to DEP for its approval of the revised Sewer Facilities Planning Module.
3. Consider adoption of **Ordinance 1103** Fixing the Real Estate Tax for the Year 2017.
4. Consider adoption of **Resolution 2016-15** Setting Budget Appropriations for the Year 2017.
5. A recommendation is requested to send to the Planning Commission and to advertise for adoption an Ordinance regarding Bank and Financial Institution Parking requirements.

Discussion ensued. Solicitor Bresnan explained that Ambler Savings Bank space is being treated similar to office space on all above-teller floors. He stated the Ordinance language would ensure the all future savings & loans, banks and credit unions locating in the Borough would be treated the same. He explained this is a 'housekeeping' ordinance.

6. Recommend making a donation to the Wissahickon Valley Public Library–Ambler Branch in the amount of \$3,000 to help cover remaining costs of a \$13,500 feasibility study being undertaken by the library to determine that branch's ADA accessibility and whether expansion of the Ambler Branch at its current location is feasible.

In other business the following was reviewed:

1. The Borough Engineer's report was received.
2. The bid for the renovation of the Borough Hall Gymnasium Wing has been advertised on PennBid. The bid opening is scheduled for January 9, 2017.
3. Bond documents detailing the results of the refinancing bond were provided.
4. The 2017 Meeting Schedule has been advertised.

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. Curtis, Frank DeRuosi, Mrs. Deininger

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

The Committee will consider the following actions this evening:

1. Consider appointment or reappointment of residents to various open positions for volunteer terms that expire December 31, 2016 to include:
 - Vacancy Board (1 year term) – one seat
 - Planning Commission (4 year term) – one seat
 - Zoning Hearing Board (3 year term) – one seat
 - Appeals Board (3 year term) – vacancy – one seat
 - Environmental Advisory Council (3 year term) – two seats + two vacancies (total 4 seats)
 - Human Relations Commission (3 year term) – NEW - 5 seats + 1 alternate seat
 - Civil Service Commission (6 year term) – vacancy - one seat (balance of term ending 2017)
 - Community Ambulance Assoc. of Ambler – vacancy- one seat

2. Consider adoption of the Police Contract. [An Executive Session was held in reference to the police contract negotiations at the Committee Meeting. A recommendation to have the Solicitor prepare the terms of the agreed-upon language was passed. Seconded. 9-Aye. Carried. The Solicitor is to add one sentence stating that the Drug and Alcohol policy is agreed upon with the bargaining unit.

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 will make no recommendations this evening.

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

Consideration that **November 2016** invoices in the amount of **\$904,754.36** be paid. Seconded. Carried.

Recommend adoption of **Resolution 2016-16** rescinding the original Ambler Crossings Sewer Facilities Planning Module. Seconded. Carried.

Recommend adoption of **Resolution 2016-17** submitting a new Ambler Crossings Planning Module to DEP for its approval of the revised Sewer Facilities Planning Module. Seconded. [8-Aye; 1-Nay (Mrs. McCormick)]

Recommend adoption of **Ordinance 1103** Fixing the Real Estate Tax for the Year 2017. Seconded. Carried.

Recommend adoption of **Resolution 2016-15** Setting Budget Appropriations for the Year 2017. Seconded. Carried.

Recommend sending to the Planning Commission and to advertise for adoption an Ordinance regarding Bank and Financial Institution Parking requirements. Seconded. Carried.

Recommend making a donation to the Wissahickon Valley Public Library–Ambler Branch in the amount of \$3,000 to cover remaining costs of a \$13,500 feasibility study being undertaken to determine that branch’s ADA accessibility and whether expansion of the Ambler Branch at its current location is feasible. Seconded. Carried.

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

Consider appointment / re-appointment of the following residents to various volunteer boards, committees, commissions and councils with terms ending December 31, 2016, as follows: All Seconded. 9-Aye. All Carried.

Civil Service Commission (balance of term ending 2017)	One Seat	John Kunzier
Environmental Advisory Council (3 year term)	Four Seats	Jillian Sanchez Lindey Daku
Human Relations Commission (3 year term) [This is a new Commission being seated for the first time.]	Five Seats + One Alternate	Deborah Greenstein Anna Lee Lapinski - ALTERNATE Peter Kamuyu Nyamu Karen Polesir Scott Raphael Denise Valerio
Planning Commission (4 year term)	One Seat	Josh Kanaplue
Vacancy Board (1 year term)	One Seat	Antonio Isabella
Zoning Hearing Board (3 year term)	One Seat	Elise Kelly

Consider adoption of the Police Contract with agreed-upon language approved at the Committee Meeting and with the addition of a sentence regarding the Drug & Alcohol Policy agreed-upon with the bargaining unit. Seconded. Carried.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

At the conclusion of the public meeting, Council allows the public time to comment on matters of interest or concern. Comment is not limited to current agenda items. During the Public Comment Period, Council will not answer questions or engage in dialog with the speaker. Comments regarding any and all employee issues are not entertained. Council may address items or questions raised at the next scheduled Committee or Council meeting, but reserves the right to determine agenda items. Council requests those in attendance refrain from engaging the speaker during public comments.

Council President Pasceri invited members of the public to comment on matters of interest or concern. Judy Baigis of 172 Tennis Avenue asked Council a rhetorical question on determination of the accuracy of “weights & measures” of parking meters in the Borough, citing the validity date of the stickers on the meters. Borough Manager Aversa stated, as she had at a prior meeting, that trained Borough staff are presently verifying the accuracy of the meters. Chief Foley responded that the State no longer issues stickers and that the stickers would be removed.

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

Respectfully submitted,
Elizabeth Russell
Assistant Secretary
Borough of Ambler