

AMBLER BOROUGH COUNCIL MINUTES

June 21, 2016

The regular monthly meeting of Ambler Borough Council was held Tuesday, June 21, 2016 at 7:00 p.m. at Borough Council Chambers located at 131 Rosemary Avenue, Ambler, Pennsylvania, 19002.

Council Vice President Curtis called the Council Meeting to order and led the public in the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

Mr. Curtis made a motion to approve the Minutes of the May 17, 2016 Council Meeting. Seconded. Carried. Council then proceeded to hear Committee reports.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

The Committees of Ambler Borough Council met Tuesday, June 7, 2016 at 7:00 p.m. at Borough Council Chambers located at 131 Rosemary Avenue, Ambler, Pennsylvania, 19002. Present: Mr. Pasceri, Mr. Curtis, Mr. Zaccone, Mr. DeRuosi, Mrs. Deininger, Mrs. McCormick, Mr. Sheward and Ms. Tomlinson. Mayor Sorg, Solicitor Bresnan, Chief Foley and Borough Manager Mary Aversa also were in attendance. Ms. Hertz 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 considered no actions this evening.

In other business the following was reviewed:

1. The Police and Fire reports were received.
2. The 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 the scheduled 'last ride' and retirement of Sgt. John Keefer on June 24, 2016. As a separate issue, Chief Foley noted that law enforcement gave "two thumbs up" to the public who attended the Arts & Music Festival. Mr. Curtis thanked Borough employees and community volunteers for their efforts. Ms. Aversa stated that "Movies in the Parks" would be scheduled for the fall. 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 Mrs. Deininger.

The Committee will consider no actions this evening.

In other business the following was reviewed:

1. Staff is considering the repair or replacement of signage at Knight Park and Ambler Borough Park.

Discussion ensued. Mr. Sheward ask whether park equipment is safe and up-to-date. Ms. Aversa stated that park equipment and facilities are considered on the Park 5-Year Plan. She stated that DVIT inspects equipment annually and that two employees are certified inspectors of playground equipment. Ms. Aversa stated that the soccer nets are in disrepair and that the purchase of more durable nets is being considered. It was stated that 'no dumping signs' at the parks would be considered at a later date. It was further stated that Public Works would work on the 'squeaky' swing set at Ambler Borough Park.

2. Purchase of the Edgewood Preserve property is completed.

Discussion ensued. Ms. Susan Curry of Edgewood Drive made a request that action be taken to permanently 'restrict' the deed from future development. She noted the number of residents who had made financial contributions so that the property could be preserved and encouraged Council to consider a deed restriction on the parcel. Solicitor Bresnan stated that he would review the deed as well as research other Borough-owned properties to determine restrictions on standing properties and he advised Council that the deed would need to be restricted by Ordinance change and not simply by resolution.

Mrs. Deininger 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. Sal Pasceri, Chairperson

Committee members: Mr. Curtis, Mr. Zaccone

The Public Utilities Committee report was given this evening by Ms. Tomlinson.

The Committee will consider the following actions this evening:

1. Authorization is requested to prepare and advertise Bid documents for WWTP waste disposal and to obtain bid pricing for hauling since the WWTP Sludge Hauling Contract will expire this year.

In other business the following was reviewed:

1. The WWTP Engineer and Supervisors reports were received.
2. The WWTP Engineer is preparing a request for proposal for the reconditioning of the T-8 Gravity Thickener.
3. Plans for the proposed Verizon Monopole intended to be placed on Borough Hall property were received and their representative Todd Bettenhausen was present to answer questions on the project.

Discussion ensued. Ms. Aversa stated that the County has responded they will not need space on the proposed monopole. As such, she stated she would await the direction of Council as to what Council prefers to do. Council decided to further review the proposed project at the next Council meeting and it was agreed, at the request of Mr. Zaccone, that the location of the monopole would be up for discussion as well.

4. Ambler Well 14 emergency rehabilitation and pump rebuild is underway. Budgetary cost for the well's TV inspection, redevelopment and cleaning, pump removal, repair/replacement and reinstallation is \$55,075.
5. The automatic electric operative valve at Loch Alsh Reservoir has been installed and tested by Allied Controls. The valve operates with the new SCADA system.
6. The Water Department replaced a 10-inch valve at Butler and Lindenwold Avenues.
7. WWTP is obtaining quotes for influent and effluent metering at the plant.

Ms. Tomlinson 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 **May 2016** invoices in the amount of **\$782,475.32** be paid as follows: General (**\$206,348.45**); Street Lights (**\$6,637.88**); Fire (**\$42,615.80**); Refuse (**\$34,279.71**); Parks & Rec. (**\$9,523.75**); Water (**\$108,314.45**); Sewer (**\$144,908.56**); WWTP (**\$133,010.82**); Debt Fund (**\$0.00**); Water Capital (**\$96,835.90**); Liquid Fuels (**\$0.00**).
2. Consider advertising for Bid the proposed 2016 Paving Project.

Discussion ensued. Ms. Tomlinson asked if the projects were budgeted. Ms. Aversa replied they were budgeted for 2016.

3. Consider a recommendation, which was determined by the Solicitor should be a **Resolution 2016-09** to be prepared by the Solicitor, to proceed with all necessary revisions during the process of preparing the proposed Inter-Governmental Agreement for the TMDL and MS4 Alternative so that Council may consider and adopt an Ordinance through which the Borough will participate in the Inter-Governmental TMDL process.

Ms. Aversa stated the agreement would provide for both a Management Committee (on which she most probably would be seated) and a Stakeholder Committee. Solicitor Bresnan stated that participation in the Agreement which would allow for the establishment of these Committees essentially ‘gives away’ some of the Borough’s authority, and therefore this must be accomplished by Ordinance. As such, he stated that Council’s Agenda item #3 to “Consider advertising for adoption an Inter-Governmental Agreement Ordinance for the TMDL and MS4 Alternative” was premature and should not be considered and that a Resolution to move forward towards adoption of an Ordinance should be considered.

4. Consider preparing a letter of support for the Ambler Food Co-op as the Co-op is in the process of making application for funding through a County Loan-Montco Opportunity Loan Program.

In other business the following was reviewed:

1. The Borough Engineer’s report was received.
2. Staff is preparing an advertisement to sell off five older Borough vehicles and advertise to accept bids for these vehicles.
3. An Ordinance repealing Ordinance 1095 (Riparian Buffer) is being reviewed by the Planning Commission and will be advertised for consideration. The proposed SALDO Planting Requirements Ordinance 1096 was tabled.
4. Rick Collier of the Wissahickon Valley Watershed Association made a presentation on the TMDL, Alternate TMDL and the proposed Inter-Governmental Agreement.

5. Mr. John Smith of Phillips Associates Architects made a brief presentation on proposed renovations in the Borough Hall gymnasium wing of Ambler Borough Hall. Total Preliminary Estimated Project Cost for upgrades, ADA and Code compliance is \$177,961.00.

Discussion ensued. Finance Manager Gail Gordon stated Council could consider authorizing expenditure of up to \$230,000.00 on renovations by utilizing the leftover line drawdown from Old Borough Hall (\$115,000), BPT (Business Privilege Tax) Reserves (\$45,000), and the addition of BPT landlord collection in 2016 (\$70,000). She stated that directive is needed from Council regarding dedication of expenditure of the \$115,000 amount and that once that was determined she would research refinancing the loan for New Borough Hall and would consider a bond.

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 no actions this evening
and no further business was considered for review.**

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.

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

Public Utilities Committee – The Committee recommends and Ms. Tomlinson moves:

Authorization is requested to prepare and advertise Bid documents for WWTP waste disposal and to obtain bid pricing for hauling since the WWTP Sludge Hauling Contract will expire this year. Seconded. Carried.

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

Consideration that May 2016 invoices in the amount of \$782,475.32 be paid. Seconded. Carried.

Consider advertising for Bid the proposed 2016 Paving Project. Seconded. Carried.

Consider advertising for adoption an Inter-Governmental Agreement Ordinance for the TMDL and MS4 Alternative. Seconded. Carried

Consider rescinding consideration to advertise for adoption an Inter-Governmental Agreement Ordinance for the TMDL and MS4 Alternative. Seconded. Carried

Consider adoption of **Resolution 2016-09** (to be prepared by the Solicitor) to proceed with all necessary revisions during the process of preparing the proposed Inter-Governmental Agreement for the TMDL and MS4 Alternative so that Council may consider and adopt an Ordinance through which the Borough will participate in the Inter-Governmental TMDL process. Seconded. Carried.

Consider preparing a letter of support for the Ambler Food Co-op as the Co-op is in the process of making application for funding through a County Loan-Montco Opportunity Loan Program. Seconded. Carried.

Salary & Personnel Committee – The Committee will make no recommendations

IN OTHER BUSINESS

Sue McCashew of 335 Woodland Avenue addressed Council regarding collection of the Business Privilege Tax flat tax from participants in the Ambler Farmer's Market, noting that the tax created a financial burden on vendors. Solicitor Bresnan stated that vendors meet the test of having a 'meaningful presence' engaging in business in the Borough and are therefore not exempt from the tax. Council, he advised, could review the Ordinance later in the year to review and consider amending the dollar amount of the flat tax collected. Ms. McCashew asked the a review of the BPT be placed on a future agenda of Council.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Elizabeth Russell
Assistant Secretary
Borough of Ambler