

AMBLER BOROUGH COUNCIL MINUTES

May 17, 2016

The regular monthly meeting of Ambler Borough Council was held Tuesday, May 17, 2016 at 7:00 p.m. at Borough Council Chambers located at 131 Rosemary Avenue, Ambler, Pennsylvania, 19002.

Council President Pasceri called the Council Meeting to order. Mayor Sorg then led the public in the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

Mayor Sorg addressed Council and the public on the topic of gun violence. She stated that 80% of Americans agree that background checks should be mandatory for all gun purchases. She noted that in support of public safety, the Ambler Borough Police Department has free gun locks available for all residents. Mayor Sorg announced that on June 2nd, thousands of mayors will be wearing “orange” to raise awareness about gun violence and to remember the 91 persons who are killed or injured each day by guns in America.

Mr. Pasceri made a motion to approve the Minutes of the April 19, 2016 Council Meeting. Seconded. Carried. Council then proceeded to hear Committee reports.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

The Committees of Ambler Borough Council met Tuesday, May 3, 2016 at 7:00 p.m. at Borough Council Chambers located at 131 Rosemary Avenue, Ambler, Pennsylvania, 19002. Present: Mr. Pasceri, Mr. Curtis, Mr. DeRuosi, Mrs. Deininger, Mrs. McCormick, Mr. Sheward, Ms. Tomlinson and Ms. Hertz. Mayor Sorg, Solicitor Bresnan, Chief Foley and Borough Manager Mary Aversa also were in attendance. Mr. Zaccone 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 the following actions this evening:

1. Authorization to direct the Borough Solicitor to prepare an Ordinance providing for signage or signals on Mattison and Euclid Avenues.

Discussion ensued. Mr. DeRuosi stated his preference for one-way out signage on Mattison Avenue and do not enter/local traffic only signage on Euclid Avenue. Chief Foley stated that one-way signage is easier to enforce. He stated residents have asked for a light at Lindenwold for years, that the proposed signage on Mattison and Euclid Avenues would get these traffic issues into drivers' mindsets. Mrs. Aversa stated she had corresponded with PennDOT, Upper Dublin Township and numerous state representatives about Ambler Borough's traffic concerns. Ms. Hertz stated her concern for residents on Lindenwold. Mrs. McCormick stated her concern that additional traffic studies might be needed based upon where a traffic light and signage might be placed. Ms. Tomlinson asked if signage and light installations could be timed to evaluate their impact before additional measures might be taken. Chief Foley stated the Borough could always reverse (meaning, removal or amend) signage once a traffic light is installed. Mrs. Aversa stated that the Borough Solicitor would need to prepare an ordinance providing for signage, the ordinance would be advertised and that a vote on passage would be about four to six weeks away.

2. Consider adoption of **Resolution 2016-08** suspending enforcement of Ordinance 748 to allow public consumption of alcohol by persons attending the Art & Music Festival on June 17 & 18, 2016 and for Oktoberfest on October 1 & 2, 2016.

In other business the following will be discussed:

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.
4. Community Ambulance Association of Ambler has asked the Borough to appoint a resident to serve on the CAAA Board. Interested residents should send a letter of interest to the Borough Manager or to Borough Council. CAAA meetings are held monthly on the third Wednesday of each month at the CAAA facility.

Mr. Curtis asked if there were comments or questions from Council or the public. Mr. Curtis announced that this week is National Police Appreciation Week. He recognized Chief Foley and the Ambler Police Department for their dedication protecting and serving the people of Ambler. 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 the following actions this evening:

1. Authorization to allocate \$1,705 from Borough funds as requested to makeup the balance of the shortfall towards the final purchase and closing costs associated with the Edgewood Preserves property purchase. To date, \$75,845 has been raised by the community with a commitment deadline to purchase the property of May 31, 2016.

In other business the following will be discussed:

1. Staff is preparing terms and pricing for rental of the Borough Gym and will make a future presentation to Council.
2. Registration for the YMCA Knight Park Summer Camp was held May 4th and parents may continue to register at the YMCA beginning May 5th. Camp will run June 20 – July 29 from 8:30-4:00 p.m. Monday through Friday at a cost of \$40 per child per week.

Discussion ensued. It was agreed by Council that grandparents with grandchildren who will be in Ambler over the summer and Borough employees with children who are interested in registering for camp may register, however applications will be wait-listed since the camp size has limited enrollment.

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. 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 the following actions this evening:

1. Authorization is requested to renew the energy contract with Constellation for the Demand Response at the Waste Water Treatment Plant.
2. Authorization is requested to award the contract for the demolition of the Vacuum Coil Filter at the Building B-9 to Derstine Company at a low quote of \$15,000.

Approved at Committee Meeting:

1. A Conditional Use Hearing was held for Crown Castle on May 3, 2016 at 7:00 p.m. and Council considered granting Conditional Use. Motion, seconded. All Aye (8-0).

In other business the following was discussed:

1. The WWTP Engineer is preparing a request for proposal for the Vacuum Filoter in EB-1 located in the Belt Filter Press Building.
2. The WWTP Engineer is preparing a request for proposal for the reconditioning of the T-8 Gravity Thickener.
3. Plant engineer Bill Brown discussed the latest comments to be submitted to the DEP and EPA regarding Alternate TMDL (Total Maximum Daily Load) Discussions. He explained that 4 plants and 17 municipalities discharge into the Wissahickon Creek. He stated proposed phosphorus discharge limits are not feasible. Environmental Consultant John Hall is representing the group to propose an alternate 15 year fixed discharge threshold. Mr. Brown stated that replacement of the UV light disinfection system and technological improvements to allow for increased phosphorus removal would cost \$6-10 million, with Ambler Borough being responsible for 20% of the cost. He stated plant improvements should be up and running within a 5-8 year window.

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 **April 2016** invoices in the amount of **\$437,579.70** be paid as follows: General (**\$145,428.47**); Street Lights (**\$7,197.36**); Fire (**\$24,428.52**); Refuse (**\$3,947.00**); Parks & Rec. (**\$2,454.62**); Water (**\$79,560.99**); Sewer (**\$17,726.26**); WWTP (**\$126,049.13**); Debt Fund (**\$0.00**); Water Capital (**\$27,444.76**); Liquid Fuels (**\$3,342.59**).
2. Consider adoption of **Ordinance 1098** establishing a Human Relations Commission with such ordinance declaring it to be a violation to discriminate in employment or public housing on the basis of, among other things, sexual orientation.

Discussion ensued. It was agreed that Section VI.B. should provide for the appointment of an "Alternate" to be seated on the Commission along with the 5 members of the to be established Commission.

3. A recommendation to adopt **Resolution 2016-07** requesting that the State Legislature amend the Sterling Act to allow that up to 1% of wage taxes paid to the city of Philadelphia be remitted to the municipality in which the taxpayer resides.

4. A recommendation to authorize the Borough Solicitor to draft an Ordinance for the Planning Commissions reviews and to be advertised for a public hearing that would consider reconsideration of passage of Ordinance 1095 (Riparian Buffer) and would consider passage of proposed ordinance 1096 if applicable.

Voted on at Public Hearing – May 3, 2016

1. Steep Slope Ordinance #1094. Motion. Seconded. [1-Aye (Mr. Sheward); 7-Nay] Defeated.
2. Riparian Buffer Ordinance #1095. Motion. Seconded [5-Aye (Mr. Pasceri, Mr. Sheward, Mrs. Deininger, Ms. Hertz, Mayor Sorg); 4-Nay (Mr. Curtis, Mr. DeRuosi, Mrs. McCormick, Ms. Tomlinson)] Adopted
3. SALDO Planting Requirements Ordinance #1096 – Tabled
4. Certain Uses Ordinance #1097, an Ordinance stating that certain uses permitted by special exception in the Borough Residential Zoning Districts only be permitted in Institutional Zoning Districts. Motion. Seconded [6-Aye; 2-Nay (Mrs. McCormick, Ms. Tomlinson)] Adopted

In other business the following was discussed:

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.

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.

Recommended at Committee Meeting:

1. Recommend hiring Vincent Isabella for the vacant Highway position. Motion. Seconded. Carried.
2. Recommend hiring Rudy Dukes for the vacant WWTP position. Motion. Seconded. Carried.

In other business the following was discussed.

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 to direct the Borough Solicitor to prepare an Ordinance providing for one-way out signage on Mattison Avenue and directed local traffic only signage on Euclid Avenue. Seconded. [8-Aye; 1-Nay (Ms. Tomlinson)] Carried.

Consider adoption of **Resolution 2016-08** suspending enforcement of Ordinance 748 to allow for public consumption of alcohol by persons attending the Art & Music Festival on June 17 & 18, 2016 and for Oktoberfest on October 1 & 2, 2016. Seconded. Carried.

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

Authorization to allocate \$1,705 from Borough funds as requested to makeup the balance of the shortfall towards the final purchase and closing costs associated with the Edgewood Preserves property purchase. Seconded. Carried.

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

Authorization is requested to renew the energy contract with Constellation for the Demand Response at the Waste Water Treatment Plant. Seconded. Carried.

Authorization is requested to award the contract for the demolition of the Vacuum Coil Filter at the Building B-9 to Derstine Company at a low quote of \$15,000. Seconded. Carried.

Approved at Committee Meeting: A Conditional Use Hearing was held for Crown Castle on May 3, 2016 at 7:00 p.m. and Council considered granting Conditional Use. Motion, seconded. All Aye (8-0).

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

Consideration that **April 2016** invoices in the amount of **\$437,579.70** be paid. Seconded. Carried.

Consider adoption of **Ordinance 1098** establishing a Human Relations Commission with such ordinance declaring it to be a violation to discriminate in employment or public housing on the basis of, among other things, sexual orientation. Seconded. Carried.

A recommendation to adopt **Resolution 2016-07** requesting that the State Legislature amend the Sterling Act to allow that up to 1% of wage taxes paid to the city of Philadelphia be remitted to the municipality in which the taxpayer resides. Seconded. Carried.

A recommendation to authorize the Borough Solicitor to draft an Ordinance for Planning Commissions reviews and to be advertised for a public hearing that would consider reconsideration of passage of Ordinance 1095 (Riparian Buffer) and would consider passage of proposed ordinance 1096 if applicable. Seconded. Carried.

Voted on at Public Hearing – May 3, 2016

3. Steep Slope Ordinance #1094. Motion. Seconded. [1-Aye (Mr. Sheward); 7-Nay] Defeated.
4. Riparian Buffer Ordinance #1095. Motion. Seconded [5-Aye (Mr. Pasceri, Mr. Sheward, Mrs. Deininger, Ms. Hertz, Mayor Sorg); 4-Nay (Mr. Curtis, Mr. DeRuosi, Mrs. McCormick, Ms. Tomlinson)] Adopted
5. SALDO Planting Requirements Ordinance #1096 – Tabled
6. Certain Uses Ordinance #1097, an Ordinance stating that certain uses permitted by special exception in the Borough Residential Zoning Districts only be permitted in Institutional Zoning Districts. Motion. Seconded [6-Aye; 2-Nay (Mrs. McCormick, Ms. Tomlinson)] Adopted

Salary & Personnel Committee – The Committee will make no recommendations

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

Respectfully submitted,

Elizabeth Russell
Assistant Secretary
Borough of Ambler