

AMBLER BOROUGH COUNCIL MINUTES

November 15, 2016

The regular monthly meeting of Ambler Borough Council was held Tuesday, November 15, 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 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 Aversa were present.

Approval of Minutes: Mr. Pasceri made a motion to approve the Minutes of the October 18, 2016 Council Meeting. Seconded. Carried. Council then proceeded with Committee Reports.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

The Committees of Ambler Borough Council met Tuesday, November 1, 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, Ms. Tomlinson and Ms. Hertz. Mayor Sorg, Solicitor Bresnan and Borough Manager Mary Aversa also were in attendance. Mr. Sheward and Chief Foley 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 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 was received.
3. The Public Works and Code Enforcement reports were received.

4. Staff has completed training to certify parking meters in the Borough. Meter certification will take place during the month of December when meter parking is free in the Borough for shopping and holiday activities.

Mr. Curtis asked if there were comments or questions from Council or the public. Dr. Jerry Madden, whose veterinary practice is located on Euclid Avenue, addressed Council. He stated he has approximately 40 clients per day and that there was confusion on the traffic restriction signs recently erected by the Borough. He stated businesses and residents were unclear about “local traffic only,” and the signs were rather overwhelming. Stan Moyer, Jr. of 128 Park Avenue concurred, noting revenue lost to a business losing clients was essentially an ‘unfunded mandate.’

Chief Foley responded that numerous residents had come to Council requesting restriction on Euclid Avenue and the traffic studies conducted by the police department showed that Euclid Avenue traffic warranted new traffic measures. He stated the Borough is operating at a learning curve at this point in time. Matthew McClellan of 300 Euclid Avenue stated that as a resident of Euclid Avenue, he was now faced with parking issues and further, that he had noticed a number of drivers driving in reverse once they noticed the signs, not realizing that they were quite possibly ‘local traffic’ and could have proceeded onto Euclid Avenue. Mr. Curtis asked the public to give the police department their support and that he was confident the PD would work this out.

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. Dedication of the Wahl Playground will be held at 131 Rosemary Avenue on Saturday, November 26th at 1:00 p.m.

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 no actions this evening.

In other business the following was reviewed:

1. The Engineer's Report was received.
2. In September, the Lab that performs routine water analysis for the Water Dept. misplaced paperwork for some water samples taken at our Whitmarsh facility. Water Dept. has not received results for that site's 'backwash discharge,' which is water that comes off the filters after the filters are backwashed and which is analyzed twice monthly. This water is never put into the distribution system. These samples were taken on September 7th and the second monthly testing event was September 14th. A satisfactory Sampling Analysis Report from the lab for that sampling event has been received. This lab has never before misplaced our paperwork. Water Dept. will list this occurrence on the 2016 Water Quality Report to our customers

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 **October 2016** invoices in the amount of **\$944,357.59** be paid as follows: General (**\$176,062.34**); Street Lights (**\$6,414.47**); Fire (**\$0.00**); Refuse (**\$33,341.15**); Parks & Rec. (**\$2,883.83**); Water (**\$115,088.56**); Sewer (**\$92,670.68**); WWTP (**\$239,545.18**); Debt Fund (**\$0.00**); Water Capital (**\$105,548.68**); Liquid Fuels (**\$172,802.70**).
2. Consider authorization for the sale of commercial equipment contained in the former school cafeteria kitchen by advertising and listing items with Municibid.

In other business the following was reviewed:

1. The Borough Engineer's report was received.
2. Bid documents are being prepared for the renovation of the Borough Hall Gymnasium wing.

3. The 2017 Budget is being prepared and public meetings have been advertised and scheduled for December 6 (6:00 p.m.), December 13 (10:00 a.m.) and December 20 (6:00 p.m.).
4. An Ordinance Fixing the Real Estate Tax for the Year 2017 will be prepared and advertised for adoption.
5. A Resolution Setting Budget Appropriations for 2017 will be prepared.
6. 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 applications. A resolution rescinding the original Planning Module and a resolution submitting to DEP for its approval the revised Sewer Facilities Planning Module will be considered at the December meeting.

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.

In other business the following was reviewed:

1. Resumes are being sought by residents interested in serving on the Human Relations Commission. Presently, four residents have indicated interest in being appointed to the Commission.
2. Chief Foley is determining when the Police Civil Service Test will be locally administered.
3. An Executive Session was held at the Committee Meeting in reference to an employee issue.
4. Committee, Commission and Board Appointments. Resumes are being accepted for open positions. Appointed volunteer terms that expire December 31, 2016 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

Executive Session:

1. An Executive Session was held in reference to the police contract negotiations.

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 **October 2016** invoices in the amount of **\$944,357.59** be paid. Seconded. Carried.

Consider authorization for the sale of commercial equipment contained in the former school cafeteria kitchen by advertising and listing items with Municibid. Seconded. Carried.

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

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. No public comment was received this evening.

2016 GREAT PLACES IN PA AWARD PRESENTATION

Richard Collier and Ed Landeau addressed Council as an award was presented to Ambler Borough, announcing that Butler Avenue has been named as one of the “Great Streets” in Pennsylvania. The award was presented by the PA Chapter of American Planning Association. Greats Places are unique, memorable places that work not only for their community, but as a model others want to emulate – places of exemplary character, quality, planning, identity, cultural interest, and community involvement with a sustainable vision for tomorrow. Everyone in our community should be proud of this accomplishment! A reception followed.

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

Respectfully submitted,
Elizabeth Russell
Assistant Secretary
Borough of Ambler