

## AMBLER BOROUGH COUNCIL MINUTES

October 18, 2016

The regular monthly meeting of Ambler Borough Council was held Tuesday, October 18, 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.

**Moment of Silence:** A Moment of Silence was observed to recognize and reflect upon former Borough Councilwoman Diane Ferro, who served the people of Ambler.

**Roll Call** – Present: Mr. Pasceri, Mr. Curtis, Mr. Zaccone, Mr. DeRuosi, Mrs. Deininger, Mrs. McCormick and Mr. Sheward. Mayor Sorg, Solicitor Bresnan, Sgt. Borkowski and Borough Manager Aversa were present. Ms. Tomlinson and Ms. Hertz were absent.

**Approval of Minutes:** Mr. Pasceri made a motion to approve the Minutes of the September 20, 2016 Council Meeting. Seconded. Carried. Council then proceeded with Committee Reports.

### **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

The Committees of Ambler Borough Council met Tuesday, October 4, 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, Mr. Sheward, Ms. Tomlinson and Ms. Hertz. Mayor Sorg, Solicitor Bresnan, Chief Foley and Borough Manager Mary Aversa also were in attendance. Mrs. McCormick 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 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. 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. Consider purchasing decorative holiday lights for Butler Avenue from Rileighs at a cost of \$10,789.00.

**In other business the following was reviewed:**

1. Two pet waste stations were installed at Ambler Borough Park.
2. The Committee is considering installing bird house-styled "free libraries" to be placed around town. Mr. DeRuosi is investigating a possible partnership with the Wissahickon School District's '0-5 Literacy Program' for books to be used in the mobile libraries.

Discussion ensued. Mr. DeRuosi stated that Montgomery News may donate old newsboxes to be repurposed as "free libraries."

3. Staff is compiling quotes for the cost of converting courts at Ricciardi Park to Pickle Ball Courts.
4. Staff is scheduling the Borough Building's 'Wahl Playground' dedication for late November.

Mr. DeRuosi asked if there were comments or questions from Council or the public. Liz Kunzier of Ambler Main Street reported that Butler Avenue has been recognized as a 'Great Public Street' through the PA Chapter of American Planning Association's Great Places in Pennsylvania program. Additionally, she reported that the Clydesdales will not be revisiting Ambler Borough in 2016. Finally, a discussion was held regarding 'Santa by Train' with a new event plan to hold a holiday story time at the Gym with elves distributing treats to attending children. Mayor Sorg agreed to be the reading elf.

Councilman Curtis stated that a number of businesses at the outer fringes of the business district felt 'left out' of several community events. Mrs. Kunzier stated the public safety

need for safe ingress and egress in the Borough, which is why events are held on the Avenue between Main and Lindenwold. Mr. Curtis asked Ambler Main Street to consider opportunities for these businesses to participate in community-wide events.

Mr. David Morgan of School Street reported that the Environmental Advisory Council will be distributing and planting bare root trees. Plantings are anticipated at Ricciardi Park and Borough Hall. Interested citizens should contact the EAC. 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. Consider adoption of **Resolution 2016-14** authorizing the Borough Manager to make application for the Wissahickon Creek Bridge Pipeline Replacement Project (due October 31, 2016) with the PA DCED/Commonwealth Financing Authority's PA Small Water and Sewer Grant Program for \$341,275 (85% of total) with \$60,225 (15%) match from the Borough.
2. Consider authorizing purchase by WWTP of lab equipment to run the phosphorus and basic tests for in-house process control at a cost of \$7,600.
3. Consider awarding contract for roof replacement at WWTP B-1 Building to the sole bidder, Banes Roofing, at a contract price of \$74,122.

**Awarded at Committee Meeting:**

1. The AWWTP Sludge Hauling and Disposal bid was opened on August 16, 2016. An award was made for Sludge Disposal Only to Waste Management at a cost of \$54.95 per ton with a three-year contract agreement. Seconded. Carried.

**In other business the following was reviewed:**

1. The Engineer's Report was received.

Mr. Pasceri asked if there were questions or comments from Council or the public. Mr. Pasceri stated he had been in contact with Verizon. Verizon informed him that for the next several months they would be analyzing wireless traffic served by the three DAS Nodes installed by Crown Castle and as such they were putting the proposed Monopole Project 'on hold' until next May when they would be able to determine their future needs. 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 **September 2016** invoices in the amount of **\$724,940.70** be paid as follows: General (**\$172,605.91**); Street Lights (**\$6,702.51**); Fire (**\$127,261.24**); Refuse (**\$36,758.47**); Parks & Rec. (**\$5,404.92**); Water (**\$140,233.66**); Sewer (**\$14,426.44**); WWTP (**\$210,976.55**); Debt Fund (**\$0.00**); Water Capital (**\$12,571.00**); Liquid Fuels (**\$108.00**).
2. Consider adoption of **Ordinance 1102** Refinancing the Municipal Building Loan with a General Obligation Bond.

Discussion ensued. A representative of the Bond Institution was available as was Finance Manager Gordon. It was explained that the Ordinance being reviewed is a parameters ordinance which sets the interest rate of the bond as well as names the Financial Advisor. Solicitor Bresnan will review the bond before it is put out to ensure the bond is within the parameters set forth in the ordinance.

3. Consider executing a Development Agreement and Developer's Escrow Agreement and providing a letter of support for grant application for the Ambler Boiler House Parking Lot Expansion Project. The Development Agreement Bond has been received.

**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 will be scheduled.

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 the hiring of Patrick Sarro as Superintendent of the Wastewater Treatment Plant.

**The following business was considered for review:**

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 the police contract negotiations. Draft language is being reviewed and it is anticipated another Executive Session will be held in November.

Mr. Zacone 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 recommends and Mr. DeRuosi moves:

Consider purchasing decorative holiday lights for Butler Avenue from Rileighs at a cost of \$10,789.00. Seconded. Carried.

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

Consider adoption of **Resolution 2016-14** authorizing the Borough Manager to make application for the Wissahickon Creek Bridge Pipeline Replacement Project (due October 31, 2016) with the PA DCED/Commonwealth Financing Authority's PA Small Water and Sewer Grant Program for \$341,275 (85% of total) with \$60,225 (15%) match from the Borough. Seconded. Carried.

Consider authorizing purchase by WWTP of lab equipment to run the phosphorus and basic tests for in-house process control at a cost of \$7,600. Seconded. Carried.

Consider awarding contract for roof replacement at WWTP B-1 Building to the sole bidder, Banes Roofing, at a contract price of \$74,122. Seconded. Carried.

**Awarded at Committee Meeting:**

The AWWTP Sludge Hauling and Disposal bid was opened on August 16, 2016. An award was made for Sludge Disposal Only to Waste Management at a cost of \$54.95 per ton with a three-year contract agreement. Seconded. Carried.

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

Consideration that **September 2016** invoices in the amount of **\$724,940.70** be paid. Seconded. Carried.

Consider adoption of **Ordinance 1102** Refinancing the Municipal Building Loan with a General Obligation Bond. Seconded. Carried.

Consider executing a Development Agreement and Developer’s Escrow Agreement and providing a letter of support for grant application for the Ambler Boiler House Parking Lot Expansion Project. Seconded. 6-Aye; 1-Nay (Mrs. McCormick). Carried.

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

Consider the hiring of Patrick Sarro as Superintendent of the Wastewater Treatment Plant. 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. Borough resident Bernadette Dougherty of 338 Tennis Avenue commented on the scale of the holiday star lights to be mounted on light poles on the Avenue, stating that in her opinion the lights were oversized for the light poles.

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

Respectfully submitted,  
Elizabeth Russell  
Assistant Secretary  
Borough of Ambler