

AMBLER BOROUGH COUNCIL MINUTES

August 16, 2016

The regular monthly meeting of Ambler Borough Council was held Tuesday, August 16, 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 and 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 and Ms. Tomlinson. Mayor Sorg, Solicitor Bresnan, Chief Foley and Borough Manager Mary Aversa also were in attendance. Mrs. Hertz was absent.

Approval of Minutes: Mr. Pasceri made a motion to approve the Minutes of the July 19, 2016 Council Meeting. Seconded. Carried.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

The Committees of Ambler Borough Council met Tuesday, August 2, 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, Ms. Tomlinson and Ms. Hertz. Mayor Sorg, Solicitor Bresnan, Chief Foley and Borough Manager Mary Aversa also were in attendance. 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 action this evening:

1. Consider authorization to participate in a grant submitted by the Army Corps to have the Non-Structural Flood Proofing Committee come to the Borough to serve as an educational resource to teach residents about options they have to reduce flood damage and to conduct site visits for flood-proofing methods assessments. The estimated budget for this projects includes in-kind services only from the Borough, some of which were completed during the large flood study prepared for the Rose Valley Creek.

In other business the following was reviewed:

1. The Fire report was 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 provided a summary of the Criterium Bike Race event. He stated it was a long, hot day, the roads were in good shape, the Fire Company did an excellent job and there were no incidents. Mr. Curtis complimented the Police Dept. for their efforts. 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. PECO notified the Borough that the grant application for Edgewoods Preserve Open Space Preservation was not selected for funding.
2. Rental pricing and terms for rental of space at the Borough Hall Gym were received and comments or suggestions are requested.
3. Staff is considering repair or replacement of signage and Borough parks. Staff is purchasing additional soccer nets.
4. Mr. David Morgan will address Council on shade trees in the Borough and possible grant opportunities.

Mr. David Morgan of 29 School Street addressed Council. He stated that shade trees enhance the Borough and the Borough's business climate, they provide a sun filter and give us a natural setting. He stated that in the past shade trees were integral to the Tree-Vitalize Program. He stated that he is retired and would like to involve with overseeing pruning and planting of shade trees, noting that in the past in 2007 the Borough planted 80 trees. He encouraged Council to consider plantings at Cavalier Drive, along Main Street, and at the Borough Hall playground. He stated the Temple U./Ambler extension office had offered to teach the art of pruning to selected Public Works employees. Mrs. Aversa stated she would consider having a public works supervisor attend a 'tree tenders' course. Solicitor Bresnan noted that Borough Council is the official "Shade Tree Committee" for the Borough and that a shade tree advisory council could not operate as an EAC subcommittee. Council thanked Mr. Morgan for his presentation.

5. Wissahickon Athletic Club (WAC) requested permission to conduct an After School Homework Help Program in the Gym on Tuesdays, Wednesday & Thursdays from 3:30 – 5:00 p.m. Coach Lenny Robinson of Church Street stated the program hoped to mentor 20-25 students, that 90% of the program volunteers were from the school district, and that all volunteers would be security screened.

Discussion ensued. Council members stated their enthusiasm for the program and agreed to allow the WAC to run the program as requested.

6. Councilman DeRuosi discussed current Council Meeting public comment procedures. He stated he would like to allow a formal public comment period at the end of each meeting. He suggested allowing no more than five speakers per topic, cautioned that other members of the public should not engage the speaker in an ‘audience discussion,’ and asked that the public allow Council time to respond to any questions asked by the public. He emphasized that public comment was not necessarily a dialogue with Council. Solicitor Bresnan noted that the public would continue to have the right to comment on agenda items under the Sunshine Law. Council members discussed whether to limit an individual’s time for comment or to limit the number of speakers. The public offered suggestions as well. Sal Boccuti of 300 Rosemary Avenue asked that Rules for Public Comment be placed on the back table.

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 to award the bid for the reconditioning of the T-8 Gravity Thickener to Blooming Glen Contractors Inc. for the award amount of \$64,847.00.
2. Authorization for the AWWTP to purchase a 244 K Mini Loader with an operating capacity of 4,786 pounds at a final price (cost less trade-in) of \$49,000. The mini loader is recommended for safety to personnel and for minimizing spill potential in transporting totes of chemicals.
3. The AWWTP Sludge Hauling and Disposal bid was opened on August 16, 2016. Consideration of award will be made at the September meeting.

Adopted at Committee Meeting:

1. Consider adoption of **Ordinance 1101** Authorizing Participation in the Inter-Governmental Agreement for the TMDL and MSR Alternative. Seconded. Carried 9-Aye.

In other business the following was reviewed:

1. The Engineer's Report was received.
2. Site plans for the proposed Verizon Monopole were received. A meeting was held between Council President Sal Pasceri, Verizon Representation Todd Betenhausen and Mr. John Zaharchuk of Summit Realty Advisors regarding consideration to situating the monopole at the Boiler House. Mr. Zaharchuk stated that he did not in fact have rights to determine leases for space on the smoke stack. The Verizon representative stated that Verizon would not likely have interest in conducting a Phase 2 study at that particular site. Mr. Pasceri stated he was notified that Verizon was reviewing recent placement of additional antenna installations in neighboring communities and that Verizon would reply within 30-45 days whether Verizon still had need to place equipment in Ambler Borough.
3. Water Department is making emergency replacement of 20 feet of water main at the Butler Park Condos.
4. Water Department will be replacing several valves to coordinate with late summer paving projects. Two valves will be replaced on Maple Avenue. Three valves will be replaced along Bethlehem Pike to coordinate with a PennDOT milling and paving project.
5. The bid for the 2016 Sanitary Sewer Rehabilitation Project will be advertised on PennBid with the opening scheduled for September 1, 2016.

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 **July 2016** invoices in the amount of **\$649,521.08** be paid as follows: General (**\$170,101.43**); Street Lights (**\$5,750.65**); Fire (**\$0.00**); Refuse (**\$34,894.63**); Parks & Rec. (**\$6,516.18**); Water (**\$80,808.33**); Sewer (**\$10,026.74**); WWTP (**\$338,368.00**); Debt Fund (**\$0.00**); Water Capital (**\$2,299.66**); Liquid Fuels (**\$755.46**).

2. Consider authorizing preparation of bid specs and advertisement for bids of the Phase 2 Renovation Project at Ambler Borough Hall of the Gymnasium wing.

Discussion ensued. Ms. Tomlinson, noting that she perceived the need for this community to have space available in the gymnasium for many uses, stated she would no longer object to moving forward on this project. Finance Manager Gordon stated that with authorization from Council, she would move forward on appropriately paying down the existing building loan and would then refinance the loan with a bond.

In other business the following was reviewed:

1. The Borough Engineer's report was received.
2. Letters of interest/resumes have been received for consideration for appointment to the Human Relations Commission.

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.

The following business was considered for review.

1. Mr. Nicholas Boccuti is relocating out of Ambler Borough and has submitted his resignation from the Zoning Hearing Board.
2. An Executive Session will be held to provide an update on the Police Contract which will expire at the end of the year.

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:

Consider authorization to participate in a grant submitted by the Army Corps to have the Non-Structural Flood Proofing Committee come to the Borough to serve as an educational

resource to teach residents about options they have to reduce flood damage and to conduct site visits for flood-proofing methods assessments. Seconded. Carried.

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

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

Authorization to award the bid for the reconditioning of the T-8 Gravity Thickener to Blooming Glen Contractors Inc. for the award amount of \$64,847.00. Seconded. Carried.

Authorization for the AWWTP to purchase a 244 K Mini Loader with an operating capacity of 4,786 pounds at a final price (cost less trade-in) of \$49,000. Seconded. Carried.

Adopted at Committee Meeting: Consider adoption of **Ordinance 1101** Authorizing Participation in the Inter-Governmental Agreement for the TMDL and MSR Alternative. Seconded. Carried 9-Aye.

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

Consideration that **July 2016** invoices in the amount of **\$649,521.08** be paid. Seconded. Carried.

Consider authorizing preparation of bid specs and advertisement for bids of the Phase 2 Renovation Project at Ambler Borough Hall of the Gymnasium wing. Seconded. Carried.

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