

AMBLER BOROUGH COUNCIL MINUTES

September 20, 2016

The regular monthly meeting of Ambler Borough Council was held Tuesday, September 20, 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 August 16, 2016 Council Meeting. Seconded. Carried.

Conditional Use Hearing: A scheduled, advertised Conditional Use Hearing was held for the Weavers Way Food Co-op which submitted an application to occupy an existing building at the former Bottom Dollar Food Store site located at 217 E. Butler Avenue. The Court Reporter was present. Solicitor Bresnan reviewed with Council their obligation to determine in a quasi-judicial manner whether the Applicant meets criteria. He stated that the hearing was necessitated because the Co-op intends, in addition to selling groceries, to prepare food for sale and offer a dining area. He stated Council should consider whether there will be a negative impact in the Downtown Commercial District, whether there will be undesirable increased volume and any other ‘spill-over’ impacts.

Speaking on behalf of Weavers Way, resident Bernadette Dougherty of 338 Tennis Avenue noted that whereas the restaurants in the DC district are Ambler’s nighttime anchors, the Co-op would be Ambler’s daytime anchor. She introduced Kathleen Casey, President of the Ambler Food Co-op and the General Manager and Project Manager of Weavers Way Co-op who spoke with enthusiasm about expanding the Co-op’s cooperative model into Ambler. Councilman DeRuosi thanked Kathleen Casey for her perseverance and stated he looked forward to the Co-op operating in Ambler. Other members of the public also voiced their enthusiasm for the Co-op.

Finance and Planning Committee Chairman Sheward moved that the Weavers Way Food Co-op’s Application be granted. Seconded. Poll Council – All Aye. Carried.

Council then proceeded with Committee Reports.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

The Committees of Ambler Borough Council met Tuesday, September 6, 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 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. Mr. Curtis thanked the Mayor, Chief Foley and Councilwoman Deininger for coming out to celebrate the Wissahickon Fire Company's 125th Anniversary. Mrs. Deininger announced that the Wissahickon Middle School would be hosting a Veteran's Day Breakfast on November 11th. She extended an invitation to Mr. Curtis and all Ambler veterans to attend the breakfast. 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. Rental pricing and terms for rental of space at the Borough Hall Gym were received and comments or suggestions are requested. DVIT has made some recommendations and staff continues to compile the document.

2. New soccer nets were installed at Riccardi Park. Two waste disposal stations have been ordered for Ambler Borough Park and will be placed at both entrances to the ‘dog friendly’ park. Staff is looking into purchasing and installing additional park benches at the Borough Hall playground.
3. Mr. David Morgan addressed Council on shade trees in the Borough and possible grant opportunities.
4. The Committee is considering installing bird house-styled “free libraries” to be placed around town.

Discussion ensued. Ambler Main Street’s Liz Kunzier detailed the free library concept of ‘borrow a book, give a book’ and spoke of the success of this program in other communities. Mr. DeRuosi stated he is on the Literacy Board of the Wissahickon School District and would pitch the idea to the school district as a possible resource for books.

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. The AWWTP Sludge Hauling and Disposal bid was opened on August 16, 2016. Consideration of award is still underway.

Discussion ensued. Borough Manager Aversa stated the Borough may consider hauling in-house and may award a contract for sludge disposal only. She said she was awaiting costs of an insurance policy the WWTP would carry so that it could undertake hauling of sludge. Mr. Pasceri agreed that the Committee would hold on making an award until this information became available.

2. Considering awarding the bid contract for the 2016 Sanitary Sewer Rehabilitation Project (part of a CDBG grant) to Video Pipe Services for the low, responsive bid of \$59,791.20. This project will involve pointing repairs and the installation of a liner at a specific site.

In other business the following was reviewed:

1. The Engineer’s Report was received.

1. Site plans for the proposed Verizon Monopole were received. Verizon will inform the Borough, upon its review of current communications needs, whether Verizon still has need to place equipment in Ambler Borough.
2. Borough engineers Gilmore & Associates is preparing a grant application with the DCED "PA Small Water & Sewer Projects" program for the Wissahickon Creek Crossing Project to replace water main on Butler Avenue from Chestnut Street in the Borough to the opposite site of Wissahickon Creek in Upper Dublin Township. A resolution authorizing application will be forthcoming.

Discussion ensued. Ms. Hertz asked what action or activity would occur if the grant was not awarded. Ms. Aversa stated that this is a large, costly project, and that the timeframe would certainly be pushed back if no award were received.

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 **August 2016** invoices in the amount of **\$707,677.08** be paid as follows: General (**\$159,379.28**); Street Lights (**\$6,189.60**); Fire (**\$0.00**); Refuse (**\$36,373.62**); Parks & Rec. (**\$39,727.49**); Water (**\$109,489.87**); Sewer (**\$134,751.06**); WWTP (**\$215,453.16**); Debt Fund (**\$0.00**); Water Capital (**\$6,205.00**); Liquid Fuels (**\$108.00**).
2. Consider approval of a contract proposal for preparation of construction and bid documents with Phillips Associates for the Phase 2 Renovation Project at Ambler Borough Hall of the Gymnasium wing.

Discussion ensued. Ms. Tomlinson, asked about the costs of Construction Observation, which were listed at an hourly rate. Ms. Aversa stated it was her intention that the Borough's Code Officer and Building Inspectors would undertake most of this function and that she anticipated the hourly rate proposed by Phillips Associates, at her request, would be lower than the initial proposed quote that listed over \$10,000 for Construction Observation. Ms. Bernadette Dougherty asked whether this contract had gone to bid. Solicitor Bresnan stated that professional services are exempt from this requirement. He noted that the contract cost was about \$21,000.

3. Consider adoption of **Resolution 2016-11** recognizing the actuarial condition of the Borough's Police Pension Plan as determined by calculation of the 2017 Minimum Municipal Obligation for Borough pension plans.

4. Consider adoption of **Resolution 2016-12** recognizing the actuarial condition of the Borough's Municipal Employee Pension Plan as determined by calculation of the 2017 Minimum Municipal Obligation for Borough pension plans.
5. Consider adoption of **Resolution 2016-13** recognizing the actuarial condition of the Borough's Defined Contribution Municipal Employee Pension Plan as determined by calculation of the 2017 Minimum Municipal Obligation for Borough pension plans.

In other business the following was reviewed:

1. The Borough Engineer's report was received.
2. Refinancing details were received relative to purchasing a Bond to pay back the loan for purchase of 131 Rosemary Avenue (\$1.8 million) and the line of credit (\$1.7 million) for renovation of Ambler Borough Hall. A vote for approval to proceed with refinancing will be requested at the October 4, 2016 Committee Meeting.

Discussion ensued. Councilwoman Tomlinson asked for further details on the proposed refinancing. Finance Manager Gordon stated the current loans are with Ambler Savings Bank. She has calculated that the cost of payment of the debt, to include issuance costs of the bond, will yield a savings to the Borough of \$581,549 over the life of the bond. She noted that the Bond is not callable for 5 years and that payment of the bond would be semi-annually. She stated the present loan is payable monthly, and that the Borough does not have a cash flow problem with either schedule of payback.

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. Council has received three letters of interest from residents interested in serving on the Human Relations Committee. Council will wait until the Committee can be fully seated (5 members, 1 alternate) before making committee appointments.

Approved at Committee Meeting – 9/6/16

1. Mr. Ryan Kennedy was appointed to the vacant seat on the Zoning Hearing Board. Mr. Robert Foster was appointed as Alternate on the Zoning Hearing Board.

Executive Session

1. An Executive Session was requested by Mr. Curtis. The Executive Session involved discussion about the Police Contract negotiations currently underway.

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 recommends and Mr. Pasceri moves:

Considering awarding the bid contract for the 2016 Sanitary Sewer Rehabilitation Project (part of a CDBG grant) to Video Pipe Services for the low, responsive bid of \$59,791.20. This project will involve pointing repairs and the installation of a liner at a specific site. Seconded. Carried.

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

Recommend that **August 2016** invoices in the amount of **\$707,677.08** be paid. Seconded. Carried.

Recommend approval of contract proposal for preparation of construction and bid documents with Phillips Associates for the Phase 2 Renovation Project at Ambler Borough Hall of the Gymnasium wing. Seconded. Carried.

Recommend adoption of **Resolution 2016-11** recognizing the actuarial condition of the Borough's Police Pension Plan as determined by calculation of the 2017 Minimum Municipal Obligation for Borough pension plans. Seconded. Carried.

Recommend adoption of **Resolution 2016-12** recognizing the actuarial condition of the Borough's Municipal Employee Pension Plan as determined by calculation of the 2017 Minimum Municipal Obligation for Borough pension plans. Seconded. Carried.

Recommend adoption of **Resolution 2016-13** recognizing the actuarial condition of the Borough's Defined Contribution Municipal Employee Pension Plan as determined by

calculation of the 2017 Minimum Municipal Obligation for Borough pension plans. Seconded. Carried.

Approved at Public Hearing – 9/20/16

At the conclusion of this evening's Conditional Use Hearing, Chairman Sheward moved that the Weavers Way Food Co-op's Application be granted. Seconded. Poll Council – All Aye. Carried.

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

Approved at Committee Meeting – 9/6/16

Mr. Ryan Kennedy was appointed to the vacant seat on the Zoning Hearing Board. Mr. Robert Foster was appointed as Alternate on the Zoning Hearing Board. 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 Judy Baigis of 172 Tennis Avenue inquired about Council's procedures if residents have an issue with a non-union employee or professional.

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

Respectfully submitted,
Elizabeth Russell
Assistant Secretary
Borough of Ambler