

AMBLER BOROUGH COUNCIL MINUTES

August 15, 2017

The regular monthly meeting of Ambler Borough Council was held Tuesday, August 15, 2017 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. Council Vice President Curtis led the public in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll Call – Present: Mr. Pasceri, Mr. Curtis, Mr. DeRuosi, Mrs. McCormick, Mr. Sheward, Mrs. Deininger, Ms. Tomlinson and Ms. Hertz. Solicitor Bresnan of Dischell, Bartle & Dooley, Chief Foley and Borough Manager Aversa were present. Mr. Zaccone and Mayor Sorg were absent.

Approval of Minutes: Mr. Pasceri made a motion to approve the Minutes of the July 18, 2017 Council Meeting. Seconded. Carried.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

The Committees of Ambler Borough Council met Tuesday, August 1, 2017 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 the following actions this evening:

1. Consider authorizing execution of the Winter Service Services Agreement from PennDOT.

Approved at Committee Meeting:

1. Consider adoption of a **Resolution** suspending Ordinance 738 on August 19th for persons attending the Criterium Bike Race. Seconded. (8-Aye). Carried.

In other business the following was reviewed:

1. The Fire Department, Police Department and Community Ambulance Association reports were received.
2. The Public Works and Code Enforcement reports were received.
3. The Red Cross will hold a blood drive at Borough Hall (Gym) on September 8, 2017 from 2:00-7:00 p.m.

Mr. Curtis asked if there were comments or questions from Council or the public. Mr. Sheward made several comments about First Friday in July. He stated business owners were dismayed that parking meters had been bagged quite early in the day to set-up for the event. Chief Foley responded that the PD had bagged meters on N. Ridge in addition to the usual routes in anticipation of the evening's events. He stated he felt it was necessary for his officers to stay on top of the situation.

Mr. Sheward and Ms. Hertz both stated that residents had a negative reaction to the "Bike Night" event held during First Friday. On the contrary, Mrs. McCormick stated that residents who spoke with her felt that the event was fantastic. Mrs. Liz Kunzier of Ambler Main Street stated the 150+ riders were very responsible and safety conscious. She noted the event overwhelmed First Friday and stated that should "Bike Night" be scheduled again, it would be held exclusive of First Fridays. Mr. Curtis noted this was the biggest First Friday event ever, and he acknowledged the efforts of the Police Department, stated there were "zero incidents" that evening. He stated he would encourage the event. There being nothing further, it was moved the Committee's report be accepted as filed. Seconded. Carried.

Public Utilities Committee – Mr. Claudio Zaccone, Chairperson

Committee members: Mr. Curtis, Mr. Pasceri

The Public Utilities Committee report was given this evening by Mr. Pasceri.

The Committee will consider the following actions this evening:

1. Consider award for the Lafayette Avenue Water Main Replacement Project which involves replacement of 1,300 feet of 6-inch water main to lowest bidder Ankiewicz Enterprises, Inc. in the amount of \$177,225.00.

Discussion ensued. Mrs. McCormick asked whether Whitemarsh Township would be contributing to the cost of main replacement. Ms. Aversa responded that the Ambler Borough Water Department owns the main, it is part of the distribution system, and as such the project cost is our responsibility.

2. Authorize emergency repair of a 40-foot section of storm sewer on Main Street at the site of a coned-off sink hole by Caddick Construction at the quoted cost not to exceed \$20,000.
3. Recommend execution of the lease between Montgomery County (“Lessee”) and the Borough of Ambler (“Lessor”) for the County’s antennas and equipment located at the Houston Road Tank.

In other business the following was reviewed:

1. The Engineer’s report was provided.
2. Quotes are being obtained for repaving of driveways at Borough wells.
3. The WWTP DAF building has a roof leak and quotes are being obtained so that a repair may be scheduled in September.
4. Quotes are being obtained by the WWTP both for repair of boilers in the belt filter press and for the purchase of new equipment. The boilers are 25 years old and it is felt it may be more cost-effective to replace them. The challenge is timing – with winter approaching a determination must be made in September to avoid pipes freezing in winter.

Mr. Pasceri 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.

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 2017** invoices in the amount of **\$477,059.45** be paid as follows: General (**\$97,220.28**); Street Lights (**\$10,242.24**); Fire (**\$0.00**); Refuse (**\$35,795.66**); Parks & Rec. (**\$4,179.33**); Water (**\$111,991.06.**); Sewer (**\$9,588.67**); WWTP (**\$195,391.48**); Debt Fund (**\$0.00**); Water Capital (**\$12,118.09**); Liquid Fuels (**\$0.00**).
2. Consider authorization to approve consent with the County Tax Claim Bureau for the repository tax sale of a Church Street property (Parcel 01-00-01302-80-3) for the proposed bid amount of \$500 to prospective bidder Blackstone Investments LLC.
3. Consider approval of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the PA Human Relations Commission (PAHRC) and the Ambler Borough Human Relations

Commission (ABHRC) to ensure that prospective complainants have the chance to file with both the PAHRC and ABHRC. This action would allow cross-filing with the State and would secure an individual's rights to have their allegations investigated and processed fully since the State has more authority.

Public Comment Period Discussion:

1. Council has advertised a 30-day public comment period from August 1st – 30th for the MS4 (Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System) Pollution Reduction Plan and TMDL (Total Maximum Daily Load) Report which is currently underway. This is required for the MS4 Notice of Intent (NOI) due in September. Council will receive written and verbal comments this evening.

Mr. Pasceri invited the public to submit written comments or make verbal comments at this evening's meeting. No comments were offered at the meeting with regard to the Pollution Reduction Plan (PRP).

In other business the following was reviewed:

1. The Borough Engineer's report was received.
2. A proposed Ordinance has been prepared to be offered to the Planning Commission to address the spread of bamboo, an invasive plant, in the Borough.

Discussion ensued. Mr. Brian Quinn of Valley Brook Road stated that upon reviewing the ordinance he was pleased that an effort was taken to consider those property owners who have found bamboo currently encroaching on their property. Council agreed the ordinance should be forwarded to the Planning Commission.

3. The 2018 County Planning Assistance Contract has been received by Council, and their review and suggestions are solicited, especially involving new or proposed projects.
4. Montgomery County has created a model ordinance intended to achieve continuing compliance with Act 167 and to remain compliant with the law. Title 26, Part 4 of the codified ordinances will include a new Part 4 to be called "Ambler Borough Stormwater Management Ordinance." A modified ordinance has been sent to the Planning Commissions for review.
5. The Committee is evaluating the Business & Mercantile Privilege Tax (BPT) to determine, once the 2018 Budget is prepared, if a reduction in tax is feasible.

Mr. Sheward 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 no actions this evening.

In other business the following was reviewed:

1. Staff has met with the Montgomery County representatives to discuss the Bike MontCo Program and to survey the feasibility of marking bike lanes on numerous Borough streets.
2. The Committee has scheduled a second Yoga at Pickering Field event to be held Thursday, August 17th fro 6:30-7:30 p.m. The program has been well-received and the Committee will consider scheduling future events.
3. The final Movies in the Parks event will be held Saturday, September 9th at Knight Park (at dusk). If weather is an issue, the showing will take place at Borough Hall at 7:30 p.m. The film is “Moana.”
4. The Environmental Advisory Council (EAC) has requested additional funding for Rain Garden installations. Staff is reviewing the stormwater management budget for available funds.

Discussion ensued. Mr. DeRuosi stated there currently is \$18,000 remaining in the budget, but that the emergency main replacement on Main Street invoices will need to be received before the Committee can make a final determination.

Mr. DeRuosi asked if there were comments or questions from Council or the public. Mr. Mark Armstrong of 258 Highland Avenue asked the Committee to investigate which landscaper or contractor had been spraying an application at Pickering Field last Sunday. He additionally asked that Ambler Junior Baseball be required to do something about a large mound of dirt present at the field. There being nothing further, it was moved the Committee’s report be accepted as filed. Seconded. Carried.

Salary and Personnel Committee – Mrs. Deininger, Chairperson

Committee members: Mrs. McCormick, Ms. Tomlinson, Ms. Hartz

The Salary and Personnel Committee report was given this evening by Mrs. Deininger.

The Committee will consider the following actions this evening:

1. Recommend appointing Lisa Keenan for a three-year term on the Environmental Advisory Council.

Approved at Committee Meeting:

1. Recommend approval of Solicitor's recommendation in reference to three personnel matters. Seconded (8-Aye). Carried.

In other business the following was reviewed:

1. Vacancies exist on the Environmental Advisory Council and Appeals Board. Interested residents are asked to send a letter of interest and resume to the Borough Manager.
2. Interviews have been scheduled the vacant position of Public Works Foreman.

Ms. Deininger 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 authorizing execution of the Winter Service Services Agreement from PennDOT. Seconded. Carried.

Approved at Committee Meeting: Consider adoption of a **Resolution** suspending Ordinance 738 on August 19th for persons attending the Criterium Bike Race. Seconded. (8-Aye). Carried.

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

Consider award for the Lafayette Avenue Water Main Replacement Project which involves replacement of 1,300 feet of 6-inch water main to lowest bidder Ankiewicz Enterprises, Inc. in the amount of \$177,225.00. Seconded. Carried.

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

Consideration that **July 2017** invoices in the amount of **\$477,059.45** be paid. Seconded. Carried.

Consider authorization to approve consent with the County Tax Claim Bureau for the repository tax sale of a Church Street property (Parcel 01-00-01302-80-3) for the proposed bid amount of \$500 to prospective bidder Blackstone Investments LLC. Seconded. Carried.

Consider approval of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the PA Human Relations Commission (PAHRC) and the Ambler Borough Human Relations Commission (ABHRC). Seconded. Carried.

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

Salary & Personnel Committee – The Committee will recommend and Mrs. Deininger moves:

Recommend appointing Lisa Keenan for a three-year term on the Environmental Advisory Council. Seconded. Carried.

Approved at Committee Meeting: Recommend approval of Solicitor’s recommendation in reference to three personnel matters. Seconded (8-Aye). 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.

Ms. Bernadette Dougherty of 338 Tennis Avenue stated that due to a slight delay in construction, Weavers Way Ambler will be opening toward the end of September. She announced the Grand Opening will be held October 27, 28 & 29. Mrs. Judith Baigis of 172 Tennis Avenue addressed her concern about rust beginning to show on the downtown fixtures including lampposts, ballards and trash cans. She additionally noted that shopkeepers need to be reminded they are responsible for weeds growing along sidewalks/medians in front of their shops.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Elizabeth Russell
Assistant Secretary
Borough of Ambler