

AMBLER BOROUGH COUNCIL MINUTES

December 19, 2017

The regular monthly meeting of Ambler Borough Council was held Tuesday, December 19, 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. Mayor Sorg led the public in the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

Approval of Minutes: Mr. Pasceri made a motion to approve the Minutes of the November 21, 2017 Council Meeting. Seconded. Carried.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

The Committees of Ambler Borough Council met Tuesday, December 5, 2017 at 7:00 p.m. at Borough Council Chambers located at 131 Rosemary Avenue, Ambler, Pennsylvania, 19002. The Committee Meeting was preceded by a Public Meeting on the proposed 2018 Municipal Budget. Present: Mr. Pasceri, Mr. Curtis, Mr. Zaccone, Mr. DeRuosi, Mrs. McCormick, Mrs. Deininger, Mr. Sheward, Ms. Tomlinson and Ms. Hertz. Mayor Sorg, Chief Foley, Solicitor Bresnan 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 Mrs. McCormick.

The Committee will consider no actions this evening.

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 has scheduled to hold a Blood Drive at the Borough Hall Gym on December 28, 2017 from 2 – 7 p.m.
4. The Borough Engineer has prepared an engineering review of stormwater plans for the proposed St. Mary's development.

Mrs. McCormick asked if there were comments or questions from Council or the public. Ms. Hertz requested that the Borough's engineer, Jim Dougherty, attend an upcoming meeting to go over the St. Mary's development stormwater review letter. Discussion then turned to the proposed traffic signals for the development. Manager Mary Aversa stated that once the development is completed, additional traffic studies would be undertaken. Ms. Hertz asked Solicitor Bresnan whether the Borough could 'push back' against Upper Dublin Township as regards a traffic signal because the anticipated increased traffic will impact the Borough. Solicitor Bresnan replied that municipalities comment across boundary lines all the time. 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. Zaccone.

The Committee will consider the following actions this evening:

1. Consider adoption of **Resolution 2017-19** authorizing execution of the PennDOT Master Casting Agreement (revised signature block) and accompanying Project Initiation and Change Order forms, for the duration of the agreement.
2. Consider awarding the PAC Coagulant contract for 2018-19 to Univar USA for the low bid of \$7,605.00 per 45,000 lb. truckload, which calculates to approximately \$1.75/gal.

In other business the following was reviewed:

1. The Engineer's report was provided.
2. The Ambler Crossings applicant has inquired about water connection fees for the development. The project was approved with sewer fees required in the review letter. Borough Council granted permission for staff and the solicitor to discuss the fees.

Discussion ensued. Solicitor Bresnan stated he has not yet met with the developer who is currently involved with other litigation.

3. The Borough held a public meeting on December 5th regarding the Comcast Cable franchise renewal agreement.

Mr. Zaccone 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 **November 2017** invoices in the amount of **\$666,923.08** be paid as follows: General (**\$104,792.98**); Street Lights (**\$9,430.67**); Fire (**\$73.48**); Refuse (**\$37,966.42**); Parks & Rec. (**\$3,477.12**); Water (**\$108,017.00.**); Sewer (**\$9,445.47**); WWTP (**\$124,626.98**); Debt Fund (**\$0.00**); Water Capital (**\$31,906.52**); Liquid Fuels (**\$237,186.44.**)
2. Consider adoption of **Ordinance 1109** Fixing the Real Estate Tax Rate for 2018.
3. Consider adoption of **Resolution 2017-18** Appropriating Funds for the 2018 Budget for the Specific Purpose of the Municipal Government.
4. Consider award of the WWTP energy supplier contract to Freepoint Energy Solutions for a 36-month term with a rate of \$0.04878.

Discussion ensued. Ms. Hertz requested that in the future, when considering energy contracts, the Committee consider sustainability criteria in their selection of provider and energy plan.

In other business the following was reviewed:

1. The Borough Engineer's report was received.
2. A proposed Ordinance is being reviewed by the Planning Commission which addresses the spread of bamboo, an invasive plant, in the Borough. The Planning Commission will evaluate and recommend additional language from the County review letter.
3. The Parking Committee is discussing a parking plan and meter options.
4. Staff is awaiting revised plans for a Conditional Use Hearing for a proposed development on Chestnut Street by American Marketing Association (AMA).
5. A proposed 2018 Budget Meeting was held at 6:00 p.m. prior to this evening's meeting.
6. The Wissahickon Valley Public Library – Ambler Branch has filed an application for a Zoning Hearing.

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 the following actions this evening:

1. Consider adoption of **Resolution 2017-24** authorizing application to the 2017 PECO Green Region Open Space Program in the amount of \$10,000 for the Riparian Buffer Restoration Project.

In other business the following was reviewed:

1. The Borough has been notified of award of a DCNR Recreation & Conservation grant in the amount of \$102,000 for the development of the Ambler Pocket Park on East Butler Avenue. The project includes construction of a plaza, pedestrian walkway and stormwater management measures; ADA access; landscaping, project sign and other related site improvements. This grant was prepared with assistance from Lauren Van Dyke and Sara Richardsen of the Montgomery County Planning Commission.

Discussion ensued. Manager Aversa stated that the project timeframe would be fall of 2018 or spring of 2019. Given that timeframe, resident Judy Baigis of Tennis Avenue requested that the Borough control the noticeable illegal parking on this site with the installation of ballards.

2. The Borough has been notified of award of a DEP Growing Greener Grant in the amount of \$206,100. The scope of the grant includes rain gardens (\$96,000), rain barrels (\$25,000), riparian buffer (\$12,500), steep slope (\$10,100) and planters (\$62,500). This grant was submitted in partnership with the Environmental Advisory Council (Ambler EAC).

Discussion ensued. Resident Cheryl Casalinoso of 265 East Park Avenue asked where the Borough would put 100 rain gardens and whether there would be a mosquito problem. EAC Chairperson Mary Margaret Monser replied that 23 rain gardens are currently in place and that the balance would be on residential properties. She stated that she checks the existing rain gardens after heavy rains and that they drain within 24-48 hours. She stated she has not observed mosquito issues.

3. The Borough received grant funds from our insurance carrier, DVIT. Funds were used to install fencing at Knight Park and Locust Street Park.

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.

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. Consider adoption of **Resolution 2017-20** Recognizing the Service of Councilman Edward Curtis, Sr.
2. Consider adoption of **Resolution 2017-21** Recognizing the Service of Councilwoman Sharon McCormick.
3. Consider adoption of **Resolution 2017-22** Recognizing the Service of Councilman Jonathan Sheward.
4. Consider adoption of **Resolution 2017-23** Recognizing the Service of Tax Collector Bernadette Dougherty.

In other business the following was reviewed:

1. Terms of service will expire December 31, 2017 for numerous volunteer positions. Incumbents have been contacted. Positions include: Appeals Board, Civil Service Commission, Environmental Advisory Council, Planning Commission, Vacancy Board and Zoning Hearing Board.
2. Planning Commission members and the Borough Council held a discussion on communications between various Council-appointed committees.
3. An Executive Session was held to discuss contract negotiations.

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 will make no recommendations this evening.

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

Consider adoption of **Resolution 2017-19** authorizing execution of the revised PennDOT Master Casting Agreement and accompanying Project Initiation and Change Order forms, for the duration of the agreement. Seconded. Carried.

Consider awarding the PAC Coagulant contract for 2018-19 to Univar USA for the low bid of \$7,605.00 per 45,000 lb. truckload, which calculates to approximately \$1.75/gal. Seconded. Carried.

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

Consideration that **November 2017** invoices in the amount of **\$666,923.08** be paid. Seconded. Carried.

Consider adoption of **Ordinance 1109** Fixing the Real Estate Tax Rate for 2018. Seconded. Carried.

Consider adoption of **Resolution 2017-18** Appropriating Funds for the 2018 Budget for the Specific Purpose of the Municipal Government. Seconded. Carried.

Consider award of the WWTP energy supplier contract to Freepoint Energy Solutions for a 36-month term with a rate of \$0.04878. Seconded. Carried.

Parks & Recreation Committee – The Committee recommends and Mr. DeRuosi moves:

Consider adoption of **Resolution 2017-24** authorizing application to the 2017 PECO Green Region Open Space Program in the amount of \$10,000 for the Riparian Buffer Restoration Project. Seconded. Carried.

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

Consider adoption of **Resolution 2017-20** Recognizing the Service of Councilman Edward Curtis, Sr. Seconded. Carried.

Consider adoption of **Resolution 2017-21** Recognizing the Service of Councilwoman Sharon McCormick. Seconded. Carried.

Consider adoption of **Resolution 2017-22** Recognizing the Service of Councilman Jonathan Sheward. Seconded. Carried.

Consider adoption of **Resolution 2017-23** Recognizing the Service of Tax Collector Bernadette Dougherty. 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.

Mr. Dino D'Orazio introduced himself as the new owner of the Ambler Cabaret building. He stated the culvert at the back of the building is in disrepair and his concern is for safety since the culvert is at street level. He inquired as to his and the Borough's responsibility for maintenance of the culvert. Solicitor Bresnan responded that a ruling in Norristown in the 1960's set the responsibility of the municipality for the bottom and side walls of the culvert and the responsibility of the owner for the top of the culvert. He added that this would need to be engineered. Manager Aversa stated the Borough would need to look at whether this is in the floodplain and further, that the Zoning Hearing Board might need to be involved if the owner intends to cap the culvert.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Elizabeth Russell
Assistant Secretary
Borough of Ambler