

## AMBLER BOROUGH COUNCIL MINUTES

**January 17, 2017**

The regular monthly meeting of Ambler Borough Council was held Tuesday, January 17, 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. Zacccone, Mr. DeRuosi, Mrs. Deininger, Mrs. McCormick, Mr. Sheward and Ms. Tomlinson. Solicitor Eric Frey of Dischell Bartle & Dooley, Chief Foley and Borough Manager Aversa were present. Ms. Hertz and Mayor Sorg were absent.

A Public Hearing was held at 7:00 p.m. to consider adoption of **Ordinance 1104**, the Financial Institutions & Financial Establishments Parking Regulations Ordinance. Motion to Carry. Seconded. Poll Council 8-0. Carried.

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

### **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

The Committees of Ambler Borough Council met Tuesday, January 3, 2017 at 7:00 p.m. at Borough Council Chambers located at 131 Rosemary Avenue, Ambler, Pennsylvania, 19002. Present: Mr. Pasceri, Mr. Curtis, Mr. Zacccone, Mrs. Deininger, Mrs. McCormick, Mr. Sheward, Ms. Tomlinson and Ms. Hertz. Mayor Sorg, Chief Foley, Solicitor Bresnan and Borough Manager Mary Aversa also were in attendance. Mr. DeRuosi 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 advertising for adoption an Ordinance amending dog leash requirements.

Discussion ensued. The request to review the current dog leash ordinance had been made by Ms. Jill Sanchez of 149 Rosemary Avenue. Mr. DeRuosi inquired as to whether the new ordinance would consider electronic fencing. Solicitor Frey replied the ordinance considers both traditional and electronic fencing. Chief Foley clarified that the ordinance would cover premises and control confusions by highlighting “physical control by way of...” Furthermore, in response to Mr. Sheward’s inquiry about penalties, Chief Foley stated the ordinance fine would be in line with ‘dogs and large’ fines of \$50. He clarified for Mr. Curtis that a dog biting incident raises the penalty to another level.

2. Consider adoption of **Resolution 2017-01** to temporarily enforce truck restrictions on West Maple Avenue.

Discussion ensued. Manager Aversa states the Borough engineer would be performing a study to determine whether permanent truck prohibitions or weight restrictions should be set.

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

1. The Fire Department and Police Department reports were received.
2. The Community Ambulance Association report was provided.
3. The Public Works and Code Enforcement reports were received.
4. The U.S. EPA held a Public Meeting at the Borough Hall Gymnasium to discuss remediation performed at the BoRit site. The Public Comment Period has been extended until March 3, 2017.

Discussion ensued. Mrs. McCormick has whether the Borough will be providing Public Comment. Manager Aversa stated she was in the process of setting a meeting date for Council to prepare a response. Mr. Sal Boccuti of 300 Rosemary Avenue stated that CAG (Citizens’ Action Group) would be holding a meeting January 18<sup>th</sup> to discuss a response to the EPA’s presentation. He noted that of the nine criteria used by the EPA to formulate a remedy, one criteria is public community acceptance. He stated CAG has always preferred removal versus cap, however that is not how the EPA has responded. He encouraged all residents to respond and comment as individuals.

Mr. Curtis asked if there were comments or questions from Council or the public. Chief Foley announced that Mr. Curtis has received a Meritorious Award at the Martin Luther King breakfast held at the American Legion Post for 40 years of community service. Mr. Curtis stated that there were 300-400 guests, and that the Legion Post had raised approximately \$12,000 for the Wissahickon High School Scholarship Fund.

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 approval of Environmental Advisory Council grant application to the Growing Greener Grant Program and approval of required match. [EAC has asked for a \$18,000 cash match and has calculated \$56,930 in-kind match.]

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

1. Ambler Junior Baseball President Scott Miller has stated that AJB will be planning fundraisers to supplement contribution requests towards the installation of porous safety surfaces at the dugouts and batter warm-up areas at Pickering Field. Council's Parks & Recreation Committee will allocate \$10,000 towards this project.
2. Free Libraries will be located throughout the Borough and are to be contained in recycled newspaper stands which can be embellished by local artists. The Committee suggests locating the Free Libraries at Borough Hall, Jean Thompson Park and Knight Park.
3. The Planning Commission has outlined next steps for implementation of a park plan for the Borough property acquired at Park and Butler Avenues.

Discussion ensued. Mr. Sheward asked whether the deed could be marked for "open space." Manager Aversa stated the property currently is zoned Downtown Commercial, this would need to be amended and that the Borough Solicitor would look into dedicating this tract as open space.

4. The November Environmental Advisory Council Minutes were received.

Mr. DeRuosi asked if there were comments or questions from Council or the public. Mr. Curtis announced that the Police Department was beginning preparation to compile items for a PD Time Capsule. He stated the PD would like to bury the Time Capsule at Borough Hall, possibly near the Bud Wahl Playground. 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 no actions this evening.**

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

1. The Engineer's Report was received.
2. Quotes are being obtain for the demolition of the silo at the Ambler Water Water Treatment Plant.

Discussion ensued. Mr. Pasceri asked if Borough public works could demolish the silo. Manager Aversa responded that the silo was 80 feet tall and work would require equipment the Borough does not have.

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.

**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 **December 2016** invoices in the amount of **\$547,640.94** be paid as follows: General (**\$138,289.05**); Street Lights (**\$15,930.37**); Fire (**\$2,051.59**); Refuse (**\$32,965.89**); Parks & Rec. (**\$425.30**); Water (**\$70,361.37**); Sewer (**\$14,359.92**); WWTP (**\$262,281.75**); Debt Fund (**\$0.00**); Water Capital (**\$10,975.70**); Liquid Fuels (**\$0.00**).
2. Public Hearing – Consider adoption of Ordinance 1104.
3. Consider bids received on PennBid for the Borough Hall Gym Renovation Project. Bids were received January 9, 2017. [Borough Manager recommends rejection of all bids. Bids were 2 – 2 ½ times over budget.]

**Approved at Committee Meeting:**

1. Consider approval of post-issuance compliance procedures required to satisfy Bond requirements. Seconded. 8-Aye. Carried.

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

1. The Borough Engineer's report was received.

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 – 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 final adoption of the Police Contract. [An Executive Session in reference to the Police was held on January 4, 2017 at 6:30 p.m. A recommendation was made to have the Solicitor prepare the terms of the agreed-upon language (9-Aye).]
2. Consider Tax Collector request for an increase in Tax Collector salary beginning January 1, 2018 and for an increase in fees. Consider advertising for adoption an Ordinance to increase salary and preparation of a Resolution to set fees.

Discussion ensued. Mary Margaret Monser of 373 Forest Avenue stated that most of her bills were paid on-line. She stated that the ‘stop by the house’ method of payment was outdated and asked whether the Borough has considered performing tax collection in-house. Manager Aversa stated that the Borough has the option of no longer having a civil servant post of Tax Collector.

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

1. The Police Department Civil Service Test will be administered February 11, 2017. Applications are available at the PD Lobby Desk.
2. An **Executive Session** is required. [Council members met in the Caucus Room. At the conclusion of the Executive Session Mrs. Deininger stated the session involved salary and personnel matters.]

Mrs. 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 advertising for adoption an Ordinance amending dog leash requirements. Seconded. Carried.

Consider adoption of **Resolution 2017-01** to temporarily enforce truck restrictions on West Maple Avenue. Seconded. Carried.

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

Consider approval of Environmental Advisory Council grant application to the Growing Greener Grant Program and approval of required match. [EAC has asked for a \$18,000 cash match and has calculated \$56,930 in-kind match.] Seconded. Carried.

**Public Utilities Committee** – The Committee will make no recommendations this evening.

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

Consideration that **December 2016** invoices in the amount of **\$547,640.94** be paid. Seconded. Carried.

Approved at Public Hearing – Consider adoption of Ordinance 1104. Motion to Carry. Seconded. Poll Council 8-0. Carried.

Consider rejection of all bids received on PennBid for the Borough Hall Gym Renovation Project. Seconded. Carried.

**Approved at Committee Meeting:** Consider approval of post-issuance compliance procedures required to satisfy Bond requirements. Seconded. 8-Aye. Carried.

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

Consider final adoption of the Police Contract. Seconded. Carried.

Consider Tax Collector request for an increase in Tax Collector salary beginning January 1, 2018 and for an increase in fees. Consider advertising for adoption an Ordinance to increase salary and preparation of a Resolution to set fees. 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. A question was asked regarding the status of Verizon's monopole project

proposal. Mr. Pasceri stated that Verizon's representative was assessing Verizon's needs and would get back to Council in May or June.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Elizabeth Russell  
Assistant Secretary  
Borough of Ambler