

AMBLER BOROUGH COUNCIL MINUTES

March 21, 2017

The regular monthly meeting of Ambler Borough Council was held Tuesday, March 21, 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.

Mayor Sorg addressed Council and the public on the importance of *Meals on Wheels* in our community, and her concern about government cutting funding to the program. She noted that 70 seniors in the Borough receive meals each week. She stated *Meals on Wheels*, in addition to providing meals, checks up on our seniors to ensure that they are eating, have not had falls or are not in ill health. Mayor Sorg invited Council and the public to make local donations to the *Meals on Wheels* program.

Roll Call – Present: Mr. Pasceri, Mr. Curtis, Mr. Zaccone, Mr. DeRuosi, Mrs. Deininger, Mrs. McCormick (arrived late), Mr. Sheward and Ms. Tomlinson. Mayor Sorg, Solicitor Bresnan, Chief Foley and Borough Manager Aversa were present. Ms. Hertz was absent.

Approval of Minutes: Mr. Pasceri made a motion to approve the Minutes of the February 21, 2017 Council Meeting. Seconded. Carried. Council then proceeded with Committee Reports.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

The Committees of Ambler Borough Council met Tuesday, March 7, 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, Mrs. McCormick, Mr. Sheward, Ms. Tomlinson and Ms. Hertz. Mayor Sorg, Solicitor Bresnan and Borough Manager Mary Aversa also were in attendance. Chief Foley 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 actions 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.
4. The U.S. EPA public comment period to address remediation performed at the BoRit site closed March 3, 2017. Ambler Borough has submitted a comment letter to the EPA.
5. The US Army Corps of Engineers will be hosting workshops given by the National Nonstructural/Flood Proofing Committee to promote the use of nonstructural flood risk adaptive measures for reducing flood risk to residential, commercial and public property. Workshops are scheduled for June 22 (6:30-9:30 pm) and June 24 (1:00-4:00 pm) at the Daniel Dowling Legion Post, 351 Maple Street. Representatives from the Army Corps, FEMA, PEMA, EPA and Montgomery County will be in attendance to answer questions.
6. Borough resident Cecilly Rudalavage addressed Council on signage at Euclid Avenue. Temporary red flashing lights were installed to help make residents aware of the new traffic pattern.
7. Borough Manager Aversa announced new street sweeping schedules for the Borough this year. Streets will be swept during Yard Waste Pickup weeks only.

Mr. Curtis 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. 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 authorization for the WWTP to purchase a 2017 Ford Cab (Super Duty F-550 DRW XL 4WD Rag Cab 145"), Body (Warner S108-M-DW-U-5K Galanneal steel service body), and Liftgate (Theiman TT1 5ET-AL) through COSTARS with total contract pricing of \$109,222.00.

In other business the following was reviewed:

1. The Engineer's Report was received.
2. Pursuant to PA Public Utilities Commission requirement, the Borough Solicitor has submitted notification of valves replaced and/or exercised in 2016 along with notification of valves scheduled to be replaced and/or exercised in 2017.
3. Staff is reviewing the proposed TMDL Agreement with the Solicitor and the Engineer will prepare a response.

Mr. Zaconne asked if there were comments or questions 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 **February 2017** invoices in the amount of **\$782,283.94** be paid as follows: General (**\$102,361.43**); Street Lights (**\$5,950.82**); Fire (**\$34.18**); Refuse (**\$28,600.64**); Parks & Rec. (**\$11,310.83**); Water (**\$369,413.23**); Sewer (**\$111,774.39**); WWTP (**\$142,049.14**); Debt Fund (**\$0.00**); Water Capital (**\$1,189.00**); Liquid Fuels (**\$9,600.28**).
2. Authorization is requested to execute a Cooperation Agreement between the Borough of Ambler and the Redevelopment Authority for the Redevelopment Assistance Capital Program Grant funding for the Ambler Boiler House Project.

Discussion ensued. Ms. McCormick asked why this Agreement was tagged as the Ambler Boiler House Project. Borough Manager Aversa replied that this is an umbrella project that was applied for during the Boiler House Project phase, and that the current agreement is for the parking lot area and for Phase III residential (Ambler Crossings) development.

3. Authorization is requested to contract work on targeted renovations in the Borough Hall Gym Wing as follows: electrical upgrade of ceiling lighting fixtures from fluorescent to LED "rail" high bay fixtures to Ambler Electric for \$7,625.00; painting of gym ceiling, walls and stage area to D&B General Contractors of Ambler for the lowest obtained quote of \$13,675.20; and door replacement (2 pairs of double exterior gymnasium exit doors and one single kitchen/loading bay exterior door, panic bars, thresholds and keying) to Van's Lock Shop of Glenside for the lowest obtained quote of \$11,223.32.

Discussion ensued. Ms. Tomlinson asked whether Council should hold off on the awards until it was known whether the Borough has received grant money for renovations in the

gym wing. Ms. Aversa stated these renovation quotes are for the gymnasium itself and that the grant application will be for removal of architectural barriers at public area restrooms.

4. Consider adoption of **Resolution 2017-03** in support of a Citizens Commission for Legislative and Congressional Redistricting.
5. Consider adoption of **Resolution 2017-04** in support of a Grant Application to the Montgomery County Housing & Community Development CDBG Program for Removal of Architectural Barriers at Public Area Restrooms in the Borough of Ambler Municipal Building.
6. Determine direction to be taken with regard to draft proposed language on zoning for medical marijuana processing facilities.
7. Consider authorization to execute a Lease Agreement between the Borough and SEPTA for the 2017 Farmers Market.

In other business the following was reviewed:

1. The Borough Engineer's report was received.
2. Upon advice of the Solicitor, a draft ordinance amending the Sign Ordinance relative to 'temporary signs' has been prepared and will be held for advertising at a later date should this become an active issue in the Borough.
3. Annual presentations regarding Borough Pensions will be made this evening. Scott Repke stated this is his firm's 31st year managing money for the Borough. Pensions are invested 40% in bonds and 60% in stocks and performance is strong with the pensions being in good shape. He stated that while the Borough realized a 14.3% return last year, one should expect some market volatility. Ms. Tomlinson asked if Mr. Repke would rebalance the portfolio because of volatility. Mr. Repke replied that balancing would only be considered based upon a minimum of 5% volatility. He added that a 40/60 split is typical for municipalities. Mr. Joe Duda stated he had been involved with the Borough's pensions for 20 years. He stated he would present his actuarial evaluation report later in the year and that he performs evaluations in odd-numbered years. He stated the Borough municipal pension is \$360,000 overfunded and the PD pension is \$800,000 overfunded. He stated he works with a 6.75% rate of return assumption.

Mr. Sheward asked if there were comments or questions from Council or the public. There being nothing further, it was moved the report be accepted and 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. Residents have requested additions to be made to Wahl Playground and staff is determining pricing. Requests include: horizontal rock climbing walls; games painted on cement walkway; rope bridge; mailbox to store community sidewalk chalk; and extended split rail fencing along Rosemary Avenue.
2. A public survey was prepared to receive resident input on the proposed “pocket park” on Butler Avenue near Park Avenue. The ‘survey monkey’ survey has been posted on the Borough website. To date, the survey has received 715 responses.
3. A request was received to allow lights to remain on at the Skate Park during the winter months until 7:00 p.m. nightly. This will require an Ordinance amendment. Council will review this over the summer months. Residents will be canvassed on allowing the park to be open later and on whether to move forward.
4. Ash trees will be marked and tagged this spring to identify those trees to be removed and those to receive treatment.
5. The Committee is discussing fundraising efforts with Ambler Junior Baseball. AJB is considering several Bingo Night events.
6. Earth Day activities will be held in the Borough Hall Gym on April 22nd from 11 am – 3 pm. The Environmental Advisory Council is planning the event.
7. EAC member Jill Sanchez announced a volunteer community work day on April 8th to pull invasive weeds in Ambler Borough Park.
8. EAC member Jill Sanchez stated that the EAC is working with an Upper Dublin High School Senior and with Ambler Main Street on a project to encourage Ambler restaurants to use eco-friendly take-out containers.

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 appointing Wendy Fry to the Board of the Community Ambulance Association of Ambler.
2. Consider appointing Carissa Hazelton to the vacant seat on Ambler's Planning Commission.

Discussion ensued. Borough Manager Aversa stated that at present there are 5 members from Ward 1 and 3 members from Ward 3. It was determined that Ms. Hazelton resides in Ward 1, that her credentials are outstanding. No residents from Ward 2 sought appointment to the Planning Commission vacant seat.

In other business the following was reviewed:

1. A resignation letter was received from Ms. Karen Polesir from her position on the Environmental Advisory Commission. There are now 4 vacancies on the EAC.

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 will make no recommendations this evening.

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

Consider authorization for the WWTP to purchase a 2017 Ford Cab (Super Duty F-550 DRW XL 4WD Rag Cab 145”), Body (Warner S108-M-DW-U-5K Galanneal steel service body), and Liftgate (Theiman TT1 5ET-AL) through COSTARS with total contract pricing of \$109,222.00. Seconded. Carried.

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

Consideration that **February 2017** invoices in the amount of **\$782,283.94** be paid. Seconded. Carried.

Authorization to execute a Cooperation Agreement between the Borough of Ambler and the Redevelopment Authority for the Redevelopment Assistance Capital Program Grant funding for the Ambler Boiler House Project. Seconded (7-Aye; 1-Nay [Mrs. McCormick]). Carried

Authorization to contract work on targeted renovations in the Borough Hall Gym Wing as follows: electrical upgrade of ceiling lighting fixtures from fluorescent to LED “rail” high

bay fixtures to Ambler Electric for \$7,625.00; painting of gym ceiling, walls and stage area to D&B General Contractors of Ambler for the lowest obtained quote of \$13,675.20; and door replacement (2 pairs of double exterior gymnasium exit doors and one single kitchen/loading bay exterior door, panic bars, thresholds and keying) to Van's Lock Shop of Glenside for the lowest obtained quote of \$11,223.32. Seconded. Carried.

Consider adoption of **Resolution 2017-03** in support of a Citizens Commission for Legislative and Congressional Redistricting. Seconded. Carried.

Consider adoption of **Resolution 2017-04** in support of a Grant Application to the Montgomery County Housing & Community Development CDBG Program for Removal of Architectural Barriers at Public Area Restrooms in the Borough of Ambler Municipal Building. Seconded. Carried.

Determine direction to be taken with regard to draft proposed language on zoning for medical marijuana processing facilities. Seconded. Carried.

Consider authorization to execute Lease Agreement between the Borough and SEPTA for the 2017 Farmers Market. Seconded. Carried.

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

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

Consider appointing Wendy Fry to the Board of the Community Ambulance Association of Ambler. Seconded. Carried.

Consider appointing Carissa Hazelton to the vacant seat on the Planning Commission. 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. Resident Bernadette Dougherty of Tennis Avenue asked Council to consider a discussion of “parking issues” on future agendas. A resident thanked Council for Council’s vote in favor of Fair Districts PA initiatives.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Elizabeth Russell
Assistant Secretary
Borough of Ambler