

## AMBLER BOROUGH COUNCIL MINUTES

November 21, 2017

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

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

**Approval of Minutes:** Mr. Pasceri made a motion to approve the Minutes of the October 17, 2017 Council Meeting. Seconded. Carried.

### **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

The Committees of Ambler Borough Council met Wednesday, November 8, 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. McCormick, Mrs. Deininger, Ms. Tomlinson and Ms. Hertz. Mayor Sorg, Chief Foley, Solicitor Bresnan and Borough Manager Mary Aversa also were in attendance. Mr. Sheward 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 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 Advisory Committee from Weavers Way-Ambler gave a presentation on community engagement plans for their new store.
5. The Borough Engineer is reviewing stormwater plans for the proposed St. Mary's development.

Mrs. McCormick 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 adoption of Resolution 2017-16 authorizing execution of the PennDOT Master Casting Agreement and accompanying Project Initiation and Change Order forms, for the duration of the agreement.
2. Consider awarding the Aluminum Sulfate contract to Thatcher Company of N.Y., Inc. for the low bid of \$4,405.50 per 45,000 lb. truckload, which calculates to \$0.0979/lb and \$1.087/gal (@ 11.1 lbs/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.
3. The Borough will hold a public meeting for public comment regarding cable franchise renewal of the standard Comcast Agreement on December 5, 2017 at the regularly-scheduled Committee meeting.

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 **October 2017** invoices in the amount of **\$613,611.45** be paid as follows: General (**\$157,361.64**); Street Lights (**\$8,615.96**); Fire (**\$7,207.82**); Refuse (**\$34,271.00**); Parks & Rec. (**\$6,275.30**); Water (**\$69,629.03.**); Sewer (**\$73,885.78**); WWTP (**\$187,886.80**); Debt Fund (**\$0.00**); Water Capital (**\$62,766.74**); Liquid Fuels (**\$0.00**).
2. Consider authorization to execute contract with Swagit Productions, LLC to host Borough website-accessed video viewing of Borough Committee and Council Meetings to include initial startup costs for encoder, including software installation and licenses (with single HD camera purchase and installation provider to be determined), uploading and archiving of meetings at a cost not to exceed \$12,590 (should camera and installation be part of this package purchase). Service package to provide on-demand library of up to 25 non-indexed meetings a year (no live streaming) is quoted at \$250/month.
3. Consider advertising proposed 2018 Public Meeting Schedule to continue the routine meeting day/week schedule presently utilized.

**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. An Executive Session was held on a real estate matter.
6. 2018 Proposed Budget public meetings are scheduled for: Tuesday, December 5 at 6:00 p.m. prior to the Committee Meetings; Tuesday morning, December 12 at 10:00 a.m.; and Tuesday, December 19 at 6:00 p.m. prior to that evening's regular Council Meeting. Council shall consider adoption of the 2018 Budget at its regular Public Meeting to be held December 19 at 7:00 p.m. Public Notice for Budget review has been advertised.
7. Consider adoption of an Ordinance Fixing the Real Estate Tax for 2018.

8. Consider adoption of a Resolution Appropriating Specific Funds for Purposes of the 2018 Budget.

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 Ms. Hertz.

**The Committee will consider the following actions this evening:**

1. Consider adoption of Resolution 2017-17 setting forth park hours and skate park illumination hours.
2. Consider making a donation of \$500 to the Wissahickon Athletic Club After School Program to assist them with purchasing supplies and snacks.

Ms. Hertz asked if there were comments or questions from Council or the public. Anita Pieri of 32 E. Church Street asked about the working status of security cameras at Knight Park. Mrs. Aversa replied that the in-ground cable had been accidentally cut last year by a former supervisor and that certain repairs had been made, resulting in only one camera not presently operational and the balance of cameras working. Responding to Mrs. Pieri's inquiry on bag-covered garden beds at the Bannockburn entrance to Knight Park, Ms. Aversa replied that the landscaper had placed them and asked they not be moved and that landscaping plans were to proceed later this fall. 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 Peter Nyamu to the Environmental Advisory Committee.

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

1. Terms of service will expire December 31, 2017 for numerous volunteer positions. Incumbents have been contacted and asked to submit a letter of interest/resume if seeking reappointment. Residents interested in being considered may forward a letter of interest/resume to the Borough Manager. Response by 12/15/17 is requested.

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. Members of the Ambler Human Relations Commission formally introduced themselves this evening and informed the public of their existence and work they do. Ambler HRC Chairperson Debbie Greenstein stated they were preparing a flyer for businesses to post which would inform employees and customers about the HRC and its missions, adding that the flyer would be printed in Spanish, as well. Additionally, she stated the HRC was considering sponsoring a Cultural Diversity Day to be held next spring.

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 2017-16 authorizing execution of the PennDOT Master Casting Agreement and accompanying Project Initiation and Change Order forms, for the duration of the agreement. Seconded. Carried.

Consider awarding the Aluminum Sulfate contract to Thatcher Company of N.Y., Inc. for the low bid of \$4,405.50 per 45,000 lb. truckload, which calculates to \$0.0979/lb and \$1.087/gal (@ 11.1 lbs/gal). Seconded. Carried.

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

Consider that **October 2017** invoices in the amount of **\$613,611.45** be paid. Seconded. Carried.

Consider authorization to execute contract with Swagit Productions, LLC to host Borough website-accessed video viewing of Borough Committee and Council Meetings to include initial startup costs not to exceed \$12,590 and with service package to provide on-demand library of up to 25 non-indexed meetings a year quoted at \$250/month. Seconded. Carried.

Consider advertising proposed 2018 Public Meeting Schedule. Seconded. Carried.

**Parks & Recreation Committee** – The Committee will recommend and Ms. Hertz moves:

Consider adoption of Resolution 2017-17 setting forth park hours and skate park illumination hours. Seconded. Carried.

Consider making a donation of \$500 to the Wissahickon Athletic Club After School Program to assist them with purchasing supplies and snacks. Seconded. Carried.

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

Recommend appointing Peter Nyamu to the Environmental Advisory Committee. 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.

Liz Kunzier, Ambler Main Street Director, stated that Santa will be arriving “by train” on December 7<sup>th</sup>. She noted that ‘Pop Up’ Shops would again be locating in Ambler for the holiday shopping season. She stated that the Wissahickon Athletic Club would be holding a ‘beef and beer’ fundraiser at the LRB on January 27<sup>th</sup>.

Cheryl Casalnuovo of 265 E. Park Avenue, noting the development on the St. Mary’s property in Upper Dublin Township, commented on future traffic signal strategies on Bethlehem Pike. It was stated by Ms. Aversa that after the development is completed, another traffic study would be undertaken, however, the final signal determination would be made by PennDOT.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Elizabeth Russell  
Assistant Secretary  
Borough of Ambler