

AMBLER BOROUGH COUNCIL MINUTES

February 21, 2017

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

An Executive Session was held on a personnel matter.

Roll Call – Present: Mr. Pasceri, Mr. Curtis, Mr. Zacccone, Mr. DeRuosi, Mrs. Deininger, Mrs. McCormick, Mr. Sheward and Ms. Hertz. Mayor Sorg, Solicitor Bresnan, Chief Foley and Borough Manager Aversa were present. Ms. Tomlinson arrived late due to commuter problems.

Approval of Minutes: Mr. Pasceri made a motion to approve the Minutes of the January 17, 2017 Council Meeting. Seconded. Carried. Council then proceeded with Committee Reports.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

The Committees of Ambler Borough Council met Tuesday, February 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. Zacccone, 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 the following actions this evening:

1. Consider adoption of **Ordinance 1106** amending dog leash requirements.

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 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.
5. A tree in Ambler Borough Park that was a concern due to its proximity to the wellhouse was removed.
6. Pot holes on Reiffs Mill Road and South Main Street have been repaired. Repaving is planned for later this year.

Mr. Curtis asked if there were comments or questions from the Committee. Regarding Item #4, Mrs. McCormick inquired about the status of the Borough providing Public Comment to the EPA. Manager Aversa stated she was planning on including a discussion of MS4 and TMDL as an integral part of the process and intended to include these issues in the Borough response regarding remediation at the BoRit site.

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.

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 a proposal from Peter Benz to address the Emerald Ash Borer infestation in Borough property ash trees. Specifically, 13 ash trees are recommended to receive injections and 1 tree is recommended to receive soil treatment. The total quote for treatment is \$3,238.80 (\$3,055 tax exempt). The balance of 14 trees is recommended to be removed by a tree expert.

Approved at Committee Meeting:

1. Consider approval to host the Criterium Bike Race in Ambler on Saturday, August 19, 2017. Seconded. (9-Aye). Carried.

In other business the following was reviewed:

1. The Committee is discussing fundraising efforts with Ambler Junior Baseball towards the cost of installation of porous safety surfaces at the dugouts and batter warm-up areas at Pickering Field.
2. A draft survey was prepared by the County so that the Committee can receive resident input on the proposed “pocket park” on Butler Avenue near Park Avenue.
3. The Mayor discussed the County’s Bike MontCo program. The County is seeking input from municipal officials before posting information for the public.
4. A request was received to allow lights to remain on at the Skate Park during the winter months until 7:00 p.m. nightly.

Discussion ensued. Mrs. Deininger asked whether the Borough could simply post a notice asking residents to contact us to give their input on the matter. Borough Manager Aversa stated that Council might need to consider use past sunset at all parks in the Borough. A representative from Ambler Skate Shop stated that lights would be welcomed by the skate board community. Mr. DeRuosi stated that whereas he had been negative on the idea, he now supported lighting the Skate Park during winter months. Resident Erin McKenna suggested a user timer for the lights.

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

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.

Approved at Committee Meeting:

1. Consider award of the demolition of the silo at the WWTP to Derstine Company LLC for the low quote of \$21,000. Seconded. (9-Aye). Carried.
2. Consider acceptance and execution of an agreement between Ambler Borough and U.S. Tank Painting Inc. for the Houston Road Tank project. Seconded. (9-Aye). Carried.

In other business the following was reviewed:

1. The Engineer’s Report was received.
2. An Executive Session was held to discuss the TMDL Agreement.

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 **January 2017** invoices in the amount of **\$699,237.96** be paid as follows: General **(\$154,780.25)**; Street Lights **(\$5,644.06)**; Fire **(\$9,576.94)**; Refuse **(\$29,722.77)**; Parks & Rec. **(\$3,410.39)**; Water **(\$90,282.27)**; Sewer **(\$191,296.29)**; WWTP **(\$211,039.67)**; Debt Fund **(\$0.00)**; Water Capital **(\$3,485.32)**; Liquid Fuels **(\$0.00)**.

In other business the following was reviewed:

1. The Borough Engineer's report was received.
2. Staff is researching alternatives for renovations to the Borough Hall Gym Wing.
3. A Cooperation Agreement between Ambler Borough and the Redevelopment Authority must be reviewed and approved for the Redevelopment Assistance Capital Program Grant Funding for the Ambler Boiler House Project.
4. Anne Hall of the Wissahickon Valley Public Library Ambler Branch addressed Council. She thanked Borough Council for the funds received that enabled the library to sign off on the Phase I Feasibility Study for ADA accessibility and other community needs at the Ambler Branch Library. She reviewed programs currently underway at the Library and urged residents to "check us out." Several residents spoke to attest to the benefits provided to residents by the Ambler Branch of the WVPL.

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 hiring Marco Resente as the Public Works Supervisor.

Approved at Committee Meeting:

1. Consider adoption of Ordinance 1105 increasing the Tax Collector salary in 2018. Seconded. (9-Aye). Carried.
2. Consider adoption of Resolution 2017-02 setting the fee for tax certifications. Seconded. (9-Aye). Carried.

In other business the following was reviewed:

1. A resignation letter was received from Mr. Christopher Twohig for his seat on the Planning Commission.

Discussion ensued. Mr. Pasceri stated that when considering a candidate, he would like to see balanced ward representation on the Planning Commission.

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 adoption of **Ordinance 1106** amending dog leash requirements. Seconded. (8-Aye; 1-Nay [Mr. Sheward]). Carried.

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

Consider approval of a proposal from Peter Benz to address the Emerald Ash Borer infestation in Borough property ash trees, with a total quote for treatment of \$3,238.80 (\$3,055 tax exempt) for 14 ash trees. Seconded. Carried.

Approved at Committee Meeting: Consider approval to host the Criterium Bike Race in Ambler on Saturday, August 19, 2017. Seconded. (9-Aye). Carried.

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

Approved at Committee Meeting: Consider award of the demolition of the silo at the WWTP to Derstine Company LLC for the low quote of \$21,000. Seconded. (9-Aye). Carried.

Approved at Committee Meeting: Consider acceptance and execution of an agreement between Ambler Borough and U.S. Tank Painting Inc. for the Houston Road Tank project. Seconded. (9-Aye). Carried.

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

Consideration that **January 2017** invoices in the amount of **\$699,237.96** be paid. Seconded. Carried.

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

Consider hiring Marco Resente as the Public Works Supervisor. Seconded. Carried.

Approved at Committee Meeting: Consider adoption of Ordinance 1105 increasing the Tax Collector salary in 2018. Seconded. (9-Aye). Carried.

Approved at Committee Meeting: Consider adoption of Resolution 2017-02 setting the fee for tax certifications. Seconded. (9-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.

Council President Pasceri invited members of the public to comment on matters of interest or concern. It was pointed out to Council that “dogs allowed” signage was not complete at Ambler Borough Park. A question was asked regarding the staircase at the Cavalier Lot and Poplar Street. Mrs. Judy Baigis of Tennis Avenue asked that Council address at their next meeting whether proper procedures had been followed to erect the staircase.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Elizabeth Russell
Assistant Secretary
Borough of Ambler