



AMBLER BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING Minutes

May 20, 2026

7:00 PM

I. CALL TO ORDER

President Liz Iovine called the Ambler Borough Council meeting of May 20, 2026, to order at 7:00 p.m.

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

President Iovine led the pledge of allegiance.

III. ROLL CALL

Present at the meeting were: Ms. Iovine, Mr. Orehek, Ms. Sheedy, Ms. Henderson, Ms. Roecker Coates, Mr. Hui, Mr. Brubaker, Ms. Morrison Daku, Ms. Pavlovic, Mayor Sorg, Police Chief Jeff Borkowski, Borough Manager Kyle Detweiler, and Solicitor Osborne.

IV. Mayor's Moment Commending Former Mayor Michael Heayn and Councilman Pierre Dean for their years of service to the Borough on their passing. The mayor made a proclamation for Mayor Heayn's family.

V. Confirmed Appointment – Matt Waker, President - Environmental Advisory Council.

Mr. Walker gave an overview of the duties of the E.A.C.

Ms. Iovine asked if there were any openings on the EAC.

Mr. Walker said yes – 2.

Mayor Sorg gave praise to the EAC and thanked Mr. Walker for his volunteer work.

VI. Citizens Comments – Agenda Items Only.

VII. Motion Minutes for Consideration – April 21, 2026, Council Business Meeting.
Carried 9 – AYE

VIII. FINANCE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

A written report was submitted for the record.

IX. POLICE DEPARTMENT REPORT

A written report was submitted for the record.

Officer Nasobkow gave a demonstration on the newly installed kiosk.

A. New Parking operations report- Chief the Pd issued 350 parking warnings. Tickets will be issued this coming week. Ms. Iovine asked for any additional comments on the Police Report. Chief explained project safe return.

Mr. Brubaker asked if the new parking voucher system was working. Chief offered that yes, it is.

X. FIRE DEPARTMENT REPORT

A written report was submitted for the record.

XI. INTER-DEPARTMENT REPORTS

A. Public Works Department

A written report was submitted for the record.

Mr. Pagano offered that he and Mr. Barreca attended a playground safety class which was very beneficial and informative.

Mr. Hui inquired regarding the ball field at Knight Park and the plans for the future.

Mr. Pagano explained that there are no concrete plans, just ideas.

Ms. Iovine clarified.

Discussion ensued.

Mr. Orehek asked how many inlets needed work.

Mr. Pagano explained and offered a map of the trouble spots.

Ms. Sheedy expressed support for fruit tree planting where the current ball fields at Knight Park.

B. Water Department Report

A written report was submitted for the record.

C. Wastewater Treatment Plant Report

A written report was submitted for the record.

D. Code Enforcement Report

A written report was submitted for the record.

Ms. Iovine questioned the violations that have been on the report for years.

Ms. Osborne explained that discussion of some of the items would require an executive session.

Mr. Detweiler explained that resolution of some of the violations are under the control of the County.

E. Manager's Report- Kyle Detweiler

A written report was submitted for the record.

Ms. Sheedy asked if there were any takeaways from the ICMA conference Mr. Detweiler attended.

Mr. Detweiler offered that there was tremendous content, the organizers had an AP that allowed direct access to the database from his phone. The Community engagement portion was very beneficial.

XV. PROFESSIONAL CONSULTANTS' REPORTS

A. Borough Engineer's Report – Theresa Funk, GFT Inc.

A written report was submitted for the record.

B. Wastewater Treatment Plant Engineer's Report – William Brown, HRG Inc.

A written report was submitted for the record.

XVI. COUNCIL COMMITTEE REPORTS:

A. Administration & Finance – Karen Sheedy, Chair

- 1. Motion – Approval of the April 2026 Bill Payment List - \$1,788,735.32 Carried 9 – AYE**
- 2. Motion – Authorization to proceed – ICMA TV Proposal. Not Carried**

Mr. Detweiler explained more about what the event was and what the cost was for.

Ms. Sheedy expressed that while the video is very appealing, she doesn't feel comfortable spending taxpayer dollars on it.

B. Code Enforcement & Planning – David Hui, Chair

C. Parks, Recreation & Community Relations – Jennifer Henderson, Chair

1. Motion - Authorization to proceed – Riccardi Park Improvements.

Ms. Sheedy felt the cost for the improvements was high but agreed that the maintenance must be done. She offered that the Community Garden is hosting a fundraiser on June 6th, and the information could be found on Facebook and Instagram.

D. Public Safety – Redmond Brubaker, Chair

1. Special event permit review – Ridge Avenue between Butler Ave. and Poplar St.

Mr. Brubaker asked the Chief if the special event permit would require more police and Borough involvement.

The Chief responded that it would require greater Police and Borough resources.

Mr. Brubaker asked Ms. Osborne asked about the history of a business requesting a street closure.

Ms. Osborne replied that yes, From the Boot had requested a similar street closure and were denied referencing state law regarding street closures by an individual business. Greater stress on the police and general overreach was cited.

Mr. Brubaker asked if the request held legal concern.

Ms. Osborne responded, that yes, it was.

Mr. Brubaker asked Mr. Detweiler if approving the request would set a precedent.

Mr. Detweiler responded that yes, you are offering the opportunity for the web to spread – if we approved the permit there then we would have to offer that to all the businesses in town. He explained that public safety is their real concern, we could not guarantee that emergency personnel could access the event. Also, the request is for a long period of time and would require a lot of time and effort from the Borough.

Mr. Brubaker offered that the request would be more attractive if it was for a more finite amount of time, that the scope of the time period requested is too big.

Ms. Pavlovic asked if the request would require a resolution from Council to lift the open container ordinance.

The Chief replied that yes, it would.

Ms. Roecker Coates asked about the ability to sell alcohol and was unclear regarding the rule.

Ms. Iovine explained that our ordinance precludes any open container of alcohol being consumed in public.

Ms. Roecker Coates asked how traffic would exit Rita's if Ridge was closed. She noted

that people are already angry over the limited parking in that area given the multiple businesses located in Ridge Hall.

Officer Nasobkow explained that that closure would definitely have a negative impact on traffic and parking.

Ms. Iovine expressed the importance of reviewing applications such as this before they are brought to Council. She said, "in the future, applications submitted of this nature, should be reviewed ensuring it meets the criteria of the statute and if it doesn't as in this case, it should be denied and not even brought to council for further discussion".

Clarification of the statute was provided during the From the Boot application by Joe Breslin and then again when Ms. Osborne touched on it in this discussion.

Ms. Osborne offered that the Block Party Permit needs to be reviewed and reevaluated.

Mr. Detweiler offered that the language is consistent with other municipalities, it is more geared to an individual event, not a reoccurring event.

Mr. Brubaker asked if the existing application covered the request. The Chief answered that a specialized new permit was created to handle similar requests.

2. PA DCED Regional fire study presentation May 28, 2026

E. Public Works – Lou Orehek, Chair

1. Motion – PUC matters engagement letter – McNees Wallace & Nurick LLC. Carried 9-AYE

Mr. Orehek asked if the motion was to accept the proposal or acknowledge it.
Mr. Detweiler explained that it was to acknowledge and move forward.

Ms. Sheedy references page 105 and the cost of storage, and if there was room to negotiate the high cost.

Mr. Detweiler explained that the rate is the same as we currently have.

Ms. Sheedy asked to monitor the cost.

Mr. Detweiler responded that he would report back.

Ms. Iovine asked if the cost pricing was the same across the board.

Mr. Detweiler -Yes.

XIV. Other Business

Public Comment:

Anne Lee Lapinsky 136 Rosemary Ave. There is a Tri-State dumpster that has been at Lindenwold and Park Ave. for weeks. She is wondering why?

Mr. Detweiler Said we will investigate further.

Ms. Lapinski suggested we look back at all of the information regarding the request from From the Boot to close York Street on the weekends and realize that the request is against the law.

Ashley Devitt 75 Orange Ave. described an unsettling experience she and her children had at the bus stop on Orange Ave earlier in the day. There was a safety issue with a man identifying himself as police but with no police identification idling in the middle of the crosswalk at the bus stop.

The Chief offered that the individual was I.C.E.

Ashley explained that the parents called Ambler PD and were dissatisfied with their response. They drove past gave a wave and continued on without moving the ICE "officer" from the middle of the bus stop. She offered that the man sped away at a high rate of speed. She wanted to know what the PD policy is for ICE because her experience was not OK.

Ashley Abel 31 Orange Ave. described the situation and explained that the concerned parents had reached out to the school district, police department and bus company. She expressed that that bus stop is out of hand and that the experience of that man identifying himself as police was very disconcerting because he was blocking traffic and causing a safety issue. She felt her call to the Ambler PD was completely unheard. She implored Council to do something – Anything.

Ms. Iovine made the motion to Adjourn the meeting at 8:35. **Carried 9-AYE**

ADJOURNMENT