

## AMBLER BOROUGH COUNCIL MINUTES

August 21, 2018

The regular monthly meeting of Ambler Borough Council was held Tuesday, August 21, 2018 at 7:00 p.m. at Borough Council Chambers located at 131 Rosemary Avenue, Ambler, Pennsylvania, 19002.

Council President DeRuosi called the Council Meeting to order. He led the public in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Roll Call** – Present: Mr. De Ruosi, Mr. Pasceri, Mr. Zaccone, Ms. Tomlinson, Ms. Hertz, Mrs. Deininger, Ms. DiPietro, Ms. Endicott and Mrs. Siskind. Solicitor Joe Bresnan of Dischell, Bartle & Dooley, Interim Chief Robert Hoffman and Borough Manager Aversa were present. Mayor Sorg was absent.

**Approval of Minutes:** Mr. DeRuosi made a motion to approve the Minutes of the July 17, 2018 Council Meeting. Seconded. Carried.

Mr. DeRuosi announced that staff would be augmenting the sound system in Council Chambers as well as adding a podium for the public at which to speak. He announced that Mr. “Lenny” Robinson, head mentor for the After School Program, was in need of donations for his students of the following school supplies: markers, pencils, crayons, pens, chalk, flashcards and backpacks.

### **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

The Committees of Ambler Borough Council met Tuesday, August 7, 2018 at 7:00 p.m. at Borough Council Chambers located at 131 Rosemary Avenue, Ambler, Pennsylvania, 19002. Present: Mr. DeRuosi, Ms. Hertz, Mr. Pasceri, Mr. Zaccone, Mrs. Deininger, Ms. Tomlinson, Ms. DiPietro, Ms. Endicott and Mrs. Siskind. Mayor Sorg, Solicitor Joe Bresnan of Dischell, Bartle & Dooley, Interim Chief Robert Hoffman and Borough Manager Aversa were present.

At the Council Meeting this evening, the Committees conducted business as follows:

#### **Public Safety Committee – Mr. Claudio Zaccone, Chairperson**

Committee members: Mrs. Deininger, Mrs Siskind

The Public Safety 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 Police Department, Fire Department and Community Ambulance Association reports were received.
2. The Public Works and Code Enforcement reports were received.
3. The American Heart Association presented its Mission Lifeline Bronze award to the Community Ambulance Association of Ambler, an award designated for the treatment of patients who experience severe heart attack.
4. A Red Cross Blood Drive has been scheduled at the Borough Hall Gym for Friday, September 7<sup>th</sup> (2-7 p.m.) Call 1-800-RED CROSS or visit redcrossblood.org and enter: Ambler.
5. Ambler Borough has submitted a letter to PennDOT with documentation in support of a traffic signal, given future construction of the St. Mary's Villa project. The Borough has requested that PennDOT reconsider have the signal located at Bethlehem Pike and Lindenwold Avenue as part of the contractor's Highway Occupancy Permit process.

Discussion ensued. Manager Aversa stated either a traffic light or round-a-bout were being considered by PennDOT. She added that funding through grant opportunities would be considered.

6. Borough engineers Gilmore & Associates have prepared a structural report for the Hendricks Street Bridge. Revised bridge weight restrictions will be posted.

Discussion ensued. Ms. Siskind asked whether school buses would be rerouted. Interim Chief Hoffman stated the school district could consider obtaining an exemption from PennDOT. He added the fire department could also do the same. He stated the present stop sign would not be relocated. Mr. Jim Dougherty of Gilmore & Associates stated the recommended maximum tonnage weight is 12 tons and 19 tons in combination.

Mr. Pasceri asked Interim Chief Hoffman to speak with the school district regarding school buses not stopping properly within intersections to board/disembark students. Interim Chief Hoffman stated he would bring this up at the next school crossing 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.

**Public Utilities Committee – Mr. Salvatore Pasceri, Chairperson**

Committee members: Mr. Zaccone, Ms. Tomlinson, Mrs. Siskind

The Public Utilities Committee report was given this evening by Mr. Pasceri.

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

1. Consider approval for WWTP to begin the upgrade to convert the digesters over to aerobic digesters. This will require upgrade of electric for the new blowers and removal of the lids and installation of piping for air flow. Both projects will go out for bid (\$700,000 budgeted in 2018.)
2. Consider awarding the rebuilding of WWTP ET2 and ET3 Clarifiers to BDI for the low quote of \$18,358.00.
3. Consider increased contribution to complete the TMDL Alternative Water Quality Improvement Plan to allow for review and acceptance by the Management Committee, 13 municipalities, 4 WWTPs, the PADEP and EPA. An additional Year 2018 \$5,000 contribution is requested from each of the 17 shareholders with an additional Year 2019 contribution of \$10,000 to fund technical expertise and the legal advisor. The Inter-Governmental Agreements will be extended for one year.

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

1. The WWTP Engineer's report was received.
2. The Borough is considering moving forward to change the status of the Ambler Borough Water Department to form an Authority. Council approved consulting with an attorney in Harrisburg with Public Utilities Commission expertise.

Discussion ensued. Solicitor Bresnan stated he would like to convene a staff level meeting to include Attorney Jim Dougherty (Harrisburg), Council's Public Utilities Committee and the Borough Manager to discuss operations options for an Authority. He stated what is acceptable to the PAPUC will determine how much control is given up.

3. An updated Notice was prepared by Gilmore & Associates and posted on the Borough website regarding PFAS (polyfluoroalkyl substances). These are chemicals 'in the news' found around military bases. The engineer's Notice includes background information, previous sampling results and updated information since the 2016 sampling. Water Department has recently voluntarily resampled its distribution points. A report will be provided once lab analysis has been completed.

Mr. Pasceri 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 – Ms. Francine Tomlinson, Chairperson**

Committee Members: Ms. DiPietro, Ms. Endicott

The Finance and Planning Committee report was given this evening by Ms. Tomlinson.

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

1. Consideration that **July 2018** invoices in the amount of **\$629,104.07** be paid as follows: General (**\$126,736.47**); Street Lights (**\$4,950.41**); Fire (**\$0.00**); Refuse (**\$36,645.64**); Parks & Rec. (**\$3,955.08**); Water (**\$79,331.98.**); Sewer (**\$148,142.52**); WWTP (**\$202,595.15**); Debt Fund (**\$0.00**); Water Capital (**\$25,785.25**); Liquid Fuels (**\$961.57**).

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

1. The Borough Engineer's report was received.
2. Requests for qualifications from professional services (Solicitor, Municipal Engineer, WWTP Engineer and Building Inspector) have been advertised. Sealed submittals will be accepted until 11:00 a.m. Friday, September 14, 2018. The Request for Proposals for Borough Auditor will be advertised.
3. Borough Departments will be investigate ways for the Borough to include sustainable energy practices and recommend cost savings improvements.

Discussion ensued. Ms. Tomlinson stated there was no realistic time to include such measures in the 2019 Budget, but that Council members should email her if they would like to involve with a subcommittee to discuss such measures and targeted goals for future years.

4. The County's updated Hazard Mitigation Plan is being reviewed by Ambler's Planning Commission. A Municipal Adoption Resolution was provided.
5. Solicitations of bid for the Municipal Building Public Restrooms Architectural Barrier Removal Project (CDBG) Grant have been advertised. Bid opening is scheduled for September 10 at 11:00 a.m. at Borough Hall.

Ms. Tomlinson 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 – Ms. Sara Hertz, Chairperson**

Committee members: Mrs. Deininger, Ms. Endicott

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 2018-13** Recognizing Plant Ambler Volunteers.

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

1. The Committee is establishing a new program – *Friends of Borough Parks* – with residents who would like to volunteer their time and energy to improve the parks. A survey has been undertaken. Ms. McKenna reported that 60 survey results had been obtained and that the Committee would hold discussion on a pilot program.
2. **Family Movies in the Parks** have been scheduled: Toy Story at Knight’s Park on August 24 (7:30 p.m.) **Yoga in the Park** at Pickering Field for adults is scheduled as follows: Tuesdays (7:00 p.m.) on July 17 and August 28 as well as on Saturdays (9:30 a.m) on July 21 and August 25. Mindfulness at Ricciardi Park on Tuesdays (7:00 p.m.) on July 24, 31 and August 7 and on Thursdays (9:00 a.m.) on August 2, 9 and 16. All events are free.

Ms. Hertz asked if there were comments or questions from Council or the public. A member of the public complained about insects and mosquitos in the parks. Manager Aversa stated that the County maintains a spraying program and sends out emails when they are going to spray. She was unaware of whether the County would be spraying Borough Parks. A member of the public stated the soccer nets at Ricciardi Park are not being put back properly. Manager Aversa stated lots of people move them, not just the lawn crew, but that the Borough would try to communicate that the members of the public need to put the nets back. She added that the Borough was still waiting for the swings ordered for Ricciardi Park and that a new safety surface would be installed at the time the new swings are installed. 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: Mr. Pasceri, Mr. Zaccone, Ms. DiPietro

The Salary and Personnel Committee report was given this evening by Mrs, Deininger.

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

1. Consider authorizing Borough employees who invest in the Borough Employee Personal 457B Plan, currently managed by Mass Mutual Financial Group, to proceed and transfer their investment accounts to Nationwide. The independent representative for employee investments, Bill Schindler, was present, advising that the same type of investments will be considered, however with a lower cost to employees and a higher rate of return.
2. Consider hiring Jarrett Evans to the position of Wastewater Treatment Plant Assistant Superintendent.

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

1. An Executive Session was held on August 7 to discuss a personnel matter.
2. Vacancies exist on the Environmental Advisory Council. Interested residents should forward a letter of interest/resume to the attention of the Borough Manager.
3. Ambler Main Street is always looking for volunteers, if interested contact Liz Kunzier at [liz@amblermainstreet.org](mailto:liz@amblermainstreet.org).
4. Revised Civil Service Commission Rules were prepared by the Borough Solicitor. The Police Department will be accepting applications and scheduling testing for a new Patrolman.

Discussion ensued. Solicitor Bresnan stated a vacancy exists on the CSC, since one of the former members is a municipal employee. Ms. DiPietro stated that in addition to one new CSC member, three alternates would be needed. She stated that she did not think the PD is yet at the point to begin exams for new officers. Interim Chief Hoffman stated his intention to give an ‘Ambler test’ and not a Consortium exam. Solicitor Bresnan clarified that CSC members are judges of the process and not exam proctors. They should not observe PD exams in process because they cannot serve as both judge and witness. Solicitor Bresnan stated Council must determine the weight of the score for PD exams, whether school teachers may serve on the CSC (the State language states CSC members may not be employees of a political subdivision with the exception that one member may be a school teacher), and must determine whether a Council member may serve as a CSC member or as an Alternate. After much discussion, Council agreed that the weighing of 60 (written) / 40 (oral), with a minimum passing score of 70% “written exam” as the benchmark, would be their standard. Council further agreed that a Councilmember could be considered as a CSC Alternate only. They further agreed that a teacher could be considered as a CSC member. It was finally agreed that Solicitor Bresnan would finalize the Rules document before sending it to the Commission for approval. He emphasized that appointment for the vacancy in the CSC be made as soon as possible. At the point in time the Civil Service Commission Rules were approved by the CSC, the document would be returned to Council for a public vote and final determination.

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 will recommend and Mr. Pasceri moves:

Consider approval for WWTP to begin the upgrade to convert the digesters over to aerobic digesters. This will require upgrade of electric for the new blowers and removal of the lids and installation of piping for air flow. Both projects will go out for bid (\$700,000 budgeted in 2018.) Seconded. Carried.

Consider awarding the rebuilding of WWTP ET2 and ET3 Clarifiers to BDI for the low quote of \$18,358.00. Seconded. Carried.

Consider increased contribution to complete the TMDL Alternative Water Quality Improvement Plan at an additional 2018 contribution of \$5,000 and an additional 2019 contribution of \$10,000 to fund technical expertise and the legal advisor. The Inter-Governmental Agreements will be extended for one year. Seconded. Carried.

**Finance & Planning Committee** – The Committee recommends and Ms. Tomlinson moves:

Consideration that **July 2018** invoices in the amount of **\$629,104.07** be paid. Seconded. Carried.

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

Consider adoption of **Resolution 2018-13** Recognizing Plant Ambler Volunteers. Seconded. Carried.

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

Consider authorizing Borough employees who invest in the Borough Employee Personal 457B Plan, currently managed by Mass Mutual Financial Group, to proceed and transfer their investment accounts to Nationwide. Seconded. Carried.

Consider hiring Jarrett Evans to the position of Wastewater Treatment Plant Assistant Superintendent. 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. Residents are asked to state their name and address. 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.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Elizabeth Russell  
Assistant Secretary  
Borough of Ambler