

## AMBLER BOROUGH COUNCIL MINUTES

December 18, 2018

The regular monthly meeting of Ambler Borough Council was held Tuesday, December 18, 2018 at 7:00 p.m. at Borough Council Chambers located at 131 Rosemary Avenue, Ambler, Pennsylvania, 19002.

Council Vice President Hertz called the Council Meeting to order. Mayor Sorg led the public in the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

**Approval of Minutes:** Ms. Hertz made a motion to approve the Minutes of the November 20, 2018 Council Meeting. Seconded. Carried.

A presentation was made by Rachel Riley, Manager, Communications & Media Relations, Valley Forge Tourism and Convention Board. She stated the Board promotes and markets Montgomery County's restaurants, shops, hotels and small businesses. She stated the County realizes \$16 billion in tourist dollars and employ 20,000 in the industry. The Board has increased its reach internationally and has 140,000 followers on social media. Their website is [www.valleyforge.org](http://www.valleyforge.org).

### **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

The Committees of Ambler Borough Council met Tuesday, December 4, 2018 at 7:00 p.m. at Borough Council Chambers located at 131 Rosemary Avenue, Ambler, Pennsylvania, 19002. Present: Mr. DeRuosi, Ms. Hertz, Mr. Zaccone, Mrs. Deininger, Ms. Tomlinson, Ms. DiPietro, and Mrs. Siskind. Solicitor Joe Bresnan of Dischell, Bartle & Dooley, Chief Robert Hoffman and Borough Manager Aversa were present. Mr. Pasceri, Ms. Endicott and Mayor Sorg were absent.

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 action 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 Borough Engineer provided an update on the St. Mary's Villa project and the proposed traffic signal at Bethlehem and Lindenwold. Staff will look into grant funding.
4. A Red Cross Blood Drive is scheduled for Thursday, December 27<sup>th</sup> from 2-7 p.m. at the Ambler Borough Hall Gymnasium. Appointments may be made at [www.redcrossblood.org](http://www.redcrossblood.org) (sponsor keyword: ambler) or by calling 1-800-Red-Cross.
5. The Fire Department will be updating their fire protection and they will replace a 1998 Pierce fire engine. The Truck Committee will be going to the plant to review the apparatus for final acceptance mid-December (according to current schedules). We expect this unit will be put into service early in 2019

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 Mrs. Siskind.

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

1. A recommendation is requested to award the 3-year contract for Aluminum sulfate to the lowest most responsive bidder, Univar (our current supplier), at a cost of \$1.32/gallon.
2. A recommendation is requested to award the painting of the structural steel in the wet well of PS-1 to AFN USA, LLC for \$6,725.00 to complete the job.
3. A recommendation is requested to award the replacement of the bubbler systems in EPA 1 and EPS 2 to Paone Electric for \$16,800.00 for parts and installation.

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

1. The WWTP Engineer's report was received.

2. Solicitor is preparing a notice of action regarding forming a Water Authority to be sent on to the Pennsylvania Public Utilities Commission. The Borough Solicitor is awaiting a letter from our Harrisburg attorney before proceeding with drafting the letter.

Mrs. Siskind 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 **November 2018** invoices in the amount of **\$925,133.20** be paid as follows: General (**\$156,871.84**); Street Lights (**\$9,763.16**); Fire (**\$0.00**); Refuse (**\$35,126.40**); Parks & Rec. (**\$4,953.84**); Water (**\$79,619.10.**); Sewer (**\$12,146.07**); WWTP (**\$617,987.51**); Debt Fund (**\$0.00**); Water Capital (**\$0.00**); Liquid Fuels (**\$8,665.28**).
2. A recommendation may be provided to prepare and provide draft ordinance language to the Borough Planning Commission to review language to address short term rental requirements.

Discussion ensued. Solicitor Bresnan advised that a case currently is being reviewed by the State Supreme Court which would impact any future action the Borough might take to restrict STR's in the Borough. He stated that the Borough can protect R-1 Residential Districts by requiring that STR's be owner-occupied units. Additionally, he stated Council would need to determine the definition of a STR by determining the number of nights that qualify as a trigger. He recommended that Council revisit this issue at a later date to make a determination on whether to create and adopt an Ordinance. Ms. Tomlinson stated the Committee would table action on this agenda item until a future date.

3. The Borough Planning Commission has been asked by Council to recommend language to address green improvement options when replacing Borough sidewalks or driveways and the like. The Planning Commission has requested clarification on their approach.

Discussion ensued. Manager Aversa stated action to reduce the trigger for stormwater management would impact owners with smaller lots unfairly. Solicitor Bresnan stated that action based upon lot size would impact people differently. Solicitor Bresnan was asked to look into the feasibility of creating stormwater requirements by providing Council with examples of application. Ms. Aversa and Mrs. Siskind both stated their preference to incentivize with green options.

4. A recommendation for adoption of the **2019 Municipal Budget**.
5. A recommendation for adoption of **Ordinance 1111** to increase the Sewer Rate from \$6.00 to \$6.50 for each 1,000 gallons of water usage per quarter.
6. A recommendation for adoption of **Ordinance 1112** Fixing the Real Estate Tax Rate For 2019.
7. A recommendation for adoption of **Resolution 2018-19** Increasing the Annual Trash Rate From \$200 to \$250 Per Year.
8. A recommendation for adoption of **Resolution 2018-20** Acknowledging the Financial Requirement and Minimum Municipal Obligation Budget for 2019 for Police Employees.
9. A recommendation for adoption of **Resolution 2018-21** Acknowledging the Financial Requirement and Minimum Municipal Obligation Budget for 2019 for Municipal Employees Hired After January 1, 2014.
10. A recommendation for adoption of **Resolution 2018-22** Acknowledging the Financial Requirement and Minimum Municipal Obligation Budget for 2019 for Municipal Employees Hired Prior to January 1, 2014.
11. A recommendation for adoption of **Resolution 2018-23** Appropriating Specific Sums Per The 2019 Budget for the Specific Purpose of the Municipal Government.

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

1. The Borough Engineer's report was received.
2. The new parking kiosks were installed in the Cavalier and Short Street Lots.
3. The Zoning Hearing Board will meet on January 8, 2019 to render a decision on the application for a garage at Rosemary Avenue and hear the application for N. Main Street outdoor storage.
4. The Land Development Application proposing a Bank of America drive-up ATM Kiosk at the northeast corner of 119 W. Butler Avenue (the former McDonald's site) has been rejected. The Borough Engineer has provided a Review Letter.
5. The Public Meeting Calendar for 2019 has been advertised.

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 no actions this evening.**

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

1. An update was provided on the recent meeting held for the Friends of Borough Parks initiative.
2. The Committee is continuing to research and is considering preparing a Single Use Plastics Ordinance which would limit or ban the use of single use plastics in the Borough.

Discussion ensued. Ms. Hertz stated Ambler Main Street would be meeting with the Committee in January for discussion on this topic.

3. The Committee is considering scheduling a training session on cycling safety in the spring.

Ms. Hertz 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: 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 giving final approval for the hiring of Christopher Curtin for the Water Department position.

2. Consider appointing Shelly Grinar-Boyd to serve on the Environmental Advisory Council.

Discussion ensued. Ms. Endicott stated that while she found Ms. Grinar-Boyd's credentials to be admirable, she would prefer that volunteer candidates be present at and attend a Council or Committee Meeting prior to appointment. She asked that Council defer making an appointment until a later date. Mrs. Deininger stated that the Committee could consider modifying appointment criteria at a later date, starting in 2019, but that she would prefer that Ms. Grinar-Boyd's consideration move forward this evening. It was agreed that further discussion on volunteer applications would be placed on next month's agenda.

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

1. The Police Department will schedule testing to hire a new patrolman.
2. Ambler Main Street is always looking for volunteers. Those interested in volunteering should contact [liz@amblermainstreet.org](mailto:liz@amblermainstreet.org).
3. The Committee is reviewing a Social Media Policy for employees and will make a recommendation to Council.
4. Interviews have been conducted for the WWTP position.
5. Several volunteer committee positions expire at the end of the year. Current appointees are being asked whether they will seek re-appointment. Committees with expiring terms include: Planning Commission (2 seats – 4 year term); Vacancy Board (1 seat – 1 year term); and Zoning Hearing Board (1 seat plus 1 alternate seat – 3 year term). Residents interested in being appointed by Borough Council are asked to send a letter of interest & resume to the Borough Manager at [manager@borough.ambler.pa.us](mailto:manager@borough.ambler.pa.us) or by mail to the Borough Manager.
6. An Executive Session is required this evening. [After the Executive Session, Mrs. Deininger stated that the purpose of the Session was to discuss a personnel issue.]

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 Mrs. Siskind moves:

Recommendation to award the 3-year contract for Aluminum sulfate to the lowest most responsive bidder, Univar (our current supplier), at a cost of \$1.32/gallon. Seconded. Carried.

Recommendation to award the painting of the structural steel in the wet well of PS-1 to AFN USA, LLC for \$6,725.00 to complete the job. Seconded. Carried.

Recommendation to award the replacement of the bubbler systems in EPA 1 and EPS 2 to Paone Electric for \$16,800.00 for parts and installation. Seconded. Carried.

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

A recommendation that **November 2018** invoices in the amount of **\$925,133.20** be paid. Seconded. Carried.

A recommendation for adoption of the **2019 Municipal Budget**. Seconded. Carried.

A recommendation for adoption of **Ordinance 1111** to increase the Sewer Rate from \$6.00 to \$6.50 for each 1,000 gallons of water usage per quarter. Seconded. Carried.

A recommendation for adoption of **Ordinance 1112** Fixing the Real Estate Tax Rate For 2019. Seconded. Carried.

A recommendation for adoption of **Resolution 2018-19** Increasing the Annual Trash Rate From \$200 to \$250 Per Year. Seconded. Carried.

A recommendation for adoption of **Resolution 2018-20** Acknowledging the Financial Requirement and Minimum Municipal Obligation Budget for 2019 for Police Employees. Seconded. Carried.

A recommendation for adoption of **Resolution 2018-21** Acknowledging the Financial Requirement and Minimum Municipal Obligation Budget for 2019 for Municipal Employees Hired After January 1, 2014. Seconded. Carried.

A recommendation for adoption of **Resolution 2018-22** Acknowledging the Financial Requirement and Minimum Municipal Obligation Budget for 2019 for Municipal Employees Hired Prior to January 1, 2014. Seconded. Carried.

A recommendation for adoption of **Resolution 2018-23** Appropriating Specific Sums Per The 2019 Budget for the Specific Purpose of the Municipal Government. Seconded. Carried.

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

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

A recommendation for the hiring of Christopher Curtin for the Water Department position. Seconded. Carried.

A recommendation to appoint Shelly Grinar-Boyd to serve on the Environmental Advisory Council. Seconded. Carried.

[Executive Session] Consider making an offer for the WWTP Mechanic I position to one of the interviewed job candidates. 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**, Ms. Hertz moved the meeting be adjourned. Seconded, motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Elizabeth Russell  
Assistant Secretary  
Borough of Ambler