

AMBLER BOROUGH COUNCIL MINUTES

February 20, 2018

The regular monthly meeting of Ambler Borough Council was held Tuesday, February 20, 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. Mayor Sorg led the public in the Pledge of Allegiance. In her Mayor's Minute, Mayor Sorg spoke about gun violence, stating that thoughts and prayers are not enough to quell the violence, rather it is time for citizens to become involved with the political process to deter gun violence.

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

Approval of Minutes: Mr. DeRuosi made a motion to approve the Minutes of the January 2, 2018 Reorganization Meeting. Seconded. Carried. A motion was made by Mr. DeRuosi to approve the Minutes of the January 16, 2018 Council Meeting. Seconded. Carried.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

The Committees of Ambler Borough Council met Tuesday, February 13, 2018 at 7:00 p.m. at Borough Council Chambers located at 131 Rosemary Avenue, Ambler, Pennsylvania, 19002. Present: Mr. DeRuosi, Mr. Pasceri, Mr. Zaccone, Mrs. Deininger, Ms. Tomlinson, Ms. DiPietro, Ms. Endicott and Mrs. Siskind. Solicitor Bresnan of Dischell, Bartle & Dooley and Borough Manager Aversa were present. Ms. Hertz, Mayor Sorg and Chief Foley 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 actions this evening.

In other business the following was reviewed:

1. The Police Department and Community Ambulance Association reports were received.
2. The Public Works and Code Enforcement reports were received.

3. The Borough Engineer discussed stormwater plans and the traffic study for the proposed St. Mary's development. Borough Council is considering options to address the concerns of the residents.

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. Consider adoption of **Resolution 2018-02** authorizing the Borough Manager to execute the documents and agreements for submittal of the grant application to the PA Small Water and Sewer Program for the Butler Pike Water Main Replacement Project, with a grant request of \$400,775.

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.

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 **January 2018** invoices in the amount of **\$679,492.74** be paid as follows: General (**\$103,259.73**); Street Lights (**\$4,803.11**); Fire (**\$2,256.70**); Refuse (**\$38,291.43**); Parks & Rec. (**\$227.77**); Water (**\$100,107.60.**); Sewer (**\$88,019.27**); WWTP (**\$191,649.13**); Debt Fund (**\$0.00**); Water Capital (**\$141,446.69**); Liquid Fuels (**\$9,431.31.**)

2. Consider granting authorization to execute the Grant Agreement with Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency (PEMA) Flood Mitigation Assistance Program in the amount of \$828,000 for Borough parcels 44, 48 and 52 Tennis Avenue.
3. Consider, upon review by Borough Council, forwarding the draft Ordinance which addresses the spread of bamboo in the Borough, to the Planning Commission.

Discussion ensued. Sal Boccuti of 300 Rosemary Avenue, who is a member of the Planning Commission, stated that the definition of “bamboo owner” as set forth in the draft Ordinance requires further clarification. Solicitor Bresnan stated he would re-write that definition to clarify the issue before the draft Ordinance is forwarded to the Planning Commission. He stated the language he used in the draft Ordinance was language from the County.

Brook Marshall of 157 Edgewood Drive stated she did not approve of the Borough mandating to landowners what they may or may not grow. Furthermore, she stated her dismay at the deletion of ‘complaint-based’ language in the Ordinance. Mr. DeRuosi explained that the language was removed on the advice of the Solicitor to enable action by the Borough. Ms. Marshall stated she was pleased the Ordinance would not go into effect for 365 days, but questioned a 10-day start-up removal requirement. Solicitor Bresnan responded by stating that a start and completion date were standard inclusions for an ordinance, and that the Ordinance provided for 120 days for bamboo removal.

Brian Quinn of 319 Valley Brook Road asked that the Borough contact specific residential unit owners adjacent to the Edgewood Apartments who would be adversely affected by the Ordinance. Solicitor Bresnan stated that the Borough advertises such Ordinances because it cannot ‘pick and choose’ specific parties to notify when considering an Ordinance. Ms. McKenna stated she had reached out to several neighbors in the vicinity of Edgewood Apartments and they were aware of actions the Borough is considering.

4. Consider adoption of **Resolution 2018-01** adjusting the annual trash collection fee to \$200 per year per dwelling unit as was allocated in the 2018 Municipal Budget.
5. Consider providing support to the Wissahickon Valley Library – Ambler Branch in its application and administration of grants for renovation of the Ambler Branch Library. The Library will be applying for CDBG and Keystone Grants.

Discussion ensued. Librarian Anne Hall was in attendance. She stated the Library could act on the CDBG grant on their own, but that the particulars of a Keystone Grant require a joint application with the Borough.

In other business the following was reviewed:

1. The Borough Engineer’s report was received.
2. Ambler Main Street is requesting lease renewal with SEPTA at the SEPTA parking lot for the Ambler Farmers Market with additional weeks in the lease so that the Market

season can be extended. Authorization was granted by Council for AMS to explore rent options with SEPTA for the 2018 season.

3. The Parking Committee is discussing a parking plan and meter options. Details will be provided for the March meeting.
4. Staff will draft paperwork to solicit Statements of Qualifications for professional services. Council has excluded Borough Actuary, Pension Management Firm and the Banks from this search.
5. An Executive Session was held on a real estate matter.
6. The Community Development Block Grant contract documents were received with a grant in the amount of \$70,425 for the Municipal Public Restroom Renovation project at the Gym Wing of Borough Hall. The grant agreement will be executed.

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 2018-03** opposing use of recycling grant funds which have annually been returned to local municipalities by the State, to instead, not be distributed and to be used by the State to balance its 2017-18 General Budget.
2. Consider adoption of **Resolution 2018-04** in recognition of Earth Day and encouraging sustainability efforts.
3. Consider, upon Council discussion of survey results, giving the name "Ambler Square" to the pocket park to be developed on Butler Avenue near Park Avenue.

In other business the following was reviewed:

1. The Committee has asked that its scope be expanded to include additional environmental and sustainability issues.

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 no actions this evening.

The following was approved at the Committee Meeting:

1. Consider approval of the AFSCME Union Contract. Seconded. Carried.

In other business the following was reviewed:

1. An Executive Session is required.

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 2018-02** authorizing the Borough Manager to execute the documents and agreements for submittal of the grant application to the PA Small Water and Sewer Program for the Butler Pike Water Main Replacement Project, with a grant request of \$400,775. Seconded. Carried.

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

Consideration that **January 2017** invoices in the amount of **\$679,492.74** be paid. Seconded. Carried.

Consider granting authorization to execute the Grant Agreement with Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency (PEMA) Flood Mitigation Assistance Program in the amount of \$828,000 for Borough parcels 44, 48 and 52 Tennis Avenue. Seconded. Carried.

Consider forwarding the draft Ordinance on the spread of bamboo, with clarification in the language on “bamboo owner” provided by the Solicitor, to the Planning Commission for review.

Consider adoption of **Resolution 2018-01** adjusting the annual trash collection fee to \$200 per year per dwelling unit as was allocated in the 2018 Municipal Budget. Seconded. Carried.

Consider providing support to the Wissahickon Valley Library – Ambler Branch in its application and administration of grants, specifically the Keystone Grant, for renovation of the Ambler Branch Library. Seconded. Carried.

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

2. Consider adoption of **Resolution 2018-03** opposing use of recycling grant funds which have annually been returned to local municipalities by the State, to instead, not be distributed and to be used by the State to balance its 2017-18 General Budget. Seconded. Carried.
3. Consider adoption of **Resolution 2018-04** in recognition of Earth Day and encouraging sustainability efforts. Seconded. Carried.
4. Consider naming the pocket park to be developed on Butler Avenue near Park Avenue “Ambler Square.” Seconded. Carried.

Salary & Personnel Committee – The Committee will make no recommendations this evening.

Approved at the Committee Meeting: Consider approval of the AFSCME Union Contract. 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.

Brook Marshall asked that public copies of the Agenda be made available on the Borough website a day prior to the scheduled meeting. She additionally asked that the trash hauler crew be neater and tidier with roll carts. Mr. DeRuosi reminded the public that Council

will hold a Town Hall Meeting on March 14th. Council briefly discussed the format for the meeting.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Elizabeth Russell
Assistant Secretary
Borough of Ambler