

## AMBLER BOROUGH COUNCIL MINUTES

January 16, 2018

The regular monthly meeting of Ambler Borough Council was held Tuesday, January 16, 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 recognized Martin Luther King Day and she relayed her own family's immigration story.

**Roll Call** – Present: Mr. DeRuosi, Ms. Hertz, Mr. Pasceri, Mr. Zacccone, 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.

**Approval of Minutes:** Mr. DeRuosi made a motion to approve the Minutes of the December 19, 2017 Council Meeting. Seconded. Carried.

### **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

The Committees of Ambler Borough Council met Tuesday, January 2, 2018 at 7:30 p.m. at Borough Council Chambers located at 131 Rosemary Avenue, Ambler, Pennsylvania, 19002. Present: Mr. DeRuosi, Ms. Hertz, Mr. Pasceri, Mr. Zacccone, 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.

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

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

Committee members: Mrs. Deininger, Mrs Siskind

The Public Safety Committee report was given this evening by Mr. Zacccone.

**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 Mr. Pasceri.

**The Committee will consider no actions this evening.**

**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.

Mr. Pasceri asked if there were comments or questions from Council or the public. Ms. Hertz inquired about the switch to use of a new phosphorus-reducing chemical at the Waste Water Treatment Plant. Manager Aversa stated the chemical was being tried because less chemical would be needed and the chemical should be more cost-effective. 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 **December 2017** invoices in the amount of **\$921,980.18** be paid as follows: General (**\$199,729.51**); Street Lights (**\$8,519.67**); Fire (**\$11,453.39**); Refuse (**\$36,164.22**); Parks & Rec. (**\$7,143.45**); Water (**\$96,912.95.**); Sewer (**\$154,874.56**); WWTP (**\$385,328.88**); Debt Fund (**\$0.00**); Water Capital (**\$14,797.86**); Liquid Fuels (**\$7,055.69.**)

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

1. The Borough Engineer's report was received.
2. A proposed Ordinance is being reviewed by the Planning Commission which addresses the spread of bamboo, an invasive plant, in the Borough. The Planning Commission will evaluate and recommend additional language from the County review letter.

3. The Parking Committee is discussing a parking plan and meter options.

Discussion ensued. Mr. DeRuosi stated that cost options are being considered and that the Committee would be scheduling a second meeting.

4. Mr. John Zaharchuk will be submitting plans for his Ambler Lakeview project on Maple Avenue.
5. Staff will draft paperwork to solicit Statements of Qualifications for professional services.

Discussion ensued. Ms. Hertz suggested that Council prioritize professional services to be considered because of the extensive amount of work involved in soliciting credentials. Manager Aversa stated the pension has excellent results and that the auditors are currently under a three-year contract. She stated Ambler Savings Bank cannot be matched as to the interest rates it gives the Borough. Ms. Tomlinson requested that staff prepare a summary for the Committee on each professional service.

Ms. Tomlinson asked if there were comments or questions from Council or the public. Chief Foley stated that PennDOT has changed its rules on allowable signal parts which impacts the retrofit of the solar school crossing signals to be used as pedestrian crossing signals at Cavalier Drive. 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 approval of the Red Tail Restoration 2018 contract for invasive plant removal at Ambler Borough Park.

Discussion ensued. Mr. Greg Gagliano of Red Tail Restoration made a brief presentation to Council, offering that Red Tail is the company most familiar with the invasive plant removal process underway at the park and highlighting Red Tail's community involvement. Mr. Zaccone stated it would be prudent not to waste a year mentoring a new service.

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

1. Upper Dublin High student Connie Liu discussed a program she is working on with the EAC for the Ocean Advocacy Campaign as part of the Bow Seat Awareness Contest.
2. The Committee would like to consider change of their committee name and/or scope to include additional sustainable issues.

Ms. Hertz stated that a ByLaws change would be needed to alter the Committee name “Parks & Recreation” Committee. She suggested that the Agenda be formatted to include issues involving the environment and sustainability to be considered by the Parks & Recreation Committee. Mrs. Siskind suggested that all Borough Committees as a matter of practice consider sustainability factors. Manager Aversa stated that the various Committees do consider sustainability issues, citing the recent purchase of a street sweeper, where it was determined that a hybrid sweeper being considered could not meet the specifications of the Borough due to the narrow streets and alleys in the Borough.

3. State Rep. Mary Jo Daley will host a Brownfields Town Hall Meeting on January 18<sup>th</sup> (6-8 p.m.) at Wissahickon High School.

Ms. Hertz asked if there were comments or questions from Council or the public. Ms. Hertz thanked staff for the purchase of reusable cups for Council members and installation of a water cooler in the Caucus Room. Ms. Endicott stated the EAC’s EarthFest will be held April 21<sup>st</sup>. She stated a new program, called “TinkerGarten” is being held outdoors, year-round at Ambler Borough Park on Mondays at 10:00 a.m. 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.**

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

1. An Executive Session is required.

Mrs. Deininger announced the Executive Session was held regarding union contract negotiations. Discussion ensued. Borough employee Cheryl Casalnuovo endeavored to discuss the contract publicly at the reconvened Council Meeting. Mr. DeRuosi responded that Council does not discuss details of Executive Sessions. He stated that Executive Sessions are not open to the public, that the employee should discuss any issues she might have with her Shop Steward, and that this was not a Human Relations Commission issue.

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 will make no recommendations this evening.

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

Consideration that **December 2017** invoices in the amount of **\$921,980.18** be paid. Seconded. Carried.

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

Consider approval of the Red Tail Restoration 2018 contract for invasive plant removal at Ambler Borough Park. Seconded. Carried.

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

### **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.

Mr. DeRuosi suggested that the Agenda include a “New Business” item. Solicitor Bresnan stated the ByLaws allow for a “New Business” agenda item, and that a request should be made a week prior to meeting so that Council may vote on whether to pursue that Agenda item. Mrs Judy Baigis of 172 Tennis Avenue suggested revisions to the Agenda cover page to better communicate that copies of Minutes offered would be under “consideration” for approval.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Elizabeth Russell  
Assistant Secretary  
Borough of Ambler