

## AMBLER BOROUGH COUNCIL MINUTES

July 17, 2018

The regular monthly meeting of Ambler Borough Council was held Tuesday, July 17, 2018 at 7:00 p.m. at Borough Council Chambers located at 131 Rosemary Avenue, Ambler, Pennsylvania, 19002.

Councilman Salvatore Pasceri 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, Mrs. Deininger, Ms. DiPietro, Ms. Endicott and Mrs. Siskind. Mayor Sorg, Solicitor Joe Bresnan of Dischell, Bartle & Dooley, Sgt. Robert Hoffman and Borough Manager Aversa were present. Mr. DeRuosi and Ms. Hertz were absent.

**Approval of Minutes:** Mr. Pasceri made a motion to approve the Minutes of the June 19, 2018 Council Meeting. Seconded. Carried.

A presentation was made by Robin Morton of G4 Productions and Rich Adler of Philly Cycling Classic on a proposal to bring a professional bike race weekend of events to Montgomery County in 2019. It was stated this was a preliminary discussion with the Borough, encouraged by the Valley Forge Tourism Bureau to relaunch this formerly Philadelphia-run race in Montgomery County, specifically as an Ambler-Conshohocken or Conshohocken-Ambler race. It was stated that the event had yet to be vetted by city services, but rather the elected officials were being approached with a preliminary overview. It is anticipated that this would be a June event featuring both men's and women's races. Noting that the Criterium Bike Race will not be held in Ambler this August due to the volunteer manpower required, the speaker stated that the event organizers would provide a sizeable pool of volunteers. Council expressed an interest in knowing further details as the event organizers continue to touch base with nearby municipalities.

### **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

The Committees of Ambler Borough Council did not hold meetings in July. 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.

Discussion ensued. Ms. Siskind asked about the lengthy list of addresses with ‘high grass and weed’ violations. Code Enforcement officer Glenn Kucher responded that the Code Department is walking the Borough section by section, first the alleys and then street-by-street to make note of violations. He stated residents receive a 15-day notice without fines so they can remedy the situation.

3. The Borough Solicitor is updating the Civil Service rules.

Discussion ensued. Solicitor Bresnan stated that the Pennsylvania Borough Code provides for Civil Service guidelines, procedures and regulations on the hiring and firing of municipal police and fire employees. He stated the updated rules he was drafting included state law language and involved only a small number of revisions from the Borough’s 2006 document. Ms. Tomlinson inquired as to Council’s approval procedure. Mr. Bresnan stated Council could make comments and revise the document before sending it to the Civil Service Commission for their review. Ultimately, Council would vote on the rules. Ms. DiPietro noted that the 2006 document was never approved or adopted, stating that the rules were either dormant or do not exist and that therefore Council is starting again with new regulations. She commented that to her knowledge Ambler’s Civil Service Commission has never met. Discussion led to an agreement of Council to send any comments they might have to Mr. Bresnan for consideration of inclusion in a redraft before forwarding it to the CSC.

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 accepting Upper Dublin Township’s offer for their crew to pave the Well 8/Loch Alsh Tank driveway, having the Borough cover the cost of materials, estimated

at \$5,500. (The lowest contractor quote obtained was for \$12,880, which the Borough had proposed could be split with Upper Dublin Township.)

2. Consider purchasing a used 2003 Ford E350 Bucket Lift Van. The current truck is in need of substantial repairs and it would be more cost effective to purchase a newer model.

Discussion ensued. Public Works Supervisor Marco Resente stated a new bucket lift van would cost about \$50,000. He stated our current year 2000 equipment's hydraulic lines have not been maintained. The 2003 bucket lift van has a new engine and transmission and has been kept in good condition. Mr. Zaccone stated he would like to look at the undercarriage for evidence of any rust before a purchase offer is finalized.

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

1. The Engineer's report will be provided.
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 the Pennsylvania Public Utilities Commission is pushing hard against Authorities, communicating that authorities should have more power than simply rate-making control and indicating the PA PUC intends to exercise control over Authorities. The Harrisburg attorney has stated he will be attending one more meeting with the PA PUC before providing Solicitor Bresnan with a complete report.

3. The Water Department's 2017 Annual Drinking Water Quality Report, required by the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA) has been distributed. Copies are available on the Borough website and in the Borough Hall Lobby.

Discussion ensued. Mrs. Judy Baigis of 172 Tennis Avenue asked a question regarding violations. Mr. Frank Scalfaro, Assistant Water Supervisor, stated there were no violations on testing or water quality, but that it would be reported as a violation if a report was not turned in on time.

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 **June 2018** invoices in the amount of **\$437,468.13** be paid as follows: General (**\$124,603.27**); Street Lights (**\$04,984.18**); Fire (**\$9,401.79**); Refuse (**\$35,806.87**); Parks & Rec. (**\$1,333.00**); Water (**\$90,781.69.**); Sewer (**\$15,177.93**); WWTP (**\$146,284.30**); Debt Fund (**\$0.00**); Water Capital (**\$8,824.45**); Liquid Fuels (**\$270.65**).
2. Consider authorization to execute the Proposal for Architectural Services for the Gymnasium Wing Bathroom ABR Renovations with Phillips Associates. The project received Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds. Architect/Engineering costs are the Borough's project match. Total project cost is \$80,989.
3. Consider authorization to execute a Letter of Intent to participate in the Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission (DVRPC) Regional Streetlight Procurement Program. Inclusion will provide an audit, design services and reduced construction contract costs. Participation requires payment of a \$5,000 fee.

Discussion ensued. Public Works Supervisor Marco Resente stated this is Phase II of the project and that several surrounding communities were involved with Phase I and are very pleased with the result.

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

1. The Borough Engineer's report was received.
2. Staff has prepared documents for the solicitation of Statements of Qualifications for specified professional services. Council is reviewing the draft documents.

Discussion ensued. Ms. Tomlinson stated, since there were no further comments from Council, that the SOQs would be advertised mid-August with submittals due mid-September. She added that she would like a solicitation of credentials prepared for Borough auditor services. Borough Manager Aversa stated that Finance Manager Gail Gordon was preparing the documents.

3. Bernadette Dougherty, owner of 95 E. Butler Avenue, has requested authorization from Council to submit a letter of map revision to FEMA to revise a portion of the floodway.

Discussion ensued. It was explained that Ms. Dougherty sought to have Council acknowledge her application to FEMA. It was noted that Ms. Dougherty would not be building anything at the site, but sought a map change.

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. McKenna Endicott.

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

1. Consider adoption of **Resolution 2018-11** Recognizing Joshua Johnston for his achievement as National Marbles Tournament Champion.

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

1. Borough is considering making application to the National Recreation & Park Association which is awarding \$2 million in grant money for green stormwater infrastructure (GSI) installed in parks. The Borough Engineer is research projects that might be funded.
2. The Committee will consider 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 prepared and is available on the Borough website and in the Lobby.
3. The Partnership for the Delaware Estuary has reinstalled storm drain ‘street art’ decals at the corner of Butler and Ridge. The street art is intended to create public awareness on keeping our storm drains clean.
4. **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.
5. Ambler Junior Baseball has received notification from Upper Dublin Township that their surplus Astroturf will be available, at no cost, to AJB for use at Knight Park. Upper Dublin Township and Ambler Junior Baseball will provide more information.

Ms. McKenna Endicott 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 appointment of resident David Kralle to the vacant Planning Commission seat.
2. Consider adoption of **Resolution 2018-12** Recognizing Water Supervisor Philip Benigno for 45 Years of Dedicated Service with the Ambler Borough Water Department.

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

1. An Executive Session was held on July 10<sup>th</sup> for 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. The Assistant Supervisor at the Wastewater Treatment Plant position has been advertised and interviews were held. An Executive Session is requested.

**Executive Session**

This evening, an **Executive Session** was held. It was stated that the discussion at the Executive Session related to a personnel matter.

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:

Consider accepting Upper Dublin Township’s offer for their crew to pave the Well 8/Loch Alsh Tank driveway, having the Borough cover the cost of materials, estimated at \$5,500. Seconded. Carried.

Consider purchasing a used 2003 Ford E350 Bucket Lift Van contingent upon Mr. Zaccone's inspection of the equipment at no cost to the Borough. Seconded. Carried.

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

Consideration that **June 2018** invoices in the amount of **\$437,468.13** be paid. Seconded. Carried

Consider authorization to execute the Proposal for Architectural Services for the Gymnasium Wing Bathroom ABR Renovations with Phillips Associates. Seconded. Carried.

Consider authorization to execute a Letter of Intent to participate in the Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission (DVRPC) Regional Streetlight Procurement Program with a participation fee of \$5,000. Seconded. Carried.

Consider approval of letter of map revision to FEMA for 95 E. Butler Avenue. Seconded. Carried.

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

Consider adoption of **Resolution 2018-11** Recognizing Joshua Johnston for his achievement as National Marbles Tournament Champion. Seconded. Carried.

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

Consider appointment of Police Sgt. Robert Hoffman to serve as Interim Police Chief. Seconded. Carried.

Consider appointment of resident David Kralle to the vacant Planning Commission seat. Seconded. Carried.

Consider adoption of **Resolution 2018-12** Recognizing Water Supervisor Philip Benigno for 45 Years of Dedicated Service with the Ambler Borough Water Department. 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.

Judy Baigis of 172 Tennis Avenue asked that the Borough work to improve the sound system in the room because the on-line video is inaudible.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Elizabeth Russell  
Assistant Secretary  
Borough of Ambler