

AMBLER BOROUGH COUNCIL MINUTES

October 16, 2018

The regular monthly meeting of Ambler Borough Council was held Tuesday, October 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 and led the public in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll Call – Present: Mr. DeRuosi, 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 and Mr. Pasceri were absent.

Approval of Minutes: Mr. DeRuosi made a motion to approve the Minutes of the September 18, 2018 Council Meeting. Several revisions were offered. Mr. DeRuosi made a second motion to approve the Minutes as revised. Seconded. Carried.

A presentation was made by Russ Bellavance, President of the Wissahickon Valley Historical Society. He stated the WVHS was founded in 1976 and had been instrumental in working to save the old Ambler Train Station. He stated the Society serves Ambler, Lower Gwynedd and Whitpain. Mr. Balance outlined renovations currently underway at the 1895 Public School which is headquarters to the WVHS. He stated that through fundraising most of the capital needed had been raised. He added that he came to ask Ambler Borough to become a partner with WVHS, seeking a \$750 contribution from Council so that the Society would have working capital beyond its renovation costs commitment. He concluded by announcing that the Society would be holding a grand opening Open House once renovations are completed and he invited the public to attend.

Executive Session: An Executive Session was held prior to this evening's meeting on a personnel matter.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

The Committees of Ambler Borough Council met Wednesday, October 3, 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, 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. Mr. Zaccone was 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.

Approved at Committee Meeting:

1. Consider award for the concrete foundations work at the York Street and Cavalier Drive intersections to Carr and Duff for their low quote of \$15,000.00. Motion. Seconded. 8-0 Aye. Carried.
2. Consider purchase of a 2012 Ford Bucket Truck at the cost of \$44,264.00. Motion. Seconded. 8-0. Carried.

In other business the following was reviewed:

1. The Police Department, Fire Department and Community Ambulance Association reports were received.

Discussion ensued. Mrs. Siskind inquired as to the Police Department's increase in public service calls. Interim Chief Hoffman responded that his department was in the process of transitioning to a new tracking system and that the month was skewed as the officers navigated through the new system. Ms. Hertz asked that the Police Department routinely speak to Council at Council's meeting about items of note or foreseen trends.

2. The Public Works and Code Enforcement reports were received.
3. 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 having the signal located at Bethlehem Pike and Lindenwold Avenue as part of the contractor's Highway Occupancy Permit process.

Discussion ensued. Mr. Zaccone asked about the timeframe for PennDOT to reach a determination. Borough Engineer Jim Dougherty replied that he had asked for, but not yet received, an update from Upper Dublin Township.

4. A discussion was held addressing speeding issues and traffic calming options. Interim Chief Hoffman outlined options and steps he is taking within the Police Department.

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 authorizing purchase for the WWTP of two new sludge pumps at a cost of \$37,500.00. This expenditure was not budgeted in 2018 Capital, yet the pumps have failed and require replacement. Funds currently exist in capital to cover the expense.
2. Consider authorizing purchase for the WWTP of parts to rebuild Clarified #ET-3. The low bidder was BDI at a cost of \$59,627.38. This was budgeted in 2018 Capital.
3. Consider authorizing purchase for the WWTP from Co-Stars Purchasing of five blowers for the digesters at a total purchase cost of \$275,270.00. This was budgeted in 2018 Capital.
4. Consider determination of the number of Equivalent Dwelling Unit (EDU) credits to give the St. Mary's-Mattison Estates project.

Discussion ensued. Borough Manager Aversa outlined the discussions held with the developer in trying to determine past usage at the site, in determining total project EDU calculations and in determining 'grandfathered' credits to give the developer. She stated Borough Engineers calculate that a credit of 87 EDU, with total project EDUs of 303, has been determined. She recommended Council allocate an 87 EDU credit.

5. Council's PUC Committee and staff met with our Harrisburg attorney working on PUC-related matters and with the Borough Solicitor to discuss operations options and the logistics of forming a Water Authority. Council is asked to consider authorizing the Solicitor to prepare a notice of action regarding forming a Water Authority to be sent on to the Pennsylvania Public Utilities Commission. [A plan of action was outlined by the Solicitor at an Executive Session held prior to this evening's Council Meeting.]

Approved at Committee Meeting:

1. Consider award of new roofs at the WWTP on the EPA 1&2 and B-10 to Banes Roofing at a cost of \$31,950.00. Seconded. 8-Aye. Carried.

In other business the following was reviewed:

1. The WWTP Engineer's report was received.

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 **September 2018** invoices in the amount of **\$821,635.19** be paid as follows: General (**\$360,368.58**); Street Lights (**\$49,154.81**); Fire (**\$46,390.05**); Refuse (**\$35,913.05**); Parks & Rec. (**\$26,262.55**); Water (**\$84,395.28.**); Sewer (**\$19,901.54**); WWTP (**\$184,132.25**); Debt Fund (**\$0.00**); Water Capital (**\$12,878.13**); Liquid Fuels (**\$2,238.95**).

Approved at Committee Meeting:

1. Considering award of a paving contract for Heckler Street to S. Vecchione, Inc. for the low quote of \$16,662.00. Seconded. 8-Aye. Carried.

In other business the following was reviewed:

1. The Borough Engineer's report was received.
2. Qualifications from professional services (Solicitor, Municipal Engineer, WWTP Engineer and Building Inspector) have been received and the Committee has reviewed the submissions. The Request for Proposals for Borough Auditor has been received and reviewed by the Committee.

Discussion ensued. Ms. Tomlinson and the Committee stated they would like to proceed with selecting which firms should be interviewed by Council. Ms. Tomlinson, Ms. DiPietro and Ms. Endicott agreed that the submission by Remington & Vernick for Building Inspector (the Borough's current Building Inspector) was sufficient and that further search was not needed. Council accepted their determination to maintain the firm and award the professional service of Building Inspector to Remington & Vernick.

Ms. Tomlinson stated that only two firms made submissions for Auditor and that she would like to meet with the lead staffing member of both firms at the November 7th Committee

Meeting since she explained the Auditors should be on board by the end of November. The Committee agreed with Ms. Tomlinson's findings and Council accepted the Committee's determination.

After much discussion, the Committee recommended and the remainder of Council agreed to meet with professional services 'candidates' at a special meeting to be held Wednesday, November 14th as follows:

Borough Solicitor:

Grim, Biehn & Thatcher
High Swartz
Dischell, Bartle & Dooley (Joe Bresnan, current Borough Solicitor)

Municipal/Water Engineer:

Carroll Engineering
BCM Engineers
Remington & Vernick Engineers
Gilmore & Associates (current Borough Engineers)

Wastewater Treatment Plant Engineer

BCM Engineers
Remington & Vernick Engineers
EEMA (Bill Brown, current WWTP Engineers)

3. The Ambler Planning Commission prepared a letter to Council regarding the process of updating the Open Space Plan.

Discussion ensued. Mrs. Carol Ann DiPietro of the Planning Commission stated the Commission would like to update the Mission Statement of the Open Space Plan. Ms. Liz Iovine of the Planning Commission stated the Commission would like to reaffirm a commitment by the Borough to look for potential open space and to have a corresponding budget to act on this. Councilperson Endicott summarized that the Commission would like Council to be forward-thinking, delineate key priorities and look for opportunities for Open Space.

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 action this evening:

1. Consider having Tinkergarten host a Lantern Walk on Sunday, November 4th (Daily Savings Time) where families would gather at dusk, light lanterns (tea lights or LED tea lights are provided), sing songs and enjoy a walk in Ricciardi Park.

In other business the following was reviewed:

1. The Committee's resident *Friends of Borough Parks* will meet at Borough Hall on Monday, October 29, 2018 at 6:00 p.m. The pilot parks for the program are Ricciardi Park and Wahl Playground.

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 authorization to advertise the positions for the Water Department and Wastewater Treatment Plant.

In other business the following was reviewed:

1. The Civil Service Rules have been sent to the Civil Service Commission for approval. The Commission has scheduled a public meeting for October 25, 2018 at 7:00 p.m. at Borough Hall.
2. The Police Department will be accepting applications and will schedule testing to hire a new patrolman.
3. Vacancies exist on the Environmental Advisory Council. Interested residents should forward a letter of interest/resume to the attention of the Borough Manager.
4. Benjamin Sheedy was appointed to the Environmental Advisory Council.

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 authorizing purchase for the WWTP of two new sludge pumps at a cost of \$37,500.00. Seconded. Carried.

Consider authorizing purchase for the WWTP of parts to rebuild Clarified #ET-3. The low bidder was BDI at a cost of \$59,627.38. Seconded. Carried.

Consider authorizing purchase for the WWTP from Co-Stars Purchasing of five blowers for the digesters at a total purchase cost of \$275,270.00. Seconded. Carried.

Consider allocation of 87 Equivalent Dwelling Unit (EDU) credits to the St. Mary's-Mattison Estates project. Seconded. Carried.

Consider authorizing the Solicitor to prepare a notice of action regarding forming a Water Authority to be sent on to the Pennsylvania Public Utilities Commission. Seconded. Carried.

Approved at Committee Meeting: Consider award of new roofs at the WWTP on the EPA 1&2 and B-10 to Banes Roofing at a cost of \$31,950.00. Seconded. 8-Aye. Carried.

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

Consideration that **September 2018** invoices in the amount of **\$821,635.19** be paid. Seconded. Carried.

Approved at Committee Meeting: Considering award of paving contract on Heckler Street to S. Vecchione, Inc. for the low quote of \$16,662. Seconded. 8-Aye. Carried.

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

Consider having Tinkergarten host a Lantern Walk on Sunday, November 4th (Daily Savings Time) where families would gather at dusk, light lanterns (tea lights or LED tea lights are provided), sing songs and enjoy a walk in Ricciardi Park. Seconded. Carried.

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

Consider authorization to advertise the positions for the Water Department and Wastewater Treatment Plant. 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