

MINUTES

AMBLER BOROUGH COUNCIL REORGANIZATION MEETING

JANUARY 2, 2018 - 7:30 P.M.

District Justice Patricia Zaffarano Presides

Appointment of Election Validation Committee Members:

- Mary Aversa (Borough Manager)
- Elizabeth Russell (Assistant Secretary)
- Chief Bill Foley (not in attendance)

Report of Certification Committee

- Validation of Credentials for Newly-Elected Council Members Erin McKenna Endicott (Ward 1), Glynnis Siskind (Ward 2) and Nellie DiPietro (Ward 3); for Incumbent Council Members Nancy Deininger (Ward 1) and Sara Hertz (Ward 2); for Newly-Elected Tax Collector Jennifer Stomsky; and for Incumbent Mayor Jeanne Sorg.

Oath of Office Administered by District Justice Zaffarano

Mayor Sorg Presides

Election of Council President: Mr. Frank DeRuosi Elected Council President

- **Nomination of Frank DeRuosi.** Seconded. [6 Ayes (Ms. Siskind, Ms. Endicott, Ms. DiPietro, Ms. Hertz, Mrs. Deininger, Mr. DeRuosi); 3 Nays (Ms. Tomlinson, Mr. Zacccone, Mr. Pasceri)]
- **Nomination of Salvatore Pasceri.** Seconded. [2 Ayes (Ms. Tomlinson, Mr. Zacccone); 7 Nays (Ms. Siskind, Ms. Endicott, Ms. DiPietro, Ms. Hertz, Mrs. Deininger, Mr. DeRuosi, Mr. Pasceri)]

Election of Council Vice President: Ms. Sara Hertz Elected Council Vice President

- **Nomination of Sara Hertz.** Seconded. [6 Ayes (Ms. Siskind, Ms. Endicott, Ms. DiPietro, Ms. Hertz, Mrs. Deininger, Mr. DeRuosi); 3 Nays (Ms. Tomlinson, Mr. Zacccone, Mr. Pasceri)]
- **Nomination of Francine Tomlinson.** Seconded. [5 Ayes (Ms. Endicott, Ms. DiPietro, Ms. Tomlinson, Mr. Zacccone, Mr. Pasceri); 4 Nays (Ms. Siskind, Ms. Hertz, Mrs. Deininger, Mr. DeRuosi)]

Consideration by Council President for Authorization of the following Professional Services:

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| 1. | Engineer | Gilmore & Associates |
| 2. | Solicitor | Joseph Bresnan, Esq. (Dischell, Bartle & Dooley) |
| 3. | Zoning Board Solicitor | Gerald Rath (Blumberg & Rath) |
| 4. | Building/Plumbing Inspector | Remington & Vernick Engineers |
| 5. | Wastewater Plant Engineer | EEMA, Inc. |
| 6. | Auditing Firm | Zelenkofske-Axelrod LLC |
| 7. | Pension Actuary | Duda Actuarial Consulting |
| 8. | Borough Depositing of Funds | Ambler Savings Bank |

Discussion ensued. A motion was made by Ms. Tomlinson to solicit credentials and put all professional services out to bid, with current professional services to continue work for the Borough until new determinations of professional services could be made. Seconded. 8-Aye; 1-Nay (Mr. DeRuosi). Carried.

Consideration by Council President of Applicants for Appointment to Various Committees, Councils, Commissions & Boards:

Appeals Board (3-year term) – 3 seats – For Consideration:

- Al Comly (incumbent). Seconded. All Ayes. Carried.
- William Lutz (incumbent). Seconded. All Ayes. Carried.

Civil Service Commission (6-year term) – 1 seat – For Consideration:

- John Kunzier (incumbent). Seconded. All Ayes. Carried.

Environmental Advisory Council (3-year term) – 1 seat – For Consideration:

- Mary Margaret Monser (incumbent). Seconded. All Ayes. Carried.

Planning Commission (4-year term) – 3 seats – For Consideration:

- Carol Ann DiPietro (incumbent). Seconded. All Ayes. Carried.
- Al Comly (incumbent). Seconded. All Ayes. Carried.
- Elizabeth Iovine (incumbent). Seconded. All Ayes. Carried.

Vacancy Board (1-year term) – 1 seat – For Consideration:

- Karen Polesir (seeks appointment). Seconded. All Ayes. Carried.

Zoning Hearing Board (3-year term) – 1 seat; 1 alternate – For Consideration:

- Michael Williams (incumbent). Seconded. All Ayes. Carried.
- Robert Foster (alternate seat incumbent). Seconded. All Ayes. Carried.

Notification by Council President for Council Members to inform the Council President by the January Council Meeting to be held Tuesday, January 16, 2018 regarding their interests in serving on the following Committees: *Public Safety Committee, Parks and Recreation, Public Utilities Committee, Finance and Planning, and Salary and Personnel.*

Discussion ensued. Ms. Hertz requested that Council consider, as they exist, whether these are the best Committees to serve the Borough or whether Council should expand its parameters to include, for example, an Environment & Sustainability Committee.

Other Notifications as determined by the Council President: Discussion ensued. Mr. DeRuosi suggested Council hold Town Hall Meetings once or twice a year to receive public input. He recommended selecting Wednesday, March 14, 2018 for the first 2018 Town Hall Meeting. On another note, Mr. DeRuosi suggested abbreviating 'Recommendations' recitations at Council Meetings by simply listing the Recommendation number and not reiterating the entire Recommendation paragraph previously stated during the Committee Report.

The business of the Reorganization Meeting concluded and the meeting was adjourned. Mr. DeRuosi then called the Committee Meeting to order.

Public Safety Committee:

1. **St. Mary's Development:** The Borough Engineer provided stormwater plans for the proposed Upper Dublin development. The Borough Engineer, Jim Dougherty of Gilmore Associates, was present. Discussion ensued regarding the adequacy of the plan to protect flood prone areas in Ambler Borough. Council asked the Borough Manager to prepare a letter to Upper Dublin Township regarding the Borough's concerns.
2. **Public Works & Code Enforcement Reports:** Reports were received by Council.

Public Utilities Committee:

1. **Ambler Crossings:** Applicant has inquired about water connection fees for the development. The project was approved with sewer fees required in the review letter. Council authorized staff and the Borough Solicitor to discuss fees.

Parks & Recreation Committee:

1. **EAC Project:** Connie Liu, an Upper Dublin High School student, discussed a joint-EAC/school project involving the Ocean Advocacy Campaign as part of the Bow Seat Awareness Contest. Her topic is creating awareness about plastics in the ocean. She will display artwork at the Earth Day Fest on April 21st. She hopes to be able to purchase trash/recycling/composting bins for Butler Avenue. Discussion ensued regarding logistics for maintaining these bins. Mary Margaret Monser, EAC Chairperson, stated EAC would consider public awareness and maintenance as the project moves forward.

2. **Red Tail Restoration:** Red Tail Restoration has submitted a contract offering for 2018. Red Tail has been involved with removing invasive plants at Ambler Borough Park. Discussion ensued. It was agreed that since the contract amount is below the State threshold of approximately \$19,000, and given their knowledge of the park and expertise, this professional service would not be required to go out for bid. However, the Borough Manager was asked to try to obtain additional quotes and the matter will be reviewed at the Council Meeting.

Salary & Personnel Committee: No business was reviewed or discussed.

There being nothing further, Mr. DeRuosi announced the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Elizabeth Russell
Assistant Secretary
Borough of Ambler