

AMBLER BOROUGH COUNCIL MINUTES

August 20, 2019

The regular monthly meeting of Ambler Borough Council was held Tuesday, August 20, 2019 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, Mrs. Deininger, Ms. DiPietro, and Mrs. Siskind. Chief Hoffman, Solicitor Joe Bresnan of Dischell, Bartle & Dooley and Borough Manager Aversa were present. Mr. Pasceri, Ms. Hertz, Ms. Endicott and Mayor Sorg were absent.

Approval of Minutes: Mr. DeRuosi made a motion to approve the Minutes of the July 16, 2019 Council Meeting. Seconded. Carried.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

The Committees of Ambler Borough Council met Tuesday, August 6, 2019 at 7:00 p.m. at Borough Council Chambers located at 131 Rosemary Avenue, Ambler, Pennsylvania, 19002. Present: Mr. DeRuosi, Ms. Hertz, Mr. Pasceri, Mr. Zaccone, Mrs. Deininger, Ms. Tomlinson, Ms. DiPietro and Mrs. Siskind. Mayor Sorg, Chief Hoffman, Solicitor Joe Bresnan of Dischell, Bartle & Dooley, and Borough Manager Aversa were present. Ms. Endicott was absent.

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, Community Ambulance Association and Fire Department reports were received.

Discussion ensued. Ms. DiPietro asked Chief Hoffman about the status of the Policies and Procedures Manual he is preparing. Chief Hoffman stated the document is 85 percent completed.

2. The Public Works and Code Enforcement reports were received.
3. A Red Cross Blood Drive is scheduled for Friday, September 6 (2-7 p.m.) in the Borough Hall Gym. An appointment to give may be made at redcrossblood.org (keyword 'ambler') or by calling 1-800-RedCross.

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 – Mrs. Glynnis Siskind, Chairperson

Committee members: Mr. Pasceri, Mr. Zaccone, Ms. Tomlinson

The Public Utilities Committee report was given this evening by Mrs. Siskind.

The Committee will consider no actions this evening.

In other business the following was reviewed:

1. The WWTP Engineer's report will be provided.
2. The Solicitor has provided a draft ordinance that authorizes creation of the Ambler Water Authority.

Discussion ensued. Solicitor Bresnan stated the next steps involve creation of a Board, comprised of nine members, five of whom shall be from Ambler Borough with one member from each of the Townships served. After some discussion it was agreed the Borough Manager will contact Township Managers for their nominations of citizens residing in our water service territory. Once the Board is approved by Borough Council, bylaws, lease and operations agreement will be prepared and the Solicitor will advertise a public hearing 30 days in advance of such hearing. He will run another advertisement three days before making a presentation to Harrisburg. In response to an inquiry by Ms. Siskind, Solicitor Bresnan emphasized that the organization will be a lease of the system by Ambler Borough to the Authority, and not a transfer of the system. Further, he stated the lease will not be assignable. In response to an inquiry by Ms. DiPietro, he stated the Authority Board would meet monthly.

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 **July 2019** invoices in the amount of **\$725,228.58** be paid as follows: General (**\$185,798.46**); Street Lights (**\$7,905.45**); Fire (**\$5,528.28**); Refuse (**\$34,925.55**); Parks & Rec. (**\$4,187.07**); Water (**\$154,025.59.**); Sewer (**\$144,079.02**); WWTP (**\$187,913.15**); Debt Fund (**\$0.00**); Water Capital (**\$0.00**); Liquid Fuels (**\$866.01**).
2. Consider adoption of **Resolution 2019-06** authorizing cooperative purchasing and participation in Phases 3 and 4 of the Regional Streetlight Procurement Program administered by the Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission.

A presentation was made by Mike Fuller of Keystone Lighting Solutions. He stated the Design Phase has been completed and proceeded to provide a Final Project Specifications summary of actions to be taken during the construction phase. He noted that with the program's pooled procurement, the cost of product and installation would be approximately 18 percent lower than costs realized by municipalities that participated in Round One.

Mr. Fuller stated the Borough would be upgrading 346 fixtures to LED cobra heads, adding that an additional 21 fixtures had already been converted to LED by the Borough and that the decorative streetlights and one park floodlight were excluded since they were being taken care of by Ambler's Public Works Department.

Decisions to be made by Council include selection of the color temperature (pure white at 4,000 Kelvin; warmer at 4,000-3,000 Kelvin). He suggested Council visit neighboring communities to determine how the lighting can be perceived. Public Works Supervisor Marco Resente stated he would be installing one of each at two locations in the Borough so that Council could see the lighting effect in Borough neighborhoods. He emphasized that LED lighting is downward cast and that no lighting would emit above the fixtures. Mr. Fuller advised that the LED lighting is a retrofit of existing fixtures.

Mr. Fuller stated the other decision to be made by Council is whether to have fixtures installed with a manual or Cloud-based network control system. He stated the manual system would feature a dial-to-the-level of wattage desired at time of installation, noting that should Council select to vary the lighting, each LED would have to be adjusted individually at the site. The network control system, while more expensive would allow for computer controlled timed-wattage variations and would provide daily data, if desired, on light outages. While more expensive, there are added PECO incentives to use network controls and the payback would be only an additional one and one half years. He noted that by reducing wattage at certain times of the day or night, the Borough could extend the life of the LEDs and pointed out that there would be a corresponding reduction in the energy bill. Additionally he stated the network controls would allow for an actual metered PECO inventory for billing purposes.

Ms. DiPietro asked about security with the network control system. Mr. Fuller replied it would be a dial-in stand-alone system and should be secure. Ms. DiPietro commented on

the added \$73,000 cost for the network control system. Mr. Fuller stated the tariff would be reduced and reiterated the additional payback would be one and one half years. He added that the network control cost had gone down since Round One installations were made. Mr. DeRuosi, Ms. Tomlinson and Mrs. Deininger were quite positive about going with the network control system. Ms. DiPietro stated she would need more time to determine whether to move in that direction. Additionally, she stated she would like to witness the lighting effects produced by the different color temperatures. Ms. Tomlinson stated the committee would move to adopt the Resolution with determination yet to be made on the color temperatures and control system.

In other business the following was reviewed:

1. The Borough Engineer's report was received.
2. The Borough Pension Plans update will be provided by Joe Duda at the September meeting.
3. The Committee will assess the feasibility of creating a Historical Architectural Review Board (HARB) or Historical Commission.
4. The Planning Commission is preparing language to amend the Wireless Ordinance and fee schedule to comply with an FCC order as well as develop design requirements for wireless facilities in the rights-of-way to prevent aesthetically obtrusive facilities.
5. Plans have been prepared by the Borough Engineer for bids for the resurfacing of the Cavalier Parking Lot.

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 Mrs. Deininger.

Approved at the Committee Meeting:

1. Consider approval of a contract with Red Tail Restorations to allow for the installation of five rain gardens. Seconded. (8-0). Carried.

In other business the following was reviewed:

1. The Ambler Environmental Advisory Council (EAC) would like to give homeowners a rain barrel and will assess residential property storm water needs to see if the property qualifies for a reduced-cost rain garden, downspout planter or permeable conversion.
2. The Committee will explore authoring a Plastics Use Ordinance and will work with local businesses to discuss options.
3. Movies in the Parks schedule is as follows: “Incredibles 2” on Friday, August 23 at Knight Park. Movie begins at dusk.
4. Wissahickon Student Chan Jeon made a presentation to Council on recycling.

Mrs. Deininger asked if there were comments or questions from Council or the public. Ms. Susan Curry of 1124 Hagues Mill Road provided an update on the status of the Growing Greener Grant. She stated that a neighbors-to-neighbors campaign was being initiated to enlighten residents on rain gardens and downspout planters. She stated a volunteer was needed for data entry. Additionally, she noted the Environmental Advisory Council had found three ‘engineering problems’ as regards stormwater management and asked that the Borough consider installation of storm sewers at Pickering Field, Haywood Park and Southern Avenue & E. Park Avenue.

Anna Lee Lapinski of 136 Rosemary Avenue asked about the status of Ambler Square (the ‘pocket park’). Borough Manager Aversa stated final approvals had been received since the park is located in a flood plain, and that the Borough Engineer would be preparing the concept plan. There being nothing further, it was moved the Committee’s report be accepted as filed. Seconded. Carried.

Salary and Personnel Committee – Mrs. Nancy 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.

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.

In other business the following was reviewed:

1. Police Officer Brian Ly was sworn in and a reception followed.

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 **July 2019** invoices in the amount of **\$725,228.58** be paid. Seconded. Carried.

Consider adoption of **Resolution 2019-06** authorizing cooperative purchasing and participation in Phases 3 and 4 of the Regional Streetlight Procurement Program administered by the Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission with color temperatures and control system to be determined. Seconded. Carried.

Parks & Recreation Committee – The Committee will make no recommendations this evening.

Approved at the Committee Meeting: Consider approval of a contract with Red Tail Restorations to allow for the installation of five rain gardens. Seconded. (8-0). 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. 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