

AMBLER BOROUGH COUNCIL MINUTES

February 19, 2019

The regular monthly meeting of Ambler Borough Council was held Tuesday, February 19, 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, Ms. Hertz, Mr. Pasceri, Mr. Zacccone, Ms. Tomlinson, Mrs. Deininger, Ms. DiPietro, Ms. Endicott and Mrs. Siskind. Chief Hoffman, Solicitor Joe Bresnan of Dischell, Bartle & Dooley and Borough Manager Aversa were present. Mayor Sorg was absent.

Approval of Minutes: Mr. DeRuosi made a motion to approve the Minutes of the January 15, 2019 Council Meeting. Seconded. Carried.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

The Committees of Ambler Borough Council met Tuesday, February 5, 2019 at 7:00 p.m. at Borough Council Chambers located at 131 Rosemary Avenue, Ambler, Pennsylvania, 19002. Present: Mr. DeRuosi, Ms. Hertz, Mr. Zacccone, Mr. Pasceri, Mrs. Deininger, Ms. Tomlinson, Ms. DiPietro, Ms. Endicott, and Mrs. Siskind. Mayor Sorg, Chief Hoffman, Solicitor Joe Bresnan of Dischell, Bartle & Dooley, 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 action 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 Police Department and Code Enforcement Department remind Borough residents that fireworks are not permitted to be discharged in the Borough. Residents seeing fireworks use should contact the Police Department.

Mr. Zaccone asked if there were comments or questions from Council or the public. Ms. Endicott asked that an article appear in the Hometown News on fireworks. Ms. Hertz asked Chief Hoffman to prepare a summary report for Council on the cost for staffing for various Borough-wide events. Chief Hoffman announced that the PD hiring process is underway and that interviews have been scheduled. 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 the following action this evening:

1. Staff requests authorization for the Water Department to have the Water Engineer prepare bid documents and advertise for the Butler Pike Water Main Replacement Project. This project must be completed in 2019 since the County will replace the Prophecy Creek Bridge spring of 2020. The Water Engineer advised that the original project estimate of \$471,500, which is over a year old, should be revised to \$525,000.
2. Staff requests authorization to increase the budget for pipeline replacement and undertaking of additional work at Whitemarsh from \$82,590 to \$105,704.
3. Solicitor requests authorization to negotiate leases for the cell towers on Broad Axe and Houston Road Tanks.
4. PA Department of Environmental Protection requests preparation of an Act 537 Plan Update to review the phase-out of the Upper Dublin facility and to bring the additional flow to the Ambler WWTP.

Executive Session:

An Executive Session was held prior to this evening's meeting. Solicitor Bresnan stated that the Executive Session was held under the Litigation Exception to the Sunshine Law. He stated he would report back to Council regarding the proposed formation of a water authority in a few weeks.

In other business the following was reviewed:

1. The WWTP Engineer's report was received.

2. The Solicitor is preparing a notice of action regarding forming a Water Authority to be sent on to the Pennsylvania Public Utilities Commission.
3. Staff has prepared a letter to the Borough Solicitor, as required by the PA Public Utilities Commission, regarding water valves replaced in 2018 and valves scheduled to be replaced in 2019 as well as valves exercised in 2018 and scheduled to be exercised in 2019. The Solicitor has notified the PA PUC.

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 **January 2019** invoices in the amount of **\$642,042.97** be paid as follows: General (**\$97,686.42**); Street Lights (**\$4,803.59**); Fire (**\$2,567.13**); Refuse (**\$42,344.96**); Parks & Rec. (**\$1,843.83**); Water (**\$121,829.74.**); Sewer (**\$132,751.03**); WWTP (**\$179,134.42**); Debt Fund (**\$0.00**); Water Capital (**\$51,842.00**); Liquid Fuels (**\$7,239.85**).

Approved at the Committee Meeting:

1. Award of demolition bid for 44 Tennis Avenue to BRB Contractors for the low bid of \$27,505.36. Motion. Seconded. 9-Aye. Carried.

In other business the following was reviewed:

1. The Borough Engineer's report was received.
2. Sample ordinance language was provided to the Borough Planning Commission by the County dealing with green improvement options when replacing Borough sidewalks or driveways and the like.
3. The Zoning Hearing Board met on February 12, 2019 to hear an application for a garage at Rosemary Avenue and to hear an application for N. Main Street outdoor storage. The applications were approved with conditions.

4. A presentation was made by Mike Fuller, a design professional at Keystone Lighting Solutions. Keystone is the project consultant for Round 2 municipalities involved with the DVRPC LED streetlight/metered area lighting conversion project. He noted there were 35 Round 1 municipalities and that 5,500 traffic signals and 25, 000 streetlights were converted. The Round 1 project is 99 percent completed. He provided Council with a summary of the feasibility study completed for Ambler's proposed project. Mr. Fuller enumerated 469 Cobrahead lights (7 had already been converted to new LED cobraheads so the project number is 462) along with three unmetered streetlights. He proposed replacing the 462 lights with new LED cobrahead fixtures with photocell control of varying wattages. For the three streetlights he proposes three LED 4-sided colonial fixtures. The net value of the project is \$236,000 and PECO does provide energy saving rebates. Ambler's projected upfront cost is \$90,000 with an additional \$48,000 to be provided with an internal loan from the general fund with payback over 3-4 years.

Finance Manager Gordon states that 2018 reserves delineated \$102,000. We will use \$90,000 which was built up with this project in mind. As we recoup energy savings the loan from the general fund of \$48,000 will be paid back. She anticipated that the Borough at some future date could reduce streetlight millage. Mr. Fuller stated that in total the Borough should anticipate a 7.4 year payback for the project. He stated he would like a commitment from Council to move forward with Phase 2-Project Development and that a Resolution would be required. Upon execution of the contract the only out-of-pocket cost to the Borough at that time would be \$892 to cover design fees. He stated he hopes to kick-off the design phase in March. He added that Phase 3 would involve Construction and Phase 4 would involve Post-Construction.

5. A Resolution in support of the Ready For 100 Renewable Energy Initiative is being prepared. Ms. DiPietro stated members of the EAC will meet with Council's Sustainability Committee to delineate Ambler's specific accomplishments and to review the Mayor's proposed commitments. Ms. Hertz requested that the EAC ensure that they are in the position to be successful at these accomplishments. Ms. Endicott suggested the EAC role should be as a partner with the Borough. Additionally, she asked that the 'hyperlinks' be removed from the draft Resolution. Borough Manager Aversa stated she had requested that PECO perform an energy audit at the municipally-owned buildings. She stated she had asked the Borough's engineers to conceptualize how to use sustainable energy at the WWTP and Water Department facilities.
6. The Parking Committee is considering parking upgrades for 2019. Mr. DeRuosi stated the 2019 Phase 2 recommendations included: increase hourly rate from \$.50 to \$1.00 per hour (\$.25 per 15 minutes) everywhere; update existing meter to accept new parking rate; and update all signage to reflect new rates. It is not the recommendation of the Committee at this time to upgrade all meters to credit card/coin machine due to cost. The 2019 budget is \$25,000. Annual gross from meters (cash collected) last year was \$136,000. Discussion on keeping or removing free December parking and free noon-2 p.m. parking were held. Updating signage was discussed. Increasing the parking limit along Butler Avenue from 1 to 2 hours was reviewed. It was agreed that Council will

take no action this evening. Mr. DeRuosi will prepare a summary memorandum for Council's review.

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. Endicott.

The Committee will consider the following actions this evening:

1. The Committee is continuing its research and is considering preparing a Single Use Plastics Ordinance which would limit or ban the use of single use plastics in the Borough. The Committee is considering a Resolution on Single Use Plastics. [Consideration of the Resolution was tabled until the March Committee Meeting. 9-0 Aye]

Approved at the Committee Meeting:

1. Request approval of the Red Tail Restoration contract for restorative work at Ambler Borough Park at a cost of \$3,800 for the year. Seconded. 9-Aye. Carried.

In other business the following was reviewed:

1. The Committee is scheduling a training session on cycling safety on March 30th for ages 10-16.
2. The Ambler Environmental Advisory Council has offered to give every homeowner a rain barrel and will assess individual property storm water needs to ascertain their qualification for a reduced cost for rain barrels, downspout planters or permeable (patio only) conversion. The remainder of the scheduled workshop dates are:

Friday, February 22	2 p.m.	Ambler Borough Hall
Thursday, March 7	6 p.m.	Weavers Way
Monday, March 11	6 p.m.	Wissahickon Valley Watershed
Saturday, April 13	10a.m.	Ambler Borough Hall

3. The Borough had submitted the Ambler Square plans to Montgomery County Conservation District and with approval from the Conservation District now will move forward to submit plans to the PA DEP for review and permitting.

Ms. Endicott asked if there were comments or questions from Council or the public. She stated that the Ambler Environmental Advisory Council (EAC) will hold Earthfest on April 13th at Ambler Borough Hall. The hours are 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. Council requested that the EAC provide an update on the status of the Growing Greener Grant at a future Council/Committee meeting. 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 the following actions this evening:

1. Consider adoption of an employee Code of Conduct Policy and a Social Media Policy.

Discussion ensued. Ms. Tomlinson stated she would like language concerning fraternization and on nepotism added to the documents. Borough Manager Aversa stated a resolution has been in place for years referencing nepotism. Ms. Tomlinson asked that the resolution be incorporated into the documents. Borough Solicitor will review language in the documents. The Policies will be discussed at a future Council/Committee meeting.

2. Consider appointing Holden McKinney as an Alternate Member of the Zoning Hearing Board.
3. Consider hiring Ryan Waltz to the Wastewater Treatment Plant – Mechanic I position.

In other business the following was reviewed:

1. Ambler Main Street is always looking for volunteers. Those interested in volunteering should contact liz@amblermainstreet.org.

Mrs. Deininger asked if there were questions or comments from Council or the public. Ms. DiPietro stated that the Civil Service Commission will hold a meeting February 28, 2019 at 4:00 p.m. at Ambler Borough Hall. 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 authorization for the Water Department to have the Water Engineer prepare bid documents and advertise for the Butler Pike Water Main Replacement Project. Seconded. Carried.

Consider authorization to increase the budget for pipeline replacement and undertaking of additional work at Whitmarsh from \$82,590 to \$105,704. Seconded. Carried.

Consider authorization for the Borough Solicitor to negotiate leases for the cell towers on Broad Axe and Houston Road Tanks. Seconded. Carried.

Consider preparation of an Act 537 Plan Update to the PA DEP to review the phase-out of the Upper Dublin facility and to bring the additional flow to the Ambler WWTP. Seconded. Carried.

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

Consideration that **January 2019** invoices in the amount of **\$642,042.97** be paid. Seconded. Carried.

Approved at the Committee Meeting: Award of demolition bid for 44 Tennis Avenue to BRB Contractors for the low bid of \$27,505.36. Motion. Seconded. 9-Aye. Carried.

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

Consider adoption of a Resolution on Single Use Plastics. [Consideration of the Resolution was tabled until the March Committee Meeting. 9-0 Aye]

Approved at the Committee Meeting: Request approval of the Red Tail Restoration contract for restorative work at Ambler Borough Park at a cost of \$3,800 for the year. Seconded. 9-Aye. Carried.

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

Consider appointing Holden McKinney as an Alternate Member of the Zoning Hearing Board. Seconded. Carried.

Consider hiring Ryan Waltz to the Wastewater Treatment Plant – Mechanic I position. 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.

Anna Lee Lapinski of 136 Rosemary Avenue asked the Borough to consult with businesses before making changes to parking in the Borough. Council stated they had met with businesses regarding parking.

Jill Sanchez 220 Rosemary Avenue asked for a commitment from Council to hire a certified arborist annually to inspect the health of the trees in the business district that have year-round white mini-lights attached. She stated the small tree-pit size, salt on the roads and years of incorrect mulching techniques had stressed the trees. Regarding LED lighting in the Borough, she stated her preference for yellow-tinted LEDs, citing that this would be a good look for the nostalgic look of the Borough.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Elizabeth Russell
Assistant Secretary
Borough of Ambler