

AMBLER BOROUGH COUNCIL MINUTES

January 15, 2019

The regular monthly meeting of Ambler Borough Council was held Tuesday, January 15, 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, Ms. Endicott and Mrs. Siskind. Chief Hoffman, Solicitor Joe Bresnan of Dischell, Bartle & Dooley and Borough Manager Aversa were present. Mr. Pasceri, Ms. Hertz and Mayor Sorg were absent.

Approval of Minutes: Mr. DeRuosi made a motion to approve the Minutes of the December 18, 2018 Council Meeting. Seconded. Carried.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

The Committees of Ambler Borough Council met Wednesday, January 2, 2019 at 7:00 p.m. at Borough Council Chambers located at 131 Rosemary Avenue, Ambler, Pennsylvania, 19002. Present: Mr. DeRuosi, Ms. Hertz, Mr. Zaccone, 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 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.

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 Borough Engineer provided an update on the St. Mary's Villa project and the proposed traffic signal at Bethlehem and Lindenwold. Staff will look into grant funding.

Discussion ensued. Manager Aversa stated that the parcel(s) will be turned over to the developer next week.

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. A recommendation is requested to award the 3-year contract for WWTP lab testing to MJ Reider at an annual cost of \$141,926.50. WWTP will evaluate the 4th and 5th year proposed based upon future testing requirements.
2. A recommendation is requested to purchase a 2019 Ram 1500 V-6 truck for the Water Department at a cost of \$23,962 (Co-Stars pricing). This purchase was budgeted.

Discussion ensued. Ms. Tomlinson asked about the Water Department's selection of a 'chrome appearance package' for the vehicle. Mr. Philip Benigno, Water Supervisor, stated that the package had been selected because it included 'LED headlights.' He added that this will be a supervisor's truck, it is a short-bed one-half ton truck with 4-wheel drive. It is not intended to be used as a plow truck.

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.

Discussion ensued. Solicitor Bresnan stated he would like to receive emails from Council to determine their collective opinion as to how much authority Council would give up in order to form an Authority. So that there will be no Sunshine Law conflict, he asked that Council members individually email him. Ms. Siskind asked the Solicitor to send out a "menu" on authority-responsibility options. Mr. Bresnan recommended that a half-hour Executive Session be scheduled in February to discuss the proposed formation of a Water Authority.

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 **December 2018** invoices in the amount of **\$742,944.91** be paid as follows: General (**\$240,567.03**); Street Lights (**\$7,381.97**); Fire (**\$7,579.88**); Refuse (**\$31,132.68**); Parks & Rec. (**\$4,206.68**); Water (**\$124,313.05.**); Sewer (**\$149,136.66**); WWTP (**\$178,626.96**); Debt Fund (**\$0.00**); Water Capital (**\$0.00**); Liquid Fuels (**\$0.00**).
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 will convene on February 12, 2019 to hear a request to reopen the hearing on the application for a garage at Rosemary Avenue and hear the application for N. Main Street outdoor storage.

Ms. Tomlinson asked if there were comments or questions from Council or the public. Mr. DeRuosi asked that Ms. Tomlinson place "parking" back on the agenda for the next meeting. 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 no actions this evening.

In other business the following was reviewed:

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.

Discussion ensued. Ms. Endicott stated Ambler Main Street would be meeting with the Committee on January 28th for a discussion on this topic.

2. The Committee is scheduling a training session on cycling safety in March for ages 10-16.
3. 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. Scheduled workshop dates are:

a. Saturday, January 12	9 a.m.	Ambler Borough Hall
b. Tuesday, January 22	12 p.m.	Ambler Borough Hall
c. Thursday, January 31	6 p.m.	Ambler Mennonite Church
d. Saturday, February 2	11 a.m.	Ambler Borough Hall
e. Wednesday, February 13	6 p.m.	Weavers Way
f. Friday, February 22	2 p.m.	Ambler Borough Hall
g. Thursday, March 7	6 p.m.	Weavers Way
h. Monday, March 11	6 p.m.	Wissahickon Valley Watershed
i. Saturday, April 13	10a.m.	Ambler Borough Hall

4. A representative from Red Tail Restoration was present to outline restorative work performed during the last three years at Ambler Borough Park. He stated prior budgets were \$5,000 per year and that this year's contract request was for \$3,800 (100 hours at \$38/hr) to maintain restored areas and increase work on additional areas. He stated that while they were available to attend Stewardship Saturday, the EAC had not included Red Tail due to 'waivers' requirements and staffing needs. He asked that Council consider authorizing the proposed contract at their next meeting.

Ms. 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. Zacccone, Ms. DiPietro

The Salary and Personnel Committee report was given this evening by Mrs. Deininger.

The Committee will consider no actions this evening.

Actions Taken At Committee Meeting:

1. The following appointments to Boards and Commissions were approved (9-Aye):

- a. Karen Polesir (Vacancy Board – 1 year term)
- b. Robert Lagreca (Planning Commission – 4 year term)
- c. Carissa Hazelton (Planning Commission - 4 year term)
- d. Ryan Kennedy (Zoning Hearing Board – 3 year term)

In other business the following was reviewed:

1. The Police Department has scheduled testing to hire a new patrolman.

Discussion ensued. Chief Hoffman stated testing is scheduled at Montgomery County Community College on February 2, 2019. He stated testing would be capped at 75 applicants – at present 50 applications have been requested and approximately half have been returned. He noted the Consortium will be running testing in March. He clarified that the February testing would be for the Ambler Borough position only. He stated the February 2nd testing would involve a written test followed immediately by a physical agility test. He stated he has been in contact with the Civil Service Commission. He will provide the testing agenda to Council since Council members are welcome to attend the testing event.

2. Ambler Main Street is always looking for volunteers. Those interested in volunteering should contact liz@amblermainstreet.org.
3. The Committee is reviewing a Social Media Policy for employees and will make a recommendation to Council.
4. Interviews will be conducted for the WWTP Mechanic I position.

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:

Recommend award of the 3-year contract for WWTP lab testing to MJ Reider at an annual cost of \$141,926.50. Seconded. Carried.

Recommend the purchase of a 2019 Ram 1500 V-6 truck for the Water Department at a purchase cost of \$23,962 (Co-Stars pricing). Seconded. Carried.

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

Consideration that **December 2018** invoices in the amount of **\$742,944.91** be paid. Seconded. Carried.

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

Salary & Personnel Committee – The Committee will make no recommendations this evening.

At Committee Meeting: The following appointments to Boards and Commissions were approved (9-Aye): Karen Polesir (Vacancy Board – 1 year term); Robert Lagreca (Planning Commission – 4 year term); Carissa Hazelton (Planning Commission - 4 year term); Ryan Kennedy (Zoning Hearing Board – 3 year term).

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 expedite improvement of the microphone equipment situated at Council's table.

Judy Baigis of 172 Tennis Avenue stated her appreciation for the tremendous lighting display on several trees in the business district. Manager Aversa stated the lighting display will be continued year-round.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Elizabeth Russell
Assistant Secretary
Borough of Ambler