

AMBLER BOROUGH COUNCIL MINUTES

July 16, 2019

The regular monthly meeting of Ambler Borough Council was held Tuesday, July 16, 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. Mayor Sorg led the public in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll Call – Present: Mr. DeRuosi, Mr. Pasceri, Mr. Zaccone, Ms. Tomlinson, Mrs. Deininger, Ms. DiPietro, Ms. Endicott and Mrs. Siskind. Mayor Sorg, Chief Hoffman, Solicitor Joe Bresnan of Dischell, Bartle & Dooley and Borough Manager Aversa were present. Ms. Hertz was absent.

Approval of Minutes: Mr. DeRuosi made a motion to approve the Minutes of the June 18, 2019 Council Meeting. Seconded. Carried.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

The Committees of Ambler Borough Council did not meet in July. 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 actions this evening.

In other business the following was reviewed:

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

4. The Police Chief is in the process of ordering a new car and equipment to replace that which was damaged by fire. The Costars vehicle cost is \$48,000 which includes the factory upfront cost for outfitting the vehicle as required. We are awaiting allowances from our insurance to offset replacement costs as well as costs and insurance details for the communications devices which are estimated at about \$20,000.

Discussion ensued. Chief Hoffman stated he is awaiting the compensation estimate. He added that the license plate reader in the vehicle is valued at \$14,000 and he is having it examined to determine whether it is salvageable.

Mr. Zaccone asked if there were comments or questions from Council or the public. It was announced that Officer Ly will be sworn in at the August Committee Meeting. 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 is preparing documents regarding forming a Water Authority.

Discussion ensued. Solicitor Bresnan stated it appears the Borough can move forward and create an Authority without having water-serviced townships co-create the Authority. The Borough he believes will be able to place representatives of townships on the Authority Board. He is currently preparing documents.

3. Water engineer is completing the engineering design and layout for the Butler Pike Water Main Replacement Project. The County anticipates late 2020 for the Prophecy Creek bridge reconstruction. This allows leeway to solicit bids and undertake the Water Dept. project before the County begins its work. Planning will involve solicitor's negotiations with the Sons of Italy property and Montgomery County for easements where we will directionally drill under the creek, in addition to obtaining DEP permitting for the creek crossing and earth disturbance.

Discussion ensued. Mr. Pasceri stated the Sons of Italy club recently had their parking lot professionally paved and that should the pavement be disturbed he wanted the contractor they used to complete resurfacing repairs.

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 **June 2019** invoices in the amount of **\$592,523.78** be paid as follows: General (**\$114,572.47**); Street Lights (**\$6,786.61**); Fire (**\$0.00**); Refuse (**\$39,672.27**); Parks & Rec. (**\$7,687.87**); Water (**\$126,047.69.**); Sewer (**\$19,066.89**); WWTP (**\$190,292.38**); Debt Fund (**\$0.00**); Water Capital (**\$0.00**); Liquid Fuels (**\$88,397.60**).
2. Consider award of bid for the street paving projects for 2019 to Monster Paving, Inc. for all items included with the Base Bid in the amount of \$177,860.40 as well as for Alternate Bids 2 and 4, all of which would include as follows: Glen Mawr Drive (Forest to Belmont); Cove Road; and Poplar Street (Ridge to Lindenwold Avenue) as well as alternate paving bids for N. Spring Garden (Race & Butler) and N. Ridge Avenue (Poplar to Butler).
3. Consider approving the lease for the Head Start Program with the Montgomery County Intermediate Unit for space in the Borough Hall building. Rent shall be \$2,500 per month for 11 months.

In other business the following was reviewed:

1. The Borough Engineer's report was received.
2. The Committee will assess the feasibility of creating a Historical Architectural Review Board (HARB) or Historical Commission.
3. 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.
4. Plans are being prepared by the Borough Engineer 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 Ms. Endicott.

The Committee will consider the following actions this evening:

1. Consider submittal of an application for a grant for Electric Vehicle charging stations to be positioned at Borough Hall lot and Lindenwold/Race Street. Smart Charge will assist with grant submittals and Borough work crews can provide electric to these locations.

Discussion ensued. Borough Manager Aversa stated she was waiting to hear back from SEPTA on installing an additional EV station at the SEPTA lot. Council discussed whether to charge money for a charge and whether to limit time allowed at a charging station. Ms. Aversa was able to provide two quotes, one from Charge Point and a second quote from NEWR Energy. The Committee felt that Charge Point has a better presence in the area.

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: “Star Wars – The Last Jedi” on Friday, July 19 at Ricciardi Park and “Incredibles 2” on Friday, August 23 at Knight Park. All movies are free. Movies begin at dusk.
4. Yoga and Mindfulness sessions will be held this summer in the parks as follows: Yoga – July 30 and August 6 from 6:30-7:30 p.m. at Pickering Field; Mindfulness – July 25, August 1 and 8 from 9:00-10:00 a.m. at Ricciardi Park.
5. The Wissahickon Summer Pops Concert will be held July 31 at Alley of the Arts. Wissahickon Summer Pops Concerts are community service orchestral performances involving approximately 50 young musicians enrolled in the Wissahickon School District’s Summer Music Program.
6. The EAC has requested that Chan Jeon be placed on the August Committee agenda to present his project on recycling.

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. 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.

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 **June 2019** invoices in the amount of **\$592,523.78** be paid. Seconded. Carried.

Consider award of bid for the street paving projects for 2019 to Monster Paving, Inc. for all items included with the Base Bid in the amount of \$177,860.40 as well as for Alternate Bids 2 and 4. Seconded Carried.

Consider approving the lease for the Head Start Program with the Montgomery County Intermediate Unit for space in the Borough Hall building. Seconded. Carried.

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

Consider submittal of an application for a grant for Electric Vehicle charging stations to be positioned at two locations. Seconded. 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.

Anna Lee Lapinski of 136 Rosemary Avenue stated that Montgomery County Community College has electric charging stations and suggestion they might be a resource for the Borough. She commented on the new sound system in the Meeting Room. She suggested businesses in the downtown area decorate their planter boxes.

Brooke Marshall of 157 Edgewood Drive stated that parking signage could be improved relative to hours for reserved spaces.

Judy Baigis of 172 Tennis Avenue and Bernadette Dougherty of 338 Tennis Avenue asked Council to consider placing the Lindenwold Parking Deck project on a future Committee Agenda.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Elizabeth Russell
Assistant Secretary
Borough of Ambler