

AMBLER BOROUGH COUNCIL MINUTES

June 18, 2019

The regular monthly meeting of Ambler Borough Council was held Tuesday, June 18, 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, Ms. Hertz, Mr. Pasceri, Mr. Zaccone, 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. Mrs. Deininger was absent.

Approval of Minutes: Mr. DeRuosi made a motion to approve the Minutes of the May 22, 2019 Council Meeting. Seconded. Carried.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

The Committees of Ambler Borough Council met Tuesday, June 4, 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, 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. Mr. Pasceri was absent.

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 the following actions this evening:

1. Consider adoption of proposed **Ordinance 1113** amending Borough codified Ordinances on Disorderly Conduct.
2. Consider adoption of an Agreement that establishes provisions for the Montgomery County Department of Public Safety (MCDPS) to be reimbursed by municipalities for

emergency refueling services for equipment provided at the scene of a large incident actively engaged in response efforts.

In other business the following was reviewed:

1. The Community Ambulance Association and Fire Department reports were received.
2. The Public Works and Code Enforcement reports were received.

Mr. Zacone 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. Zacone, Ms. Tomlinson

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

The Committee will consider the following action this evening:

1. Consider authorization for WWTP to proceed with the design and PADEP permitting of the new UV System. [\$50,000 budgeted in 2019.]

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 he is working with a Harrisburg-based attorney to prepare documents for the Public Utilities Commission. A discussion was held regarding the structuring of an Authority and the extent to which Townships might be involved in an intergovernmental authority. Manager Aversa stated her intent to have the Authority structured as a Borough Authority with township officials on Board, however structured so as not to give away control. Mrs. Siskind stated that Ms. Aversa's stated intention was her understanding as to the structuring of an Authority. Mr. Bresnan stated he anticipated a follow-up communication with the Harrisburg-based attorney before he could circulate an email to Council on direction for the Authority.

Mrs. Siskind asked if there were comments or questions from Council or the public. Bernadette Dougherty of 338 Tennis Avenue asked whether public meetings would be held relative to an authority. Mr. Bresnan replied that public meetings would be held in due course. 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 **May 2019** invoices in the amount of **\$640,705.28** be paid as follows: General (**\$96,569.16**); Street Lights (**\$4,976.62**); Fire (**\$124,527.57**); Refuse (**\$32,962.83**); Parks & Rec. (**\$5,449.91**); Water (**\$92,040.93.**); Sewer (**\$136,390.48**); WWTP (**\$133,278.48**); Debt Fund (**\$0.00**); Water Capital (**\$0.00**); Liquid Fuels (**\$14,509.30**).
2. Consider approval of street paving projects for 2019 as follows: Glen Mawr Drive (Forest to Belmont); Cove Road; and Poplar Street (Ridge to Lindenwold Avenue); and consider as an alternate paving bid the inclusion of half of N. Spring Garden (Race to Belmont); N. Spring Garden (Race & Butler); Race Street (N. Spring Garden and N. Main Street); and Ridge Avenue (Poplar to Butler). Upon approval of the paving list all property owners abutting the streets will be notified to replace any damaged curbs and/or sidewalks.
3. Consider preparing a letter of support to Upper Dublin Township which has approved a resolution authorizing the submission of a TE-160 Traffic Signal Application to PennDOT for a new traffic signal at the Lindenwold & Bethlehem Pike intersection. By this action, the developer of the Mattison Estates project will underwrite the cost of the signal and Ambler Borough will no longer need to prepare a 2019 Automated Red Light Enforcement (ARLE) grant application.

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 Borough Pension Plan update has been provided by Scott Repke. Mr. Repke stated his firm has managed Borough pension funds for 33 years. Their focus is volatility in the market and rebalancing of the portfolio, with 5-7 percent return as the target point. He stated that as of June 13, 2019, this year targeted return is 6 ³/₄ percent. He noted that investments are 70% in U.S. stocks, 21% in developed foreign markets and 7% in emerging markets, adding that firm invests in companies and not in countries. He stated at present tariffs and the Federal Reserve are moving the markets. His forecast is for a 7.9 percent return with an annualized 10 year return of approximately 6 percent. Mr. Repke provided a printed pension report to Council members.

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.

Discussion ensued. Manager Aversa stated that activity was underway in State House Committee (H.B. 1400) which would severely limit municipal rights with wireless carriers. She stated she had sent a letter to our representatives in opposition to the bill.

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. Hertz.

The Committee will consider the following actions this evening:

1. Consider application for a grant for Electric Vehicle charging stations to be positioned at Borough Hall, SEPTA Lot, Lindenwold/Race Street and Ricciardi Park. Smart Charge will assist with grant submittals and Borough work crews can provide electric to these locations.

Discussion ensued. Council debated as to the proposed location of the EV Stations, inquiring as to how to limit time a vehicle might be parked at an EV Station. Ms. Siskind asked that a quote be obtained for Level 3 equipment which would provide a faster charge level. Ms. Hertz stated the intention was offering an amenity and not a full charge. Ms. Tomlinson asked for quotes from competitors. Ms. Endicott stated that a charge station should be located in a municipal lot and not necessarily at a park. All in all, Council asked for more information. The Committee recommended tabling action this evening.

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: "Lego Movie – The Second Part" on Friday, June 28 at Pickering Field and "Star Wars – The Last Jedi" on Friday, July 19 at Ricciardi Park. The Viewers' Choice movie for Friday, August 23 at Knight Park will

be selected at the June movie showing. All movies are free. Movies begin at dusk. In the event of rain movies will be shown at 7:30 p.m. in the Borough Hall gym.

4. Yoga and Mindfulness sessions will be held this summer in the parks as follows: Yoga – July 9, 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. Pops Concerts will be held later in July 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.

Ms. Hertz 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 Ms. DiPietro.

The Committee will consider the following actions this evening:

1. Consider hiring Antonio Montalvo for the Water Operator I position. [Mr. Montalvo was the second candidate to be considered. Mr. Lenzi declined the position.]

Ms. DiPietro 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 recommend and Mr. Zaccone moves:

Consider adoption of proposed **Ordinance 1113** amending Borough codified Ordinances on Disorderly Conduct. Seconded. All Aye. Carried.

Consider adoption of an Agreement that establishes provisions for the Montgomery County Department of Public Safety (MCDPS) to be reimbursed by municipalities for emergency refueling services for equipment provided at the scene of a large incident actively engaged in response efforts. Seconded. Carried.

Public Utilities Committee – The Committee will recommend and Mrs. Siskind moves:

Consider authorization for WWTP to proceed with the design and PADEP permitting of the new UV System. Seconded. Carried.

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

Consideration that **May 2019** invoices in the amount of **\$640,705.28** be paid. Seconded. Carried.

Consider approval of street paving projects for 2019 as follows: Glen Mawr Drive (Forest to Belmont); Cove Road; and Poplar Street (Ridge to Lindenwold Avenue); and consider as an alternate paving bid the inclusion of half of N. Spring Garden (Race to Belmont); N. Spring Garden (Race & Butler); Race Street (N. Spring Garden and N. Main Street); and Ridge Avenue (Poplar to Butler). Seconded. Carried.

Consider preparing a letter of support to Upper Dublin Township which has approved a resolution authorizing the submission of a TE-160 Traffic Signal Application to PennDOT for a new traffic signal at the Lindenwold & Bethlehem Pike intersection. Seconded. Carried.

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

Consider tabling application for a grant for Electric Vehicle charging stations to be positioned at Borough Hall, SEPTA Lot, Lindenwold/Race Street and Ricciardi Park until Council received further information on this issue as requested. Seconded. Carried.

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

Consider hiring Antonio Montalvo for the Water Operator 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 noted recent population growth in the area and asked Council to move forward on parking discussions. Additionally she noted ponding at the Wahl playground gate on the sidewalk and asked that Public Works schedule to remedy the situation.

Brooke Marshall of 157 Edgewood Drive stated the siren for the Wissahickon Fire Company is far too loud and questioned whether it could be adjusted. Mr. Bresnan stated this had been studied before, and that Ambler is situated in a geographic dip. The volunteers require assured coverage he stated, since their phones do not always receive a fire signal.

Mr. DeRuosi stated there will be no Committee Meeting in July.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Elizabeth Russell
Assistant Secretary
Borough of Ambler