

AMBLER BOROUGH COUNCIL MINUTES

May 22, 2019

The regular monthly meeting of Ambler Borough Council was held Wednesday, May 22, 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. 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 and Mr. Pasceri were absent.

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

COMMITTEE REPORTS

The Committees of Ambler Borough Council met Tuesday, May 7, 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. Chief Hoffman, Solicitor Joe Bresnan of Dischell, Bartle & Dooley, and Borough Manager Aversa were present. Mayor Sorg 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 authorizing the advertisement for adoption of a proposed Ordinance amending Borough codified Ordinances on Disorderly Conduct.

2. Consider adoption of **Resolution 2019-05** suspending enforcement of Ordinance 748 for persons attending the Arts & Music Festival events and the Oktoberfest Festival events.

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. A Red Cross Blood Drive is scheduled for Monday, June 3 (2 – 7 p.m.) in the Ambler Borough Hall gymnasium. An appointment to give may be made by going online to www.redcrossblood.org and entering the sponsor keyword ‘ambler’ or by called the Red Cross at 1-800-Red-Cross.

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 is preparing documents regarding forming a Water Authority.

Discussion ensued. Solicitor Bresnan stated he is working with a Harrisburg-based attorney to prepare a mailer for Township Managers for townships located within the water distribution system. He anticipated the mailer would be assembled and ready for mailing out in about a week.

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. December 31, 2019 Audit Presentation: Deborah A. Bacon of Zelenkofske Axelrod LLC made a presentation to Council on audit findings for 2018. She stated the Borough's submittals adhered to generally accepted accounting principles (GAAP). She noted that the auditing firm issues its opinion based upon American Institute of Certified Public Accountants (AICPA) standards, adding that no opinion is given on internal controls although the firm does gain an understanding of internal control over financial statements and compliance during the course of the audit. In summary, she stated the firm has given an "Unmodified Opinion on Financial Statements" (meaning a clean opinion). She stated that the 2018 General Fund results show total revenues at \$4.7 million (this increase driven by grants) with total expenditures at \$4.3 million (increase driven by capital outlays). She added that the net position of the Water Fund is \$7.0 million and the Sewer Fund is \$438,400. She discussed certain future consideration with Government Accounting Standards Board (GASB) pronouncements. She thanked Borough staff for their assistance during the audit process.
2. Consideration that **April 2019** invoices in the amount of **\$940,162.49** be paid as follows: General (**\$379,863.43**); Street Lights (**\$5,134.62**); Fire (**\$0.00**); Refuse (**\$36,824.15**); Parks & Rec. (**\$4,796.71**); Water (**\$260,355.53.**); Sewer (**\$19,135.68**); WWTP (**\$233,830.18**); Debt Fund (**\$0.00**); Water Capital (**\$0.00**); Liquid Fuels (**\$222.19**).
3. Consider approval of the SEPTA License Agreement for the Main Street Farmers' Market.
4. Consider purchase for Council Room microphones and mixer from The ZEO Group at a quoted cost of \$4,932.00 (plus labor cost for installation by ZEO).

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. Ambler's Planning Commission reviewed and made recommendations for green improvement options language for installing pervious pavement. Council had determined not to move forward with an Ordinance change.
4. Borough Council determined not to move forward with an expanded meeting video proposal from Swagit.

5. 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.

Ms. Tomlinson asked if there were comments or questions from Council or the public. Borough Manager Aversa stated that HeadStart is considering renting space at Borough Hall. She stated their auditor has visited the site to determine a proposed rental fee. She added that more information would be available for the June meetings. 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.

The Committee will consider the following actions this evening:

1. Consider passage of a Proclamation designating June 6, 2019 as Wissahickon Class of 1989 Day.
2. SmartWatt Energy, on behalf of PECO, has conducted a facilities LED audit at Borough Hall and the Borough Garage. Upgrade of 225 fixtures to LED's at Borough Hall by SmartWatt will save around \$217 per month off electric bills. PECO is contributing almost \$4,000 towards this proposal. The project will pay for itself in around 3 years. At the Borough Garage an estimated \$70 per month savings off electric bills can be realized. The project will pay for itself in 2 years and PECO will contribute over 30% (almost \$1,000) towards the cost of the project. Authorization from Council is requested to approve the proposal from SmartWatt Energy.

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. YMCA Summer Camp registration is underway. Camp will run from June 17-July 26 (8:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.) Monday through Friday. Camp fee is \$45 per week per child. Proof of Ambler Borough residency is required.
3. The Committee will explore authoring a Plastics Use Ordinance and will work with local businesses to discuss options.
4. The EAC provided an update on their Growing Greener Grant.

5. 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.

Mrs. Deininger 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 the following actions this evening:

1. Consider hiring Nicholas Lenzi for the Water Operator I position.
2. Consider appointment of Elizabeth Rosencrans to the Environmental Advisory Council.

Approved at Committee Meetings:

1. Consider adoption of a Borough employee Code of Conduct Policy. (May 7, 2019 Meeting). Seconded. All Aye (9-0). Carried.
2. Consider hiring John Najbrt to the Highway Laborer position. (May 30, 2019 Meeting). Seconded. All Aye (7-0). Carried.
3. Considering hiring Brian Ly as a probationary patrol officer pending successful completion of the civil service requirements. (May 30, 2019 Meeting). Seconded. All Aye (7-0). Carried.

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 recommend and Mr. Zaccone moves:

Consider authorizing the advertisement for adoption of a proposed Ordinance amending Borough codified Ordinances on Disorderly Conduct. Seconded. Carried.

Consider adoption of **Resolution 2019-05** suspending enforcement of Ordinance 748 for persons attending the Arts & Music Festival events and the Oktoberfest Festival events. Seconded. Carried.

Public Utilities Committee – The Committee will make no recommendations this evening.

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

Recommend that **April 2019** invoices in the amount of **\$940,162.49** be paid. Seconded. Carried.

Recommend approval of the SEPTA License Agreement for the Main Street Farmers' Market. Seconded. Carried.

Recommend purchase for Council Room microphones and mixer from The ZEO Group at a quoted cost of \$4,932.00 (plus labor cost for installation by ZEO). Seconded. Carried.

Parks & Recreation Committee – The Committee will recommend and Mrs. Deininger moves:

Recommend passage of a Proclamation designating June 6, 2019 as Wissahickon Class of 1989 Day. Seconded. Carried.

Recommend approval of Smart Watt Energy proposal to upgrade to LED lighting fixtures at Borough Hall and the Borough Garage. Seconded. Carried.

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

Consider hiring Nicholas Lenzi for the Water Operator I position. Seconded. Carried.

Consider appointment of Elizabeth Rosencrans to the Environmental Advisory Council. Seconded. Carried.

Approved at Committee Meetings:

Consider adoption of a Borough employee Code of Conduct Policy. (May 7, 2019 Meeting). Seconded. All Aye (9-0). Carried.

Consider hiring John Najbrt to the Highway Laborer position. (May 30, 2019 Meeting). Seconded. All Aye (7-0). Carried.

Considering hiring Brian Ly as a probationary patrol officer pending successful completion of the civil service requirements. (May 30, 2019 Meeting). Seconded. All Aye (7-0). 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.

Toni Qawasmy of 11 S. Spring Garden Street asked Council to consider permit parking on her street, suggesting that the 13 houses in that area be eligible for annually-renewed permits with expiration dates.

Coleen Johnson of N. Spring Garden Street as that police patrol and enforce right-way parking on the street.

Judy Baigis of 172 Tennis Avenue asked Council to identify co-living and AirBNB residences to determine whether collection of the Business Privilege Tax is feasible.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Elizabeth Russell
Assistant Secretary
Borough of Ambler