

AMBLER BOROUGH COUNCIL MINUTES

October 15, 2019

The regular monthly meeting of Ambler Borough Council was held Tuesday, October 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, Ms. Hertz, Mr. Pasceri, 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. Mayor Sorg was absent.

Approval of Minutes: Mr. DeRuosi made a motion to approve the Minutes of the September 17, 2019 Council Meeting. Seconded. Carried.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

The Committees of Ambler Borough Council met Wednesday, October 3, 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. DiPietro, and Mrs. Siskind. Chief Hoffman and Solicitor Joe Bresnan of Dischell, Bartle & Dooley were present. Mr. Pasceri, Ms. Tomlinson, Ms. Endicott, Mayor Sorg and Ms. Aversa were absent.

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.

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 Committee is accepting nominations of individuals to be considered for appointment to the Ambler Water Authority Board of Directors. The Board will be comprised of nine members, five of whom shall be from Ambler Borough with one member from each of the Townships served. The Borough Solicitor is preparing an Ordinance to organize the municipal water authority under the provisions of the Pennsylvania Municipal Authorities Act. Council will consider advertisement for public meetings to be held and to consider adoption of the Ordinance once Board members have been appointed by Council.
3. Five bids for electrical work at WWTP for converting the digesters from anaerobic to aerobic were received, the lowest bid being \$536,440. The engineer recommends that Council not award the bid since bids were higher than expected. Five blowers have been purchased and concrete pads are needed. Engineer will advertise bid for the concrete pads and setting of the blowers with bid opening November 4.

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 **September 2019** invoices in the amount of **\$772,531.50** be paid as follows: General (**\$329,519.16**); Street Lights (**\$5,340.61**); Fire (**\$46,062.66**); Refuse (**\$36,204.91**); Parks & Rec. (**\$24,139.70**); Water (**\$114,514.59.**); Sewer (**\$18,602.42**);

WWTP (\$195,666.44); Debt Fund (\$0.00); Water Capital (\$0.00); Liquid Fuels (\$2,481.01).

2. Consider execution of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) regarding hiring an RF100 Consultant at an approximate municipal share cost not to exceed \$15,000 for preparation of a Borough-specific formulation plan to be prepared as a result of Ambler's 100% Renewable Energy Initiative (Resolution 2019-03).

Discussion ensued. Ms. DiPietro stated the document to be prepared by the consultant would provide Ambler with a specific transition plan. Ms. Hertz concurred, stating the document would help us shape a plan to achieve RF100 goals by providing a timeframe and metrics. Ms. DiPietro added that the Ambler Planning Commission would be preparing a preliminary plan for 2035 and 2050. Ms. Aversa stated the MOU would need to be executed so that the budget item of "not to exceed \$15,000" could be added to the 2020 Municipal Budget.

3. Consider authorization to extend the contract with Covanta for three years at a cost per ton each year of \$59.62 (2020), \$60.81 (2021) and \$62.03 (2022) which reflects a two percent increase for each year extension.

In other business the following was reviewed:

1. The Borough Engineer's report was received.
2. The Draft 2020 Budget is being prepared and public meetings will be scheduled.
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. A parking meter upgrade estimate was received.

Discussion ensued. Mr. DeRuosi stated his concern about the monthly service fee (for credit card use), although he admired the 21st Century convenience of credit card acceptability. Council discussed installing kiosks at some street locations in the Borough. Ms. Aversa stated the proposal was based upon the vendor's Co-Stars price sheet. Ms. Hertz asked for the Finance Department to prepare a 'payback' estimate should Council determine to move forward with meter replacement.

Approved at Committee Meeting

1. Consider removal of consideration of establishing a Historical Architectural Review Board (HARB) or Historical Commission from the Committee's agenda. Seconded. (6-Aye). Carried.

2. Consider approval of purchasing and installing 3K-Warm LED lights for the Regional Street Light Procurement Project Upgrade. Seconded. (6-Aye). Carried.

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 no actions 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. A 'survey monkey' survey has been prepared and will be mentioned in Hometown News and on the Borough website.

Ms. Hertz asked if there were comments or questions from Council or the public. Ms. Endicott discussed siting of the Spotted Lanternfly. Manager Aversa stated the Borough had treated trees in Ambler Borough Park and along the Mattison Avenue side of Borough Hall. She stated the situation would be worsening next spring. 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.

In other business the following was reviewed:

1. An Executive Session had been held prior to the October 3, 2019 Committee Meeting.
2. Letters of interest/resumes are being accepted by Borough Council until the end of the month regarding seats on the Board of the Ambler Water Authority.

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 **September 2019** invoices in the amount of **\$772,531.50** be paid. Seconded. Carried.

Consider execution of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) regarding hiring an RF100 Consultant at an approximate municipal share cost not to exceed \$15,000 for preparation of a Borough-specific formulation plan to be prepared as a result of Ambler's 100% Renewable Energy Initiative (Resolution 2019-03). Seconded. Carried.

Consider authorization to extend the contract with Covanta for three years at a cost per ton each year of \$59.62 (2020), \$60.81 (2021) and \$62.03 (2022) which reflects a two percent increase for each year extension. Seconded. Carried.

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

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.

Ms. Anna Lee Lapinski of 136 Rosemary Avenue stated that Ms. DiPietro's presentation to the Planning Commission on RF100 was excellent. Additionally, she encouraged Council to continue to discuss alternatives to parking in the Borough.

Ms Tina Iovine of 245 Bannockburn Avenue asked whether cameras were installed and operating at Knight Park. Borough Manager Aversa stated they are and since they are quite old the Borough is looking into purchasing camera replacements.

Mr. David Morgan of 29 School Street stated his enthusiasm for the recent Oktoberfest festival, for Fire Prevention Night, and for EAC clean-up activities at Weavers' Way.

Mr. DeRuosi thanked Ambler Main Street and the Police Department for their efforts at Oktoberfest.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Elizabeth Russell
Assistant Secretary
Borough of Ambler