

AMBLER BOROUGH COUNCIL MINUTES

September 17, 2019

The regular monthly meeting of Ambler Borough Council was held Tuesday, September 17, 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 (arrived after roll call), 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.

Approval of Minutes: Mr. DeRuosi made a motion to approve the Minutes of the August 20, 2019 Council Meeting. Seconded. Carried.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

The Committees of Ambler Borough Council met Tuesday, September 3, 2019 at 7:00 p.m. at Borough Council Chambers located at 131 Rosemary Avenue, Ambler, Pennsylvania, 19002. Present: 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. DeRuosi, Ms. Hertz, Mr. Pasceri and Mr. Zaccone 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.

Wissahickon Valley Watershed Association Presentation:

Lindsay Blanton, Water Program Manager at WVWA made a PowerPoint Presentation to update Council on the progress of and next steps for the Water Quality Improvement Plan (WQIP). She stated the goal of the Wissahickon Clean Water Partnership which began in 2016 is to improve the Wissahickon Creek, which is impaired, to meet federal and state Water Quality Standards through development of a WQIP. This is a collaborative effort enlisting 16 municipalities and 4 Wastewater Treatment Plants. Through this effort new data have been collected and modeled, an inventory of potential restoration/improvement projects in each municipality has been prepared and funding strategies were being determined. The finalized plan is being prepared and will undergo management committee review and endorsement followed by approval of the final WQIP and Intergovernmental Agreement by Municipal Boards before being filed with US EPA. Target date for filing the final plan with the US EPA is October 2019.

FINDINGS: Phosphorus is not the driver for water quality improvement; No correlation exists between nutrients and low dissolved oxygen; Reducing stormwater flows and volumes will have the greatest positive impact on water quality in the near term; and Reduction of phosphorus may be helpful in later stages of the plan. The Partnership proposes a 20-year, 4-phase Adaptive Management Plan relative to stormwater. The WQIP will involve stormwater management projects, stormwater policies, public education and outreach, implementation metrics and reporting. Implementation will utilize PENNVEST loans, government and private grants and municipal funding.

MOVING FORWARD: At the conclusion of the presentation, Council agreed that the Partnership's Management Committee should move forward with preparation of the final document.

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.

Approved at Committee Meeting:

1. Consider contract award to Kappe for \$52,200 (installed) for replacement of the Grit Classifier at the WWTP. Seconded. Carried (5-Aye).
2. Consider contract award to BDI for \$31,650 for rebuilding of the WWTP ET-#3 Clarifier. Seconded. Carried (5-Aye)
3. Consider granting authority for WWTP to request bids for the electrical connection needed for the five new blowers to be installed on the digesters. Seconded. Carried (5-Aye)

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 **August 2019** invoices in the amount of **\$588,625.69** be paid as follows: General (**\$149,059.05**); Street Lights (**\$6,517.36**); Fire (**\$6,907.52**); Refuse (**\$37,079.98**); Parks & Rec. (**\$6,906.71**); Water (**\$122,844.07.**); Sewer (**\$15,197.06**); WWTP (**\$244,113.94**); Debt Fund (**\$0.00**); Water Capital (**\$0.00**); Liquid Fuels (**\$0.00**).
2. Consider award of contract for the resurfacing of the Cavalier Parking Lot to Gessler Construction for the low bid of \$142,322.
3. Consider assisting the Wissahickon Valley Public Library – Ambler Branch in their renovation planning by jointly applying for a one million dollar RACP grant.
4. Consider direction to be taken regarding a request to hire an RF100 Consultant at an approximate municipal share cost of \$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 state the document to be prepared by the consultant would provide Ambler with a specific transition plan. She stated she would be meeting

with Ambler's Planning Commission and our County Planner to discuss the Initiative. She stated her desire for Ambler to blaze a trail and not to be in conflict with other municipalities with similar initiatives. She stated the Resolution set forth a goal of Earth Day 2020 for a finalized plan, however the Earth Day timeline was flexible. Ms. Endicott questioned the consultant cost and the number of municipalities that had or would commit to include in this intergovernmental consulting project. Ms. Tomlinson wanted assurances that the consultant would provide concrete deliverables and more than simply a 'pretty' PowerPoint. Ms. Hertz noted that the Resolution set forth a set of desirables with the scope of work to be finalized. Ms. DiPietro stated she sought Council approval of the Request for Proposal by the October meeting and also approval to budget \$10,000 for a consultant for this year with the balance to be funded in the 2020 budget. She stated she would provide Council with copies of requests for proposals from another municipality that had already gone through this process. Council determined to revisit this topic and make a determination at the October meeting.

Actuarial Presentation by Joe Duda Actuarial:

The Minimum Municipal Obligations for Police & Municipal Employees for 2020 were provided by Joe Duda, Borough Actuary, Duda Actuarial Consulting. Mr. Duda made a presentation to Council as required by Act 205 to be delivered every September for the following budget year. He stated valuations were not as good as 2017. The Police pension had been overfunded, but this has dwindled. The overfunding was over \$1,000,000 in 2017 but only \$220,000 by January 1, 2019. He stated the municipal employee pension had only a \$12,000 shortfall. He stated he was considering lowering the valuation for 2021 upon review next September 2020. He stated he was pleased that State aid had been increased to 13 percent.

Mr. Duda recommended the following Borough contributions for the calendar year 2020:

- Police Department – 5% contribution of pay with \$212,200 contribution by Borough of Ambler
 - Municipal Employee Hired Prior to 1/1/14 – 3% contribution of pay with \$37,376 contribution by Borough of Ambler
 - Municipal Employee Hired After 1/1/14 – 3 to 5% contribution of pay with a 4 to 8% pay as match resulting in a \$65,484 contribution by Borough of Ambler
5. A recommendation for adoption of a **Resolution 2019-08** Acknowledging the Financial Requirement and Minimum Municipal Obligation Budget for 2020 for Police Employees.
 6. A recommendation for adoption of a **Resolution 2019-09** Acknowledging the Financial Requirement and Minimum Municipal Obligation Budget for 2020 for Municipal Employees Hired Prior to January 1, 2014.
 7. A recommendation for adoption of a **Resolution 2019-10** Acknowledging the Financial Requirement and Minimum Municipal Obligation Budget for 2020 for Municipal Employees Hired After January 1, 2014.

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.

Approved at Committee Meeting

1. Consider adoption of **Resolution 2019-07** Authorizing Execution of the Transportation Enhancements Program Federal Aid Reimbursement Agreement for the Ambler Streetscape Project. Seconded. Carried. (5-Aye)
2. Consider approval of purchasing and installing a Network Control System as opposed to a manual system as part of the Regional Street Light Procurement Project Upgrade. Seconded. Carried. (5-Aye)

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 giving authorization to execute and record the Uniform Environmental Covenant related to PenAmbler Park by Ambler Borough, Lower Gwynedd Township and the DEP for continued compliance with Act 2 (environmental clean-up).

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.

Discussion ensued. Ms. Hertz stated her desire to compile a survey to be distributed to residents and businesses to ascertain interest in and readiness for mandatory single use plastics requirements. Ms. Tomlinson asked how the Borough would go about enforcing such an ordinance. Ms. Hertz stated the Committee would consider this along with other issues when drafting an Ordinance. She stated the survey could be distributed by ‘Survey Monkey’ on the Borough website and by email to residents and businesses if this information is available. She added that a draft Ordinance would not be publicly available until after the Committee had conducted its survey.

3. The Committee provided a summary to Council on community participation in Borough-funded summer activities which included Movies in the Parks, Mindfulness Sessions and Yoga.

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 Mrs. Deininger.

The Committee will consider no actions this evening and had no other business.

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.

Approved at Committee Meeting:

Consider contract award to Kappe for \$52,200 (installed) for replacement of the Grit Classifier at the WWTP. Seconded. Carried (5-Aye).

Consider contract award to BDI for \$31,650 for rebuilding of the WWTP ET-#3 Clarifier. Seconded. Carried (5-Aye)

Consider granting authority for WWTP to request bids for the electrical connection needed for the five new blowers to be installed on the digesters. Seconded. Carried (5-Aye)

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

Recommendation that **August 2019** invoices in the amount of **\$588,625.69** be paid. Seconded. Carried.

Recommendation for award of contract for the resurfacing of the Cavalier Parking Lot to Gessler Construction for the low bid of \$142,322. Seconded. Carried.

Recommendation in assisting the Wissahickon Valley Public Library – Ambler Branch in their renovation planning by jointly applying for a one million dollar RACP grant. Seconded. Carried.

A recommendation for adoption of a **Resolution 2019-08** Acknowledging the Financial Requirement and Minimum Municipal Obligation Budget for 2020 for Police Employees. Seconded. Carried.

A recommendation for adoption of a **Resolution 2019-09** Acknowledging the Financial Requirement and Minimum Municipal Obligation Budget for 2020 for Municipal Employees Hired Prior to January 1, 2014. Seconded. Carried.

A recommendation for adoption of a **Resolution 2019-10** Acknowledging the Financial Requirement and Minimum Municipal Obligation Budget for 2020 for Municipal Employees Hired After January 1, 2014. Seconded. Carried.

Approved at Committee Meeting

Recommendation for adoption of **Resolution 2019-07** Authorizing Execution of the Transportation Enhancements Program Federal Aid Reimbursement Agreement for the Ambler Streetscape Project. Seconded. Carried. (5-Aye)

Recommendation for approval of purchasing and installing a Network Control System as opposed to a manual system as part of the Regional Street Light Procurement Project Upgrade. Seconded. Carried. (5-Aye)

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

Recommendation to give authorization to execute and record the Uniform Environmental Covenant related to PenAmbler Park by Ambler Borough, Lower Gwynedd Township and the DEP for continued compliance with Act 2 (environmental clean-up). 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.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Elizabeth Russell
Assistant Secretary
Borough of Ambler