

AMBLER BOROUGH COUNCIL MINUTES

October 20, 2020

Ambler Borough Council held their scheduled monthly meeting on Tuesday, October 20, 2020 at 7:00 p.m. via ZOOM Software Program. Consistent with Council President's and the Mayor's Declaration of Disaster Emergency, this action was taken to ensure the health, safety and welfare of our community and to promote our commitment to maintain social distancing. As such, the meeting was not held at Borough Hall. A public copy of the meeting agenda was posted on the Borough website on Monday, October 19, 2020. The public was invited to access the ZOOM Meeting and offer questions or comments.

Roll Call – Present: Mr. DeRuosi, Ms. Hertz, Mrs. Deininger, Ms. DiPietro, Mrs. Siskind, Ms. Endicott, Ms. Welch, Ms. Henderson and Ms. Marshall. Chief Hoffman, Solicitor Joe Bresnan and Borough Manager Aversa also were in attendance. Code Enforcement Officer Glenn Kucher and Assistant Secretary Elizabeth Russell also were in attendance. Mayor Sorg was absent.

Approval of Minutes: Mr. DeRuosi made a motion to approve the Minutes of the September 15, 2020 Zoom Council Meeting and the October 6, 2020 Zoom Committee Meeting. Motion to Approve. Seconded. All Aye. Carried.

Mr. DeRuosi reviewed public comment procedures. He noted that he had not received emails regarding the meeting and therefore had nothing to read into the record.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

The Committees of Ambler Borough Council met via Internet vehicle ZOOM on Tuesday, October 6, 2020 at 7:00 p.m. Present: Mr. DeRuosi, Ms. Hertz, Mrs. Deininger, Ms. DiPietro, Ms. Endicott, Mrs. Siskind, Ms. Henderson, Ms. Welch and Ms. Marshall. Mayor Sorg, Chief Hoffman, Borough Manager Aversa and Solicitor Joe Bresnan were in attendance. Code Enforcement Officer Glenn Kucher and Assistant Secretary Elizabeth Russell also were in attendance.

At the Council Meeting this evening, the Committees conducted business as follows:

Public Safety Committee – Ms. Erin Endicott, Chairperson

Committee members: Ms. Hertz, Mrs. Deininger, Mrs. Siskind

The Public Safety Committee report was given this evening by Ms. Endicott.

The Committee will consider the following actions this evening:

1. Consider approval of plans for traffic calming with installation of a new crosswalk at Race and Lindenwold. The Fire Company would prefer a stamped crosswalk since a raised option would impact their travel routes.

Discussion ensued. Ms. Endicott stated that the Police Chief, Mayor and she had met on-site to make a determination as to location for the crosswalk. They reviewed situating the crosswalk at the intersection, south-end and mid-block. It was agreed that the original plan submitted by the Borough Engineer delineating a crosswalk at the intersection of Race and Lindenwold worked the best logistically. Further, she stated consideration should be made to limit parking hours (with parking signage and not parking meters) at the Library since the crosswalk would sacrifice two parking spaces. Since this would require adoption of an ordinance, Ms. Endicott requested that this be discussed in November.

Approved at Committee Meeting:

1. A recommendation for adoption of the Emergency Declaration for COVID-19 for the month of October. Seconded. All Aye. Carried.

In other business the following was reviewed:

1. The Police, Fire Department and Community Ambulance reports were received.
2. The Public Works and Code Enforcement reports were received.
3. The Borough's next Red Cross Blood Drive is scheduled for Tuesday, December 22 from 2-7 p.m. in the Gymnasium.

Ms. Endicott asked if there were further 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: Ms. Welch, Ms. Henderson, Ms. Marshall

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

The Committee will consider the following actions this evening:

1. Consider hiring Paone Electric for \$42,000 to build a new WWTP control system to operate pumps and control levels and send out alarms from pump station #1. (budgeted for 2020).
2. Consider authorization to order parts to rebuild bank B on UV system at WWTP with sole source costing of \$35,693.60. (budgeted for 2020).
3. Consider awarding pump replacement contract for Water Dept. Well 6 to Raab Well Drilling Inc. at a low estimate cost of \$33,028.50. (budgeted for 2020).

4. Consider awarding the Butler Pike Water Main Replacement Project to low responsive bidder KBC Construction LLC with a total bid mount of \$399,569.30 at the recommendation of the Water Engineer.
5. Consider awarding the pump motor and driveshaft rebuild at WWTP for Pump Station EPS-1 pump #6 to Midway for the low bid of \$9,183.53. Other bids received were from Kufen at \$12,810.39 and Longo at \$13,047.00. (budgeted for 2020).

Approved at Committee Meeting:

1. Recommendation to award Associated Paving Contractors, Inc. for the low bid of \$117,750.00 for the WWTP. Seconded. All Aye. Carried.

In other business the following was reviewed:

1. The WWTP engineer's report was provided.
2. An application of the Borough of Ambler for approval of the abandonment of public water service to the public in Pennsylvania has been filed and a notice has been advertised. Formal protests and petitions were received. An update was provided.

Discussion ensued. Solicitor Bresnan stated that our Harrisburg Attorney Adeolu Bakare was preparing a draft response to township demands. Manager Aversa and Ms. Siskind stated the document would set forth that which is doable and reasonable and would reflect a good faith effort by the Authority.

3. Water Dept. is awaiting PFAS sampling results from samples taken in September. The Water Dept. voluntarily conducts this sampling every six months. Results will be posted on the Borough website.

Mrs. Siskind asked if there were further 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. Nellie DiPietro, Chairperson

Committee Members: Ms. Endicott, Ms. Welch, Ms. Marshall

The Finance and Planning Committee report was given this evening by Ms. DiPietro:

The Committee will consider the following actions this evening:

1. Consider that **September 2020** invoices in the amount of **\$1,011,360.46** be paid as follows: General (**\$446,215.24**); Street Lights (**\$4,806.03**); Fire (**\$41,963.93**); Refuse (**\$56,813.45**); Parks & Rec. (**\$2,669.29**); Water (**\$218,812.04**); Sewer (**\$21,155.47**); WWTP (**\$218,925.01**); Debt Fund (**\$0.00**); Water Capital (**\$0.00**); Liquid Fuels (**\$0.00**).

2. Consider adoption of the Borough's Energy Transition Plan prepared in line with the Ambler Borough Ready-for-100 Renewable Energy Resolution which was adopted by Borough Council in March of 2019. Public comment has been accepted and the plan has been available on the Borough website for review.
3. Consider removal of "Murals" from the Council Agenda since there is no regulation of murals in the sign ordinance and such determinations are made at the code enforcement/staff level. Authorization had been requested by Mattie Dixon Community Cupboard and Aloha Smoothie Company to install murals.

Discussion ensued. Code Officer Kucher stated that the wording of the 'Aloha' mural is within code, meaning that he does not consider it to be the creation of a 'sign.' The social and historical significance of the Community Cupboard was mentioned. Solicitor Bresnan stated that Council could consider adoption of an ordinance on 'Murals'. He recommended taking language out of the sign ordinance that defines a mural as well as removing language from the zoning ordinance to construct an ordinance focusing on murals. The Committee requested that discussion of preparing a mural ordinance be placed on the November agenda so that Council could determine whether to ask the Planning Commission to look at language for a mural ordinance.

In other business the following was reviewed:

1. The Borough Engineer's report was received.
2. Council discussed stormwater requirements, specifically the area calculations that triggers stormwater requirements.

Discussion ensued. Mr. DeRuosi asked whether Council was considering reduction of the area that triggers requirements from 1,000 square feet. Code Officer Kucher that the County is reviewing Wissahickon watershed requirements and County requirements as a whole and will get back to the Borough with recommended language and requirements. Manager Aversa stated the Borough should hear back from the County in November.

3. The Borough has submitted a grant application with the Redevelopment Assistance Capital Program (RCAP) for the Poplar Street Parking Lot Project. The project involves significant stormwater improvements.
4. The Borough received a PA Small Water & Sewer Program grant in the amount of \$355,093 for Edgewood Drive Stormwater Improvements. The project most probably will be undertaken in mid- to late-2021.

Ms. DiPietro asked if there were further 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, Ms. DiPietro

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 Committee is moving forward with plans for creation of a Community Garden next spring. A public information session is scheduled for Sunday, November 1st at 3:30 p.m. at the Knight Park picnic table area.

Discussion ensued. Ms. Endicott stated that Ms. Henderson, Ms. Hertz and she had walked Knight Park and had identified an area near the outbuilding which conveniently has running water. Ms. Henderson explained that this would be a community garden and that there would be no individual plots. She stated that resident demand would be met first before opening the garden to residents of other communities. Code Officer Kucher stated that review of the community garden by the Planning Commission would be undertaken as part of the Commissions master park plan.

2. A grant extension has been made for the Growing Greener Grant.

Mrs. Deininger asked if there were further 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: Mrs. Siskind, Ms. DiPietro, Ms. Henderson

The Salary and Personnel Committee report was given this evening by Mrs. Deininger.

Approved at Committee Meeting:

1. An employment offer was made for the Water Department Superintendent position. Seconded. All Aye. Carried. [The position has been accepted by Jeremy Matozzo who will begin employment in November.]
2. Consider offering Borough Public Works employee Victor Solis the Equipment Operator position. Seconded. All Aye. Carried.

In other business the following was reviewed:

1. Chief Hoffman has requested to enter the DROP (Deferred Retirement Option Program) on November 2, 2020.
2. Resumes will be solicited for the vacant Public Works Laborer position.

Mrs. Deininger asked if there were further comments or questions from Council. Ms. DiPietro stated she was sad to hear that the Chief would be retiring within five years. She inquired as to police presence at the polls in November. Chief Hoffman explained that while the police department would respond to issues that might arise, there cannot be a police presence at the polls. The police have no relation to the Constables. Further, he explained that the County Election Board is back-up to the Constables and not the police department. There being nothing further, it was moved the Committee's report be accepted as filed. Seconded. Carried.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Public Safety Committee – The Committee recommends and Ms. Endicott moves:

Consider approval of plans for traffic calming with installation of a new crosswalk at Race and Lindenwold. Seconded. All Aye. Carried.

Approved at Committee Meeting: A recommendation for adoption of the Emergency Declaration for COVID-19 for the month of October. Seconded. All Aye. Carried.

Public Utilities Committee – The Committee recommends and Mrs. Siskind moves:

Consider hiring Paone Electric for \$42,000 to build a new WWTP control system to operate pumps and control levels and send out alarms from pump station #1. Seconded. All Aye. Carried.

Consider authorization to order parts to rebuild bank B on UV system at WWTP with sole source consting of \$35,693.60. Seconded. All Aye. Carried.

Consider awarding pump replacement contract for Water Dept. Well 6 to Raab Well Drilling Inc. at a low estimate cost of \$33,028.50. Seconded. All Aye. Carried.

Consider awarding Butler Pike Water Replacement Project to low responsive bidder KBC Construction LLC with a total bid mount of \$399,569.30 at the recommendation of the Water Engineer. Seconded. All Aye. Carried.

Consider awarding the pump motor and driveshaft rebuild at WWTP for Pump Station EPS-1 pump #6 to Midway for the low bid of \$9,183.53. Other bids received were from Kufen at \$12,810.39 and Longo at \$13,047.00. (budgeted for 2020). Seconded. All Aye. Carried.

Approved at Committee Meeting: Recommendation to award Associated Paving Contractors, Inc. for the low bid of \$117,750.00 for the WWTP. Seconded. All Aye. Carried.

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

Consider that **September 2020** invoices in the amount of **\$1,011,360.46** be paid. Seconded. All Aye. Carried.

Consider adoption of the Borough's Energy Transition Plan prepared in line with the Ambler Borough Ready-for-100 Renewable Energy Resolution which was adopted by Borough Council in March of 2019. Seconded. All Aye. Carried.

Consider removal of "Murals" from the Council Agenda since there is no regulation of murals in the sign ordinance and such determinations are made at the staff level. Seconded. All Aye. Carried.

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

Salary & Personnel Committee – The Committee will make no recommendations this evening.

Approved at Committee Meeting:

An employment officer was made for the Water Department Superintendent. Seconded. All Aye. Carried. [The position has been accepted by Jeremy Matozzo who will begin employment in November.]

Consider offering Borough Public Works employee Victor Solis the Equipment Operator position. Seconded. All Aye. Carried.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Sal Boccuti of 300 Rosemary Avenue offered his congratulations to the crew that repaired the clock at the SEPTA station. He stated he was pleased that construction at Ambler Square Park was proceeding. He stated his hope that an operating traffic light at Maple Avenue would become a reality.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Elizabeth Russell
Assistant Secretary
Borough of Ambler