

AMBLER BOROUGH COUNCIL MINUTES

December 20, 2022

The regular meeting of Ambler Borough Council was held Tuesday, December 20, 2022 at 7:00 p.m. at Borough Council Chambers located at 131 Rosemary Avenue, Ambler, Pennsylvania, 19002.

Council President Siskind called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Mayor Sorg led the public in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Present: Mrs. Siskind, Ms. Welch, Mr. DeRuosi, Ms. Forst, Ms. Sheedy, Ms. Henderson, Ms. Hughes, and Ms. Auerbach. Mayor Sorg, Police Chief Borkowski, Solicitor Bresnan, and Borough Manager Aversa also were in attendance. Ms. Endicott was absent.

Approval of Minutes: Mrs. Siskind made a motion to approve the Minutes of the November 15, 2022 Council Meeting. Seconded. All Aye. Carried.

This evening a special presentation was made by Mayor Sorg and Borough Council to honor the late Mayor Charles “Bud” Wahl and to dedicate a portrait painting of Mayor Wahl. Numerous members of the Wahl family were in attendance.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

The Committees of Ambler Borough Council met Tuesday, December 6, 2022 at 7:00 p.m. at Borough Council Chambers located at 131 Rosemary Avenue, Ambler, Pennsylvania, 19002. Present: Mrs. Siskind, Ms. Welch, Mr. DeRuosi, Ms. Forst, Ms. Endicott, Ms. Sheedy, Ms. Hughes, and Ms. Auerbach. Mayor Sorg, Police Chief Borkowski, Solicitor Bresnan, and Borough Manager Aversa also were in attendance. Ms. Henderson was absent.

This evening, the following was presented:

Finance and Planning Committee – Ms. Nellie Forst, Chairperson

Committee Members: Mr. DeRuosi, Ms. Sheedy, Ms. Auerbach

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

The Committee will consider the following actions this evening:

1. Consider approval of payment of the **November 2022** bills in the amount of **\$906,471.79** as follows: General (**\$374,182.41**); Street Lights (**\$7,366.92**); Fire (**\$0.00**); Refuse (**\$56,361.49**);

Parks & Recreation (\$3,209.11); Water (\$180,342.35); Sewer (\$28,724.46); WWTP (\$229,877.49); Liquid Fuels (\$18,247.56); Water Capital (\$8,160.00); Voided Checks (0.00).

2. Consider adoption of **Ordinance 1130** Fixing the Real Estate Tax Rate for the Year 2023. An advertised Public Hearing was held prior to the vote.
3. Consider adoption of **Resolution 2022-14** appropriating specific sums estimated per the 2023 Budget.
4. Consider purchasing 2- Ford F-250 SRW 4X4 Regular Cab and an Extended Cab with Plow at a cost of \$57,303.00 and \$62,552.00 for the Highway Department. [The three older vehicles will be advertised for bids and will be removed from the fleet.]
5. Consider approval of the Verizon Franchise Agreement and adoption of authorizing **Resolution 2022-16**.

Discussion ensued. Ms. Sheedy inquired about the “comp-ed” cable service to non-profits in the Borough. Manager Aversa stated that Verizon “comps” the Borough, Police Department, Fire Department and Public Library. Additionally, she noted that as regards non-profits, that determination was not made by Council but was at the discretion of Verizon. Finally, Ms. Aversa stated the contract required minor revision regarding addresses. She added that the Franchise Agreement would be a renewal of an agreement the Borough has with Verizon. She stated that the Borough also has an agreement with Comcast.

The following was reviewed:

1. The Borough Engineer’s report was received.
2. The Zoning Hearing Board application for 24 N. Ridge Avenue has been withdrawn.
3. Residential trash and recycling service day changes to Mondays in 2023. The first collection day under the new schedule is Monday, January 2, 2023. Yard Waste collection stays on Tuesdays except during a holiday week.
4. The Planning Commission will be reviewing the revised Transit-Oriented Development Ordinance Amendment Council authorized the Solicitor to draft.

Approved at Committee Meeting:

1. An Ordinance amending the Zoning Ordinance to change the parking setback requirement in an R-3 Zoning District will be sent to the Planning Commission for consideration. 7-Ayes; 1-Nay (Ms. Forst). Carried.

Ms. Forst asked if there were further comments or questions from the Committee, Council, or the public. There being nothing further, it was moved the Committee's report be accepted as filed. Seconded. Carried.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. That the November **2022** bills be paid in the amount of \$906,471.79. Seconded. All Aye. Carried.
2. Consider adoption of **Ordinance 1130** Fixing the Real Estate Tax Rate for the Year 2023. Seconded. All Aye. Carried.
3. Consider adoption of **Resolution 2022-14** appropriating specific sums estimated per the 2023 Budget. Seconded. All Aye. Carried.
4. Consider purchasing 2- Ford F-250 SRW 4X4 Regular Cab and an Extended Cab with Plow at a cost of \$57,303.00 and \$62,552.00. Seconded. All Aye. Carried.
5. Consider approval of the Verizon Franchise Agreement and authorizing **Resolution 2002-16**. Seconded. 7 Aye. 1 Did not vote. Carried.

Public Safety Committee – Ms. Jennifer Henderson, Chairperson

Committee Members: Ms. Forst, Ms. Endicott, Ms. Hughes

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

The Committee will consider no actions this evening.

The following was reviewed:

1. The Police Department, Fire Department and Community Ambulance reports were received.
2. The Public Works and Code Enforcement reports were received.
3. The Ambler Borough Gym is now a regular community site for American Red Cross Blood Drives. A blood drive is scheduled on Thursday, December 29th from 2-7 p.m. To make an appointment to give go online to www.redcrossblood.org (keyword: ambler) or call 1-800-Red-Cross. Walk-ins are welcome.

Ms. Henderson asked if there were further comments or questions from the Committee, Council, or the public. There being nothing further, it was moved the Committee's report be accepted as filed. Seconded. Carried.

Public Utilities Committee – Ms. Haley Welch, Chairperson

Committee Members: Ms. Endicott, Ms. Hughes, Ms. Sheedy

The Public Utilities Committee report was given this evening by Ms. Welch.

The Committee will consider the following actions this evening:

1. Consider approval of the "Green Option" electric generation proposal for the WWTP.
2. Consider adoption of **Ordinance 1129** Setting Revised Rates for Borough Water Service. A Public Hearing was held prior to the vote.
3. Consider purchasing 2 Ford F-250 SRW 4X4 Regular Cab for a cost of \$65,571.00 per vehicle.

The following was reviewed:

1. The WWTP Engineer's report was received.
2. The Water Engineer's tabulation of PFAS sampling results from October 2022 has been received. While most results continue to be consistent with historic levels, the results for Whitmarsh and the Broad Axe Tank are 'ND' – Non-detectable. This is good news and indicates the new carbon at Whitmarsh is effectively removing PFAS. The chart also includes an update to the status of the PA PFAS Rule, which was approved in November and is expected to be finalized next year. The spreadsheet has been posted on the Borough website.

Ms. Welch asked if there were further comments or questions from the Committee, Council, or the public. There being nothing further, it was moved the Committee's report be accepted as filed. Seconded. Carried.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Consider approval of the "Green Option" electric generation proposal for the WWTP. Seconded. All Aye. Carried.
2. Consider adoption of **Ordinance 1129** Setting Revised Rates for Borough Water Service. A Public Hearing was held prior to the vote. Seconded. All Aye. Carried.

3. Consider purchasing 2 Ford F-250 SRW 4X4 Regular Cab for a cost of \$65,571.00 per vehicle. Seconded. All Aye. Carried.

Parks and Recreation Committee – Ms. Erin McKenna Endicott, Chairperson

Committee Members: Ms. Henderson, Ms. Welch, Ms. Auerbach

The Parks and Recreation Committee report was given this evening by Ms. Henderson.

The Committee will consider no actions this evening.

The following was reviewed:

1. At the September meeting, a presentation was made by the Montgomery County Planner outlining key recommendations for the Borough's parks system compiled by Ambler's Planning Commission from public input received for the Parks Plan.

Approved at Committee Meeting:

1. Consider budgeting the design and estimated costs for a dog park at Knights Park. 7-Nay; 1-Aye (Ms. Auerbach). Motion did not pass.
2. Consider purchasing workout stations to be situated at Locust Street Park and Ricciardi Park. 8-Ayes. Carried.

Ms. Henderson asked if there were further comments or questions from the Committee, 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 – Mr. Frank DeRuosi, Chairperson

Committee Members: Ms. Welch, Ms. Forst, Ms. Henderson

The Salary and Personnel Committee report was given this evening by Mr. DeRuosi.

Executive Session:

Council held an Executive Session regarding consideration to make an offer of employment for a Water Department vacancy.

The Committee will consider the following actions this evening:

1. Consider appointments to several volunteer Committee & Board positions which expire at the end of the year, to include:

Environmental Advisory Council (3-year term) – 3 seats

- Nancy Roecker-Coates (incumbent)
- Wes Pipitone (incumbent)

Human Relations Commission (3-year term) – 3 seats

- Denise Valerio (incumbent)
- Marilyn Frazier (incumbent)

Planning Commission (4-year term) – 2 seats

- Robert Lagreca (incumbent)
- Carissa Hazelton (incumbent)

Vacancy Board (1-year term) – 1 seat

- Karen Polesir (incumbent)

Zoning Hearing Board (3-year term) – 1 seat

- Steve Ware (incumbent)

2. Consider adoption of **Resolution 2022-15** recognizing Councilperson Frank DeRuosi for his service to the Borough of Ambler. A presentation of the Resolution was made by Mayor Sorg to Mr. DeRuosi.

The following was reviewed:

1. Vacancies exist for the following appointed positions:

- **Appeals Board (3-year term) – 1 seat**
- **Environmental Advisory Council (3-year term) – 1 seat**
- **Human Relations Commission (3-year term) – 1 seat**
- **Civil Service Commission (Alternate) – 1 seat**
- **Zoning Hearing Board (Alternates) – 3 seats**

2. Residents of Ward 3 interested in having Borough Council consider them for appointment to Council for the balance of the term vacated by Mr. DeRuosi are invited to submit a letter of intent and resume to the Borough Manager. Council has asked that all submittals be received by them by the January 3, 2023 Committee Meeting.

Mr. DeRuosi asked if there were further comments or questions from the Committee, Council, or the public. There being nothing further, it was moved the Committee's report be accepted as filed. Seconded. Carried.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Consider reappointment of all volunteer applicants. Seconded. All Aye. Carried.

PUBLIC COMMENT & ADJOURNMENT

There being no further public comment or other business, Mrs. Siskind moved the meeting be adjourned. Seconded, motion carried. Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Elizabeth Russell
Assistant Secretary
Borough of Ambler