

AMBLER BOROUGH COUNCIL MINUTES

November 15, 2022

The regular meeting of Ambler Borough Council was held Tuesday, November 15, 2022 at 7:00 p.m. at Borough Council Chambers located at 131 Rosemary Avenue, Ambler, Pennsylvania, 19002. The meeting was preceded by a special public Municipal 2023 Budget Meeting at 6:30 p.m.

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. Endicott, Ms. Sheedy, Ms. Henderson, Ms. Hughes, and Ms. Auerbach. Mayor Sorg, Police Chief Borkowski, Solicitor Bresnan, and Borough Manager Aversa also were in attendance.

Approval of Minutes: Mrs. Siskind made a motion to approve the Minutes of the October 18, 2022 Council Meeting. Seconded. All Aye. Carried.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

The Committees of Ambler Borough Council met Tuesday, November 1, 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. Endicott, 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. Forst 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 **October 2022** bills in the amount of **\$1,068,524.58** as follows: General (**\$528,122.92**); Street Lights (**\$3,961.84**); Fire (**\$179,397.17**); Refuse (**\$55,293.42**); Parks & Recreation (**\$4,016.03**); Water (**\$130,284.91**); Sewer (**\$26,972.01**); WWTP (**\$131,481.05**); Liquid Fuels (**\$1,372.73**); Water Capital (**\$7,622.50**); Voided Checks (**0.00**).

2. Consider approval of the proposed 2023 meeting calendar and authorization to advertise.
3. Consider authorization to advertise an **Ordinance Fixing the Real Estate Tax for the Year 2023**.
4. Consider acceptance of J.P. Mascaro request for the Ambler Borough trash and recycling pickup day to be changed from Wednesdays to Mondays.

Discussion ensued. Manager Aversa stated she had spoken with Mascaro's management wherein it was stated that their crew was overextended on Wednesdays and that they could provide better service on Mondays. She stated that there would be no monetary change in the service contract. Ms. Forst stated her concern about holidays falling on Mondays. Ms. Aversa stated there were few Monday holidays for Mascaro's crew in 2023 and that trash and recyclables would be picked up the next day, on Tuesday.

The following was reviewed:

1. The Borough Engineer's report was received.
2. A public meeting for the 2023 proposed municipal budget was held this evening and further meetings are scheduled for November 29 at 10:00 a.m. and December 6 at 6:30 p.m.
3. A Zoning Hearing Board Notice was received for 24 N. Ridge Avenue.
4. A **Resolution Appropriating Specific Sums Estimated Per the 2023 Budget** has been prepared.

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. Consider approval of payment of the **October 2022** bills in the amount of **\$1,068,524.58**. Seconded. 9-Aye. Carried.
2. Consider approval of the proposed 2023 meeting calendar and authorization to advertise said calendar. Seconded. 9-Aye. Carried.
3. Consider authorization to advertise an **Ordinance Fixing the Real Estate Tax for the Year 2023**. Seconded. 9-Aye. Carried.

4. Consider acceptance of J.P. Mascaro request for the Ambler Borough trash and recycling pickup day to be changed from Wednesdays to Mondays starting in 2023. Seconded. 8-Aye; 1-Nay (Ms. Forst). 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 and Community Ambulance reports were received. The Fire Department report will be provided.
2. The Public Works and Code Enforcement reports were received.

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 adoption of **Resolution 2022-13** authorizing executing a contract with third-party provider National Water Specialties Company (NAWSC) for administration of a cross-connection control program for water customers.

The following was reviewed:

1. The WWTP Engineer's report was received.
2. The Water Department has conducted October distribution system PFAS Testing. The water samples will be analyzed at the lab and reviewed by the Water Engineer. Results will be posted on the Borough website once available.

Approved at Committee Meeting:

1. Award of WWTP paving contract to Associated Paving for the low bid of \$3,750.00. Seconded. 8-Aye. Carried.
2. Approved to advertise for adoption **Ordinance 1129 Setting Water Rates for Borough Customers**. Seconded. 8-Aye. Carried.

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 adoption of **Resolution 2022-13** authorizing executing a contract with third-party provider National Water Specialties Company (NAWSC) for administration of a cross-connection control program for water customers. Seconded. 9-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. Endicott.

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.
2. The Environmental Advisory Council (EAC) this evening provided a "Year-In-Review" presentation. EAC Members Jillian Sanchez and Nancy Roecker-Coates presented a PowerPoint highlighting the EAC's accomplishments, involvements and expansion goals for 2023. EAC hosted Earth Fest, Community Clean-ups, MLK Day of Service Project, prepared a Single Use Plastics Ban draft for Council, hosted a Hike & Brew, undertook 38 tree planting, involved with Tree Care (pruning) and Adopt-A-Tree program, planted a pollinator garden at Mattie Dixon, and installed four resident rain barrels. Working with the Whitpain EAC, Ambler's EAC initiated a cell phone recycling collection project, hosted a table at the Arts & Music Festival and at the Ambler Community Garden Fall Festival. In 2023, the EAC will focus on outreach, research, providing improve park signage, and stewardship. The EAC intends to expand Earth Fest increase community engagement.

3. A proposed Dog Park to be built at Knights Park was reviewed regarding potential design and costs for consideration for inclusion in the 2023 municipal budget.

Lengthy discussion ensued among Committee members, Council, and the public. Discussion involved suggestions to resituate the Dog Park on the lot, concerns about parking, stormwater management, maintenance, disturbing neighbors, neighborhood privacy, dog barking and odor, security, signage, park hours, and whether to charge participants. Several residents questioned why the proposed Dog Park was to be constructed at Knights Park and not at some other location. Manager Aversa assured Council members that should they not move forward with the preliminarily budgeted \$30,000 for construction of the dog park, that those funds could be held in the Parks & Rec reserves account or could be reallocated to another project, such as a park pavilion.

4. Purchase of requested low maintenance, stationary workout stations geared for teens to be located at Locust Street Park and Ricciardi Park were considered. The quote for the StayFIT Outdoor Fitness Multi-Station #35 was \$9,302.00 per station.

Ms. Endicott 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.

The Committee will consider the following actions this evening:

1. Consider approval of the Employee Policy.

The following was reviewed:

1. An Executive Session was held this evening on a personnel issue.
2. Several volunteer Committee & Board positions will expire at the end of the year. Incumbents will be notified and asked to submit credentials if they seek reappointment. Borough residents are invited to submit their credentials as well by forwarding a letter of interest/resume by December 12th to the Borough Manager at manager@borough.ambler.pa.us. Appointments will be made by Council at their December Council Meeting. Volunteer positions include:
 - Appeals Board – (vacancy - term ending 2024) - 1 seat
 - Environmental Advisory Council – (3 year term) – 3 seats
 - Human Relations Commission (3 year term) – 3 seats
 - Planning Commission (4 year term) – 2 seats
 - Vacancy Board (1 year term) – 1 seat

- Zoning Hearing Board (3 year term) – 1 seat
 - Zoning Hearing Board Alternates (vacancies – term ending 2023, 2024, 2025) – 3 seats
3. Council Member Frank DeRuosi (Ward 3) has announced his intention to resign from Borough Council effective upon the adjournment of the December 20, 2022 Council meeting. Residents of Ward 3 interested in having Borough Council consider them for appointment to the balance of the term 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 so that they can appoint the new Council Member at the January 17, 2023 Council Meeting.

Approved at Committee Meeting:

1. Consider approving candidate for vacating Manager’s Assistant position. Seconded. 8-Aye. Carried.

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 approval of the Employee Policy.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Anna Lee Lapinski of 136 Rosemary Avenue inquired about the 106 Poplar Street parking lot construction not appearing on the proposed budget. Manager Aversa stated the Borough is awaiting grant approval.

Sal Boccuti of 300 Rosemary Avenue asked Council to consider eliminating the “ward system” in the Borough.

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