

AMBLER BOROUGH COUNCIL MINUTES

September 19, 2023

The regular meeting of Ambler Borough Council was held Tuesday September 19, 2023, at 7:00PM 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.

Present: Ms. Siskind, Ms. Welch, Ms. Sheedy, Ms. Hughes, Ms. Forst, Ms. Auerbach, Ms. Roecker Coates, Mayor Sorg, Police Chief Jeff Borkowski, Solicitor Joe Bresnan, and Borough Manager Mary Aversa were also in attendance. Ms. Endicott was absent.

Approval of Minutes: Ms. Siskind made a motion to approve the Minutes of August 15, 2023, Council meeting. Seconded. **Carried All AYE – 8**

A vote was taken to amend the agenda to include a presentation by Zelenkofske Axelrod, LLC. **Carried All AYE – 8**

The Following Business was discussed:

Finance and Planning Committee – Ms. Nellie Forst Chairperson, Committee Members: Ms. Karen Sheedy, Ms. Lisa Auerbach Ms. Nancy Roecker Coates

A presentation was made by Matthew Beinhauer with the accounting firm Zelenkofske Axelrod, LLC regarding the 2022 Audit. Their responsibility is to review the financials not to issue opinions on internal control. They had no issue with pension content, and a clear opinion on the financials reviewed.

The Committee will consider the following recommendations:

1. That the August 2023 bills be paid in the amount of \$533,034.37 as follows: General (\$127,186.45); Street lights (\$3,513.99), Fire (\$0.0), Refuse (\$55,185.29); Parks & Rec (\$15,739.06); Water (\$123,641.33); Sewer (\$14,388.98); WWTP (\$188,688.72), liquid Fuels (\$456.55); Water Capital (\$4,234.00); Voided checks (\$0.0).
2. Minimum Municipal Obligations (MMO) for 2024 Borough Municipal Employees' (Defined Benefit & Defined Contribution) and Police Pension Plans were received.
 - **Resolution 2023-9** Defined Contribution Pension Plan for the Benefit of Municipal Employees hired after 01/01/14.
 - **Resolution 2023-10** Pension Plan for the Benefit of the Borough's Police Employees.

3. A presentation was made by Landon Woodward ASH Associates Inc. for the 162 E. Park Avenue and the 215 Mattison Avenue subdivision proposing a lot line adjustment between the two parcels. Borough Engineer, Borough Planning Commission, and Montgomery County Planning Commission plans were received.

Questions from the committee:

Ms. Siskind questioned why the parcel was being separated. Mr. Woodward explained. Mr. Bresnan inquired about the size of the giving parcel; Mr. Woodward answered. Discussion ensued.

Recommendations:

1. That the August bills be paid in the amount of \$533,034.37 **Carried All AYE – 8**
2. A recommendation was made to approve **Resolution 2023 - 8** Defined Contribution Pension Plan for the Benefit of Municipal Employees hired after 01/01/14 **Carried All AYE – 8**
3. A recommendation was made to approve **Resolution 2023 – 9** Defined Benefit Pension Plan for the Benefit of Municipal Employees hired after 01/01/2014. **Carried All AYE – 8**
4. A recommendation was made to approve **Resolution 2023 – 10** Pension Plan for the Benefit of the Borough's Police Employees. **Carried All AYE – 8**
5. A recommendation was made to adjust the lot line for the 162 East Park Avenue and 215 Mattison Avenue parcels. **Carried All AYE – 8**
6. A recommendation was made to approve option B regarding digging ditches for pipes to address the conflict in remediating the drain required to complete the Edgewood Drive storm water project. **Carried All AYE – 8**

Public Safety Committee: Ms. Jennifer Henderson – Chair, Nancy Roecker Coates, Erin McKenna Endicott, and Amy Hughes

The Committee made no recommendations.

The following business was discussed:

1. The police department report was reviewed.
2. The Community Ambulance report was reviewed.
3. The Fire Department report was reviewed.
4. The Public Works and Code Enforcement reports were reviewed.

5. The Ambler Borough Police Department has received a shipment of steering wheel locks for vehicles. Residents are encouraged to pick one up at the police station.
Committee Comments and questions:

Committee comment:

Ms. Henderson expressed concern regarding the bus stop at Rosemont Avenue and Butler Avenue. Chief Borkowski replied. Ms. Henderson reiterated her desire to have an officer there daily. Ms. Siskind offered an opinion on the inappropriate place for a bus stop. Discussion ensued. A conclusion was made that the School District needed to be contacted to remedy the situation.

Ms. Roecker Coates expressed concern regarding fireworks in Knights Park on Labor Day. Chief Borkowski clarified that the person responsible had been cited.

Ms. Henderson asked for increased foot patrols on the weekends in the restaurant - bar district. The Chief agreed.

Public Utilities Committee: Committee Members: Haley Welch - Chair, Erin McKenna Endicott, Amy Hughes, and Karen Sheedy

The Committee will consider the following recommendations.

1. Recommendation is requested to approve the new Cingular Wireless Lease Amendment for Houston Road. Paperwork was received.

The following business was discussed:

1. The WWTP Engineers report was received.
2. System flushing has begun; locations are posted on the Borough Website.
- 3.

Recommendations:

1. A recommendation is requested to approve the new Cingular Wireless Lease Amendment for Houston Road. **Carried All AYE – 8**

Parks and Recreation Committee: Ms. Erin McKenna Endicott – Chair, Jen Henderson, Haley Welch, and Lisa Auerbach

The Committee will make no recommendations.

The following business was discussed:

1. Thank you to all who participated in Ambler Community Clean up -World Cleanup Day.

Salary & Personnel Committee: Committee members Ms. Karen Sheedy – Chair, Haley Welch, Nellie Forst, and Jen Henderson.

The following business was discussed:

1. Timothy Donovan has accepted the offer for Assistant Wastewater Superintendent.
2. An executive session was held earlier in the evening to discuss a personnel issue.
3. Resumes are being accepted for the Wastewater vacancies.

A motion was made to amend the agenda to include the appointment of the new EAC Member and to move Denise Lewis to full-time in the Wastewater treatment plant.

Carried All AYE – 8

Recommendations

1. Recommendation to move Denise Lewis in the Wastewater treatment plant from parttime to full time. **Carried All AYE – 8**
2. Recommendation to appoint Mark Settman to the vacant position in the EAC. **Carried All AYE – 8**

President Siskind made motions to approve the agendas for: Finance & Planning, Public Safety, Public Utilities, Parks & Recreation, and Salary & Personnel. **All Carried All AYE – 8**

Public Comment

Annalee Lapinski, 136 Rosemary Ave. Posed a question regarding snowplows and possible reversal of plowing direction on Rosemary Ave. Ms. Aversa responded they will investigate the request.

Lou Oreheck, 237 Walnut Lane posed a question regarding the frequency of street sweeping. Ms. Aversa explained the procedure.

There being no further public comment or other business, Ms. Siskind moved the meeting adjourned. Carried **8-AYE**

Respectfully submitted,

Elizabeth Wahl Kunzier

Assistant Secretary

Borough of Ambler