

AMBLER BOROUGH COUNCIL MINUTES

December 17, 2024

The regular meeting of Ambler Borough Council was held Tuesday December 17, 2024, at 7:00PM at Borough Council Chambers located at 131 Rosemary Avenue Ambler, Pennsylvania 19002.

Mayor Sorg had a mayor's moment to recognize the Montgomery County Montgomery County poet laureate Lisa DeVuono who announced the Wiss poetry contest.

Council President Siskind called the meeting to order at 7:10 p.m.

Present: Ms. Siskind, Ms. Sheedy, Ms. Hughes Kelly, Ms. Henderson, Ms. Roecker Coates, Ms. Iovine, Mr. Orehek, Mr. Hui, Mayor Sorg, Police Chief Jeff Borkowski and Borough Manager Mary Aversa, Solicitor Zach Sivertsen were also present.

Approval of Minutes: Ms. Siskind made a motion to approve the Minutes of November 19, 2024, Council meeting. Seconded. **Carried 8 -Aye.**

Finance and Planning Committee – Elizabeth Iovine - Chairperson, Committee Members: Karen Sheedy.

The Committee meeting was held on December 3, at 7:00pm. Elizabeth Iovine - Chairperson, Committee Members: Karen Sheedy.

The Committee will consider the following recommendations:

1. That the November bills be paid in the amount of \$1,645,409.16 as follows: General (\$160,826.19); Street lights (\$6,730.75), Fire (\$7,559.00), Refuse (\$62,898.65); Parks & Rec (\$16,020.23); Water (\$345,215.26); Sewer (\$207,455.57); WWTP (\$838,701.51), liquid Fuels (\$0.0); Water Capital (\$0.0); Voided checks (\$0.0).
2. Recommend adoption of ordinance #1143 Fixing the Real Estate Tax for 2025.
3. Recommend adoption of Resolution 2024-15 appropriating specific sums for the 2025 Budget.
4. Authorization is requested to hire Keystone Municipal Services Inc. for the Building/Plumbing Inspector professional services as the current firm in unable to meet the Borough's needs.

Committee Questions:

Ms. Siskind asked if an RFP was necessary to hire Keystone.

Ms. Aversa answered that the Company we were working with and the employee who worked with us is sick, and the Company may fold, so we need to make a decision ASAP.

The Following Business was discussed:

1. The Borough Engineer's report was received.
2. The 2025 meeting calendar was reviewed.
3. The Budget Meeting was held this evening at 6:30.
4. The Borough will be hosting an open house regarding the comprehensive plan on Tuesday, January 28th 6pm-8pm. This event will introduce the public to the planning process of the Comprehensive plan and request input on the current state of Ambler as well as its vision for Amber in the next 5, 10 and 20 years. Survey and marketing materials will be distributed later this month.

Public Comment:

Bernadette Dougherty 138 Tennis Ave. asked a question regarding the Survey and exactly what was going to be included in it. Mr. Kucher gave a brief outline.

Redmond Brubaker 255 N. Spring Garden St. pointed out a correction that needed to be made to a date on the survey. Mr. Kucher responded that it will be corrected.

Recommendations:

1. Recommend that the November bills in the amount of **\$1,645,409.16** be paid.
Carried 8-Aye.
2. Recommend adoption of ordinance #1143 Fixing the Real Estate Tax for 2025.
Carried 8-Aye.
3. Recommend adoption of Resolution 2024-15 appropriating specific sums for the 2025 Budget. **Carried 8-Aye.**
4. Authorization is requested to hire Keystone Municipal Services Inc. for the Building/Plumbing Inspector professional services. **Carried 8-Aye.**

Ms. Siskind made a motion to adopt the report. **Carried 8-Aye.**

Public Safety Committee: Ms. Amy Hughes Kelly – Chair, Committee Members: Jennifer Henderson, Nancy Roecker Coates, and Lou Orehek

The Committee meeting was held on December 3, at 7:00pm. Ms. Amy Hughes Kelly – Chair, Committee Members: Jennifer Henderson, Nancy Roecker Coates, and Lou Orehek

The Committee will make 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. Public works and code enforcement reports were received.
5. The Butler Avenue Traffic Study is complete, and the proposed changes are being reviewed. The Borough engineer is preparing a quote for upgrades along Butler Ave, race St. and Bethlehem Pk.

Ms. Huges Kelly asked the Chief if there was any explanation for the uptick in crime in the Police report.

Chief Borkowski explained that there were a series of car break ins in Ambler and the surrounding municipalities last month.

Public Comment:

Bernadette Dougherty 338 Tennis Ave. Asked what the planned changes were.

Ms. Hughes Kelly explained that everything planned will be reviewed in detail before it is put into place.

Al Comly 354 Lindenwold Ave. Requested that the Fire Department be made aware of any planned changes.

Ms. Siskind moved to accept the report. **Carried 8- Aye.**

Public Utilities Committee: Karen Sheedy - Chair, Committee Members: Amy Hughes Kelly, Lou Orehek, David Hui

The Committee meeting was held on December 3, at 7:00pm. Karen Sheedy - Chair, Committee Members: Amy Hughes Kelly, Lou Orehek, David Hui

The Committee will consider the following recommendation.

1. WWTP will be changing the Plant Engineer/Engineer of Record starting January 1, 2025, to Bill Brown of Herbert, Rowland and Grubic, Inc. The Borough will be using SC Engineers Inc. (S.C.E.) a consulting firm to handle the MIPP program at the wastewater treatment plant. The Borough of Ambler wishes to retain Environmental Engineering and Management Associates to oversee the completion of the IV replacement project and the updating of the plant's O & M Manual.

The following business was discussed:

1. The WWTP Engineer's report was received.
2. System flushing is underway, locations will be posted on the Borough Website.

Ms. Aversa explained that typically the Borough Employs 2 engineers, our current Engineer is retiring, and the Company is downscaling. We are keeping Bill Brown as our engineer but now he will be the Main contact.

Recommendations:

1. Recommend the Plant Engineer/Engineer of Record starting January 1, 2025, be assigned to Bill Brown of Herbert, Rowland & Gruber Inc. **Carried 8- Aye.**
2. Recommend using SC Engineers, Inc. (SCE) a consulting firm to handle the MIPP program at the Wastewater Treatment Plant. **Carried 8- Aye.**

Ms. Siskind made a motion to accept the Public Utilities report. **Carried 8- Aye.**

Parks and Recreation Committee: Jennifer Henderson – Chair, Committee Members: Nancy Roecker Coates and David Hui

The Committee meeting was held on November 6, at 7:00pm. Committee Members: Jen Henderson - Chair, Nancy Roecker-Coates and David Hui.

The Committee will consider the following recommendations.

1. Approving the Red Tail contract for 2025.
2. Resolution 2024-16 – The Pennsylvania legislature and the Government created AMERICA250PA in 2018 to plan, encourage, develop and coordinate the commemoration of the 250th anniversary of the United States and Pennsylvania's integral role in that event and the role of its people in the nation's past, present and future.

The following business will be discussed:

1. The lawn maintenance contract expires at the end of the year. A new Bid Document is being prepared.

Committee Questions:

Ms. Roecker Coates mentioned that she participated in the America 250 meeting. They are working on local declaration readings that we should get involved with.

Ms. Siskind made a motion to accept the Parks and Rec report. **Carried 8- Aye.**

Salary & Personnel Committee: Chair –Glynnis Siskind, Jen Henderson, Karen Sheedy, Elizabeth Iovine.

The Committee meeting was held on December 3, at 7:00pm. Committee Members: Chair, Jen Henderson, Karen Sheedy and Elizabeth Iovine.

The Committee will consider the following recommendations.

1. Resumes were received for the Ward 2 vacancy; a vote is expected.
2. A hiring recommendation is expected from the Executive session held on Nov. 21, 2024

The following business will be discussed:

1. The current expiring volunteer positions for 2024 have been notified. Letters of interest are being accepted.
2. A vote was taken to fill the Vice President of Council vacancy Elizabeth Iovine was appointed.

Recommendaitons:

1. A Vote is requested to fill the Ward 2 Vacancy. Each candidate had the opprotunity to give a speech. Roll call was called to proxy the vote. Redmond Brubaker was voted in with the most votes. **6-Aye and 2-Nay** Roecker-Coates and Henderson.
2. Recommend hiring Kyle Detweiler for the postion of Borough Manager **8-Aye.**

Ms. Siskind made motions to approve the report. **Carried 8 – Aye.**

There being no further public comment or other business, Ms. Siskind moved the meeting to be adjourned. **Carried 8 – Aye.**

Respectfully submitted,

Elizabeth Wahl Kunzier
Assistant Secretary
Borough of Ambler