



BOROUGH OF AMBLER

COUNCIL MEETING AGENDA

January 19, 2021

7:00 p.m.

Minutes for Consideration:

December 15, 2020 Zoom Council Meeting

January 5, 2021 Committee Meeting

Borough Council will conduct its Council Meeting via Internet vehicle 'ZOOM'. For the safety of Ambler residents, Borough Hall will be closed. Pre-registration is required. Attendees must provide their email, first and last name, and home address. Once registration is processed, a link to attend will be provided via email. A video of the virtual meeting will be posted on this website for the public the following day. The Borough Manager is making the meeting Agenda available for review by the public. Please feel free to read through the Agenda and provide feedback or make an inquiry on any Agenda items. You may email the Borough Council President Frank DeRuosi at fderuosi@borough.ambler.pa.us until Tuesday January 19, at 4:00PM so that Council may consider your comments or address a question from the public during the ZOOM Meeting.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

PUBLIC SAFETY

PUBLIC UTILITIES

FINANCE & PLANNING

PARKS & RECREATION

SALARY & PERSONNEL

MEETING PROCEDURES

1. Pre-registration is required. Attendees must provide their email, first and last name, and home address. Once registration is processed, a link to attend will be provided via email.
2. All participants, except for the Borough Council, Borough Manager, Borough Solicitor, Borough Police Chief, and invited Borough Staff will be muted with video camera/web camera turned off automatically upon entry to the virtual meeting.
3. There will be a Public Comment section regarding agenda items at the end of each committee report . A Public Comment period regarding non-agenda items will occur after voting.
4. The Public Comment section will begin with the Council President reading aloud the comments that were emailed to the Borough ahead of this meeting. Each emailed comment must include the first & last name of the resident, as well as their address. The Council will discuss each comment individually.
5. Participants who wish to speak during the Public Comment section will be instructed to press the "Raise Your Hand" button.
6. One by one the Borough Zoom administrator, will call on each participant with their virtual hand raised. That participant will be unmuted. That participant will have 15 seconds to respond to being called on. If there is no response, the next person "in line" will be called on.
7. It is asked that anyone who speaks during the Public Comment section announce their first and last names, as well as their home address for the record. After the comment, that participant will be muted.
8. The Council President, at any time reserves the right to mute a participant, end the video stream of a participant, or terminate/end the meeting at his discretion, due to hackers, inappropriate language, or any other activity the Council President deems inappropriate.
9. We ask for everyone's patience and understanding as we navigate through these unprecedented times and work through the unique challenges of virtual public meetings.

Public Safety Committee

January 5, 2021 at 7:00 p.m. Via Zoom. Committee members: Erin McKenna Endicott – Chair, Glynnis Siskind, Sara Hertz, Nancy Deininger

The Committee will make no recommendations.

Approved at the Committee Meeting

1. A recommendation was approved to adopt the Emergency Declaration for COVID-19 for the month of January . (9-Aye)

The following business will be discussed:

1. The Police Department report is **attached**.
2. The Fire Department report is **attached**.
3. The Community Ambulance report is **attached**.
4. The Public Works and the Code Enforcement reports were received.



**Wissahickon Fire Company
Fire Chief Report
Year 2020 (366 days)**

Attendance	Jan-20	Feb-20	Mar-20	Apr-20	May-20	Jun-20	Jul-20	Aug-20	Sep-20	Oct-20	Nov-20	Dec-20	Total	%
Day Calls (M to F 6AM to 6PM)	17	16	19	25	10	30	22	25	21	13	23	27	248	
Attendance at Day Calls	197	148	271	372	142	343	213	320	221	164	263	340	2,994	46%
Average Day Calls	11.6	9.3	14.3	14.9	14.2	11.4	9.7	12.8	10.5	12.6	11.4	12.6	12.1	
Night & Weekend Calls	19	17	26	16	23	29	25	16	20	27	25	18	261	
Attendance at N & W Calls	304	160	439	311	335	356	275	231	279	374	246	221	3,531	54%
Average Night & Weekend	16.0	9.4	16.9	19.4	14.6	12.3	11.0	14.4	14.0	13.9	9.8	12.3	13.5	
Total Calls	36	33	45	41	33	59	47	41	41	40	48	45	509	
Total Attendance	501	308	710	683	477	699	488	551	500	538	509	561	6,525	100%
Average Total Calls	13.9	9.3	15.8	16.7	14.5	11.8	10.4	13.4	12.2	13.5	10.6	12.5	12.8	
Total Drills	4	4	2	0	0	0	4	5	3	4	4	0	30	
Total Drill Attendance	147	139	68	0	0	0	113	142	66	112	110	0	897	
Average Drill Attendance	36.8	34.8	34.0	-	-	-	28.3	28.4	22.0	28.0	27.5	-	29.9	

COVID 19 COVID 19 COVID 19 COVID 19

COVID 19

Count of Alarm 2020								
Hour of Day	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Total
0	3	1			1	5	2	12
1	3		1	2			1	7
2	1	1		1	4	2		9
3		3			1	1	2	7
4		3	1		2	6		12
5		1	2		2	3	2	10
6	2	6	5	3	2	2		20
7	4	4	5	2	2	4	3	24
8	3	1		4	2	4	1	15
9	2		8	2	6	9	2	29
10	1	3	3	5	1	3	2	18
11		4	4	2	6	3	5	24
12	6	4	8	5	4	1	2	30
13	6	5	5	11	4	8	2	41
14	7	6	3	6	5	5	5	37
15	2	3	5	3	4	3	4	24
16	6	4	7	4	3	8	2	34
17	2	2	4	4	2	7	1	22
18	3	3	6	6	6	4	3	31
19	4	6	2	5	4	4	4	29
20	4		4	4	2		4	18
21	1	2	2	3	2	4	6	20
22	1	4	4	3	5	4	1	22
23	1	3			3	3	4	14
Grand Total	62	69	79	75	73	93	58	509

17
11
25
15
18
22
33
25
18

167



EMERGENCY: DIAL 911
EMAIL: info@amblerambulance.org

BUSINESS: (215) 643-6517
FAX: (215) 643-5212

Excellence in Pre-Hospital Care
COMMUNITY AMBULANCE ASSOCIATION, AMBLER
1414 E. BUTLER PIKE
P.O. BOX 98
AMBLER, PENNSYLVANIA 19002

Ambler Borough Statistics – 2020

<u>Month</u>	<u>Calls in Borough</u>	<u>Total Calls for CAAA</u>
January	55	404
February	56	418
March	60	403
April	58	365
May	43	317
June	62	353
July	44	327
August	60	369
September	67	390
October	68	377
November	55	350
December	65	430
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<u>YTD Totals</u>	693	4,503

*Serving Ambler Borough, Lower Gwynedd Township,
Springfield Township and Portions of Upper Dublin Township*

Public Utilities Committee

January 5, 2021 at 7:00 p.m. Via Zoom. Committee Members: Glynnis Siskind – Chair, Haley Welch, Jen Henderson, and Karen Sheedy

The Committee will make no recommendations.

The following business will be discussed:

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 executive session was held to discuss with the solicitor.
3. The Borough MIRIA application has been modified to include additional work and quarterly sampling at all Borough Wells.

Finance and Planning Committee

January 5, 2021 at 7:00 p.m. Via Zoom. Committee Members Nellie Di Pietro – Chair, Erin McKenna Endicott, Haley Welch, Karen Sheedy

The Committee will consider the following recommendations:

1. That the December Bills be paid in the amount of \$ 773,342.57

#	Fund	DEC 1st Run	DEC 2nd Run	TOTALS
1	GENERAL	130,482.61	210,732.98	341,215.59
2	STREET LGTS		3,378.30	3,378.30
3	FIRE		786.18	786.18
4	REFUSE	51,145.70	8,868.24	60,013.94
5	PARKS & REC	3,315.80	344.46	3,660.26
6	WATER	49,148.63	103,869.07	153,017.70
8	SEWER	2,488.83	15,134.26	17,623.09
9	WWTP	50,652.42	142,995.09	193,647.51
35	LIQUID FUELS			-
	TOTALS	287,233.99	486,108.58	773,342.57
	VOID CHECKS			-
	GRAND TOTAL	287,233.99	486,108.58	773,342.57

2. The Council would like to explore Storm Water requirements, specifically the area calculation that triggers storm water requirements. The Committee recommended the trigger for storm water controls be lowered to 750 square feet. A recommendation will be forthcoming to have the solicitor prepare an ordinance for review by the Planning Commissions.

The following business will be discussed:

1. The Borough Engineer's report was received.
2. The solicitor provided a draft ordinance to define mural language, it has been sent to the Planning Commissions for review.

3. The **attached** memo was provided by the tax collector , she would like to discuss the fee structure and request the fee changes outlined. The changes will need to be voted on at the February Committee meeting.

4. Review the Preliminary / Final Land Development Plan to redevelop the existing gas station with a bank at 90 W. Butler Avenue – AMBGGOOD, LLC (Revised plans will be submitted by the applicant to reflect Borough Planning Commission recommendations, Borough Engineer, and Montgomery County Planning Commission comments) *Reviews to be forwarded upon receipt.*

5. **Attached** is Zoning hearing board notice for 331 Mattison for January 27, at 6:00pm.

Elizabeth Russell

From: Mary Aversa
Sent: Thursday, January 14, 2021 12:52 PM
To: Joseph Bresnan; Elizabeth Russell; Nellie Dipietro; Frank Deruosi; Sara Hertz
Subject: FW: Updates to the tax collector fees resolution

Good afternoon,
Please see the below email from Jen, she would like this on the agenda for next week as a vote is needed at the February committee meeting. This is primarily clarifying the language that exists, and taking into account a 4 year certification. The current Resolution is below. The deadline is a requirement so we must vote at the committee meeting. .
Mary

RESOLUTION 2017-02

**A RESOLUTION REVISING THE RATES TO BE CHARGED
BY THE BOROUGH TAX COLLECTOR
FOR CERTIFYING PAID AND OUTSTANDING
REAL ESTATE TAXES**

WHEREAS, Ambler Borough did adopt Ordinance Number 999 on February 21, 2006, authorizing the Tax Collector to charge a fee for providing certification upon request of taxes paid or outstanding on a particular parcel, known commonly as “tax certs,” and

WHEREAS, such Ordinance authorized Council to subsequently modify the rates charged by Resolution of Council, and

WHEREAS, Council now desires to modify the fee authorized to be charged for such tax certifications thus modifying the fees authorized by Ordinance 999 and as previously resolved in Resolution 2013-05,

NOW THEREFORE, Council does RESOLVE as follows:

The Tax Collector is authorized to charge fifteen (\$15.00) for a current tax year certification and an additional ten dollars (\$10.00) for each prior year tax certification. The resulting fee of thirty-five dollars (\$35.00) for a three-year certification shall be increased to fifty dollars (\$50.00) if such certification is requested with fewer than a four-day (96 hour) notice. Further, for any duplicate tax bill, the Tax Collector is authorized to collect a fee of five dollars (\$5.00).

SO RESOLVED this _____ day of February, 2017. Effective upon adoption.

Salvatore Pasceri, Council President

ATTEST: _____

Mary Aversa, Secretary

From: Jennifer Stomsky <amblerborotaxcollector@gmail.com>

Sent: Thursday, January 14, 2021 11:45 AM

To: Mary Aversa <maversa@borough.ambler.pa.us>

Subject: Updates to the tax collector fees resolution

Hi Mary,

As we previously discussed, tax collectors can only make requests regarding their rates charged at the start of the election year. Looking at the prior resolution (2017-02) for rates charged by the tax collector, it is written to benefit an incumbent tax collector rather than an incoming one (who can only certify the years they have been the collector, meaning they can only certify one year their first year, two their second, etc...). The wording of the current resolution allows the tax collector to charge \$15 for a current year certification and an additional \$10 for each prior year, resulting in a \$35 fee for a three year cert, which is raised to \$50 if the cert is requested with less than 96 hours notice. This does not directly indicate a rush fee, which is standard among tax collectors, and assumes that three year certs are being written, when it could be anywhere from one to four years being requested. As I said above, this is very hazy for a new collector who wouldn't be writing a three year cert. I would like to edit the wording to keep the fee at \$15 for a current year and \$10 for each prior year, but I would like to specifically identify \$15 for a rush certification (the difference from the previously mentioned \$35 for three years upped to \$50 for a rush), being defined as less than 96 hour notice, but normally guaranteeing a 12-24 hour turnaround (not sure if that needs to be added into the resolution).

The current resolution also allows for a \$5 fee for duplicate bills. I would also like to update the wording of that to be "For any duplicate tax bill or receipt..."

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Kindly,
Jenn

Jennifer Stomsky
Ambler Borough Tax Collector
P.O. Box 3087
Ambler, PA 19002

Phone: 215-367-5663

Email: amblerborotaxcollector@gmail.com

ZONING NOTICE

Notice is Hereby given that the Zoning Hearing Board of the Borough of Ambler will hold a public hearing on January 27, 2021 at 6 pm prevailing time via ZOOM due to COVID-19 restrictions.

The Applicants, Arthur B. Herling III and Christine M. McGowan, the legal owners of real property located at 331 Mattison Avenue, parcel 01-00-03004-00-1, are requesting a variances from section 27-407.C(2)(B) 1 & 2 to allow a proposed accessory dwelling unit to be occupied by a non-family member, Section 27-407.C(2)(C) for the restrictive use covenant in order to allow a proposed accessory dwelling unit to be rented to a non-family member, Section 27-407.C(5)(D) to allow a separate electric utility connection for a proposed accessory dwelling unit, and Section 27-407.C(5)(E) to allow a separate mailbox for a proposed accessory dwelling unit in a R-1A Residential District.

All interested parties are invited to “attend” and participate in the hearing. A link to register to participate in the meeting will be posted on the Borough website www.boroughofambler.com a week prior to the meeting date and time. Instructions on accessing the Zoom meeting and offering questions or comments will be posted on the website.

Park and Recreation Committee

January 5, 2021 at 7:00 p.m. Via Zoom. Committee Members: Sara Hertz – Chair, Nancy Deininger, Erin McKenna Endicott, Nellie DiPietro

The Committee will make no recommendations.

The following business will be discussed:

1. The Committee is moving forward with plans for creation of a Community Garden to be installed next spring. Questions can be emailed to Jen Henderson Jhenderson@borough.ambler.pa.us
2. Ambler Borough Planning Commission is currently working on a Parks Plan outlining the future of the Borough Parks System. They will be holding “zoom” workshops in the coming months for each one of the parks to solicit resident input and participation in this process. **(Attached)**

WHAT WOULD YOU LIKE TO SEE IN YOUR PARKS?



Ambler Borough Planning Commission is currently working on a Parks Plan outlining the future of the Borough Parks System. **WE NEED YOUR IDEAS!**

The Borough will be holding “zoom” workshops in the coming months to see how by maintaining and improving the park system in the Borough we can make Ambler an even better place to live, work, and play.

Please go to the below link or QR for more information and how to register.

Comments can also be submitted by calling or by sending them in writing to the Borough Attention Park Plan.



WWW.BOROUGHOFAMBLER.COM/DEPARTMENTS/PARKS-RECREATION

PARK MEETING DATES:

KNIGHT PARK

Tuesday, November 24th at 6pm

PICKERING FIELD

Tuesday, December 22nd at 6pm

RIGCARDI PARK

Tuesday January 26th at 6pm

BOROUGH PARK

EDGEWOOD PRESERVE

TENNIS AVENUE LOT

REIFFS MILL OPEN SPACE

Tuesday February 23rd at 6pm

JEAN THOMPSON

PARK, WANL PLAYGROUND

LOCUST STREET PARK

AMBLER SQUARE

Tuesday March 23rd at 6pm

Salary & Personnel Committee

January 5, 2021 at 7:00 p.m. Via Zoom. Committee Members Nancy Deininger – Chair, Glynnis Siskind, Nellie Di Pietro, Jen Henderson

The Committee will make no recommendations.

Approved at the Committee Meeting

1. A recommendation to hire William Curtin and Andrew Farrell for the vacant laborer Positions was approved . 9-AYE.
2. **WATER AUTHORITY**
 - Salvatore Pasceri to a 5-year seat 9- AYE
3. **APPEALS BOARD – 2 SEATS**
 - William Lutz, Jr. - Appeals Board 9-AYE.
 - Al Comly– Appeals Board 9- AYE
4. **ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COUNCIL – 2 SEATS**
 - Madge Monser. 4 AYE - 5- NAY
 - Hannah Lloyd- 9-AYE.
5. **HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION – 1 SEAT**
 - Marilyn Frazier 9- AYE
6. **PLANNING COMMISSION – 1 SEAT**
 - David Kralle 9- AYE
7. **VACANCY BOARD – 1 SEAT**
 - Karen Polesir 9-AYE
8. **ZONING HEARING BOARD – 1 SEAT; 1 ALTERNATE SEAT**
 - Michael Williams 9- AYE
 - Robert Foster 9- AYE

The following business will be discussed:

1. Resumes are being requested for the vacant Water Operator 1 Position.
2. Whitpain Township had been contacted and no applicants have applied for the vacant Water Authority seat.

RECOMMENDATIONS

PUBLIC SAFETY

PUBLIC UTILITIES

FINANCE & PLANNING COMMITTEE

1. Consider the recommendation that the December bills are paid in the amount of \$ **773,342.57**.
2. The Committee recommended the trigger for storm water controls be lowered to 750 square feet. A vote is requested to have the solicitor prepare an ordinance for review by the Planning Commissions.

PARKS & RECREATION COMMITTEE

SALARY & PERSONNEL COMMITTEE