

AMBLER BOROUGH COUNCIL MINUTES

January 20, 2009

The regular monthly meeting of Ambler Borough Council was held Tuesday, January 20, 2009 at 7:00 p.m. in Borough Council Chambers located at 122 E. Butler Avenue, Ambler, Pennsylvania 19002. President Tony Isabella presided.

Mayor Wahl led the public in the Pledge of Allegiance and a moment of silence.

Roll Call – Present: Mr. Isabella, Mr. G. Pasceri, Mrs. Pieri, Mr. Kenney, Mrs. Baigis, Mr. S. Pasceri and Mr. Amento. Mayor Wahl, Chief Foley, Solicitor Bresnan and Mrs. Aversa also were present. Mr. Dooley and Ms. Maxion were absent.

A motion was made to approve the December 16, 2008 Minutes as presented. Seconded. Carried.

Mrs. Baigis made a statement regarding the vote she cast at the December 16, 2008 meeting on the proposed salary increase for the Borough Manager. She stated that if the vote were cast again, her intent would be to vote against the recommendation. Mrs. Pieri asked whether Mrs. Baigis, who voted for salary increases for salaried and part-time personnel, intended to change her vote on those two recommendations as well. Mrs. Baigis stated that her vote would stand in support of salary increases for those two categories of Borough personnel.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Public Safety Committee – Mr. G. Pasceri, Chairman

Committee members: Mr. G. Pasceri, Mr. Dooley, Mr. Kenney and Ms. Maxion

The Committee met on Tuesday, January 6, 2009 at 7:00 p.m. in Borough Council Chambers located at 122 E. Butler Ave. Present: Mr. Isabella, Mr. Dooley, Mrs. Pieri, Mr. G. Pasceri, Mr. Kenney, Mrs. Baigis, Mr. S. Pasceri, Mr. Amento and Ms. Maxion. Also present: Mayor Wahl, Chief Bill Foley, Solicitor Bresnan and Mrs. Aversa.

The Public Safety Committee report was given this evening by Mr. G. Pasceri.

The Committee will recommend the following:

1. Recommend formation of a search committee to research/contact potential developers interested in opening a food market in the Borough, this due to the closing of the ACME Market.

Discussion ensued. Mr. Isabella stated that interested Council Members, the Mayor and public citizens should contact Mrs. Aversa to serve on the search committee. Mayor

Wahl stated that Rep. Rick Taylor was reviewing the issue. Further, the Mayor stated that he hoped to revisit the issue of locating a food market with visibility in the TRID district. Mrs. Aversa stated that a CVS Pharmacy will open at the ACME Market site, that there will be façade changes and the loading dock will be converted to a drive-thru.

In other business the following was discussed:

1. The Police Department and Fire Company reports for December 2008 were received. The Police Department 2008 Annual Report was received.
2. The December 2008 Public Works and Code Enforcement reports were reviewed.
3. Chief Foley is researching a possible ordinance amendment relative to parking regulations including vehicle weight.

Discussion ensued. Chief Foley stated that in all likelihood in addition to considering vehicle size he would recommend allowance of increased vehicle weight for on street parking. He is proceeding with differentiating heavier weight vehicles from commercial vehicles. On another subject, Chief Foley informed the public that his procedure for listening to concerns of our citizens involves having Mayor Wahl sit in on discussions. The Mayor, in turn, commended Officer Calhoun for his diligence in serving driving violations last month.

4. Borough staff currently is pricing parking meters to be placed on Race, Poplar and North Maple Streets. The parking study currently is being reviewed by the Planning Commission.
5. A draft of the Borough's energy audit which was offered to a few municipalities in Pennsylvania (funded by EPA) as a "pilot project" was received.
6. Borough staff currently is exploring the use of solar energy by the Borough to operate the WWTP. The Borough is researching the cost of installing solar panels.
7. *Hometown News* will be mailed in April and the filing deadline is February 14, 2009.

Mr. Isabella asked if there were comments or questions from Council or the public. Main Street Manager David Wachs stated that AMS offices will relocate from 81 E. Butler (Rear) to 87 East Butler Avenue. He introduced AMS President Pete Williams. There being no further comments or questions, it was moved the report be accepted and filed. Seconded, carried.

Parks and Recreation Committee – Mrs. Pieri, Chairman

Committee members: Mrs. Pieri, Mr. Dooley, Mr. G. Pasceri, Ms. Maxion

The Committee met on Tuesday, January 6, 2009 at 7:00 p.m. in Borough Council Chambers located at 122 E. Butler Ave. Present: Mr. Isabella, Mr. Dooley, Mrs. Pieri, Mr. G. Pasceri, Mr. Kenney, Mrs. Baigis, Mr. S. Pasceri, Mr. Amento and Ms. Maxion. Also present: Mayor Wahl, Chief Bill Foley, Solicitor Bresnan and Mrs. Aversa.

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

The Committee will recommend the following:

1. Recommend advertising for adoption an Ordinance setting forth Park and Recreation Regulations.

In other business the following was discussed:

1. The Borough has submitted a grant application for a “green building” to be constructed at Knight Park and to include a trail to connect to the County’s Green Ribbon Trail and the Wissahickon Valley Watershed Trail.
2. The Borough has received preliminary approval of a grant for security cameras at Knight Park.

Discussion ensued. Mrs. Pieri stated that the grant is for approximately \$10,000. She clarified that security officers will be able to log in to the security camera tape to review activity at Knight Park.

Mr. Isabella asked if there were comments or questions from Council or the public. There being none, it was moved the report be accepted and filed. Seconded, carried.

Public Utilities Committee – Mr. Amento, Chairman

Committee members: Mr. Amento, Mrs. Judy Baigis, Mr. S. Pasceri

The Committee met on Tuesday, January 6, 2009 at 7:00 p.m. in Borough Council Chambers located at 122 E. Butler Ave. Present: Mr. Isabella, Mr. Dooley, Mrs. Pieri, Mr. G. Pasceri, Mr. Kenney, Mrs. Baigis, Mr. S. Pasceri, Mr. Amento and Ms. Maxion. Also present: Mayor Wahl, Chief Bill Foley, Solicitor Bresnan and Mrs. Aversa.

The Public Utilities Committee report was given tonight by Mr. Amento.

The Committee will recommend the following:

1. Recommend advertising for bids for the purchase of liquid alum for 2009.
2. Recommend adopting **Resolution 2009-2** authorizing the Borough to pursue a grant request from the state for rehabilitation of Loch Alsh Dam at a total project

cost of \$550,000 to \$650,000. The Water Department and Water Engineer currently are preparing an application for an H2O Grant with the Commonwealth Financing Authority for the rehabilitation of Loch Alsh Dam, which has been designated as a high hazard dam by the DEP.

In other business the following was discussed:

1. The December 2008 WWTP Supervisor's and Engineer's reports were reviewed.
2. Whitemarsh Pumping Station repairs are complete and final testing to receive DEP permitting is scheduled for early February.

Mr. Isabella asked if there were questions or comments from Council or the public. There being none, it was moved the report be accepted and filed. Seconded, carried.

Finance and Planning Committee - Mr. Kenney, Chairman

Committee Members: Mr. Kenney, Mrs. Pieri and Mrs. Baigis

The Committee met on Tuesday, January 6, 2009 at 7:00 p.m. in Borough Council Chambers located at 122 E. Butler Ave. Present: Mr. Isabella, Mr. Dooley, Mrs. Pieri, Mr. G. Pasceri, Mr. Kenney, Mrs. Baigis, Mr. S. Pasceri, Mr. Amento and Ms. Maxion. Also present: Mayor Wahl, Chief Bill Foley, Solicitor Bresnan and Mrs. Aversa.

The Finance and Planning Committee report was given this evening by Mr. Kenney.

The Committee will recommend the following:

1. Recommend that the **December** invoices in the amount of **\$618,910.63** be paid as follows: General (\$134,869.29); Street Lights (\$5,147.12); Fire (\$0.0); Parks & Rec. (\$0.0); Water (\$15,665.58); Sewer (\$56,244.95); WWTP (\$75,170.63); Rail Corridor (\$0); Road Overlay (\$0.0); Debt Fund (\$0.00); Water Capital (\$0.00); Liquid Fuels (\$15.30); with end of month cycle totaling \$287,112.87, voided checks totaling \$4,587.34 and **December** cycle bills totaling \$336,385.14.
2. Recommend adopting **Ordinance 1031** regulating the placement of Dumpsters in the Borough.
3. Recommend adoption of **Resolution 2009-1** establishing a new Borough Fee Schedule.
4. Recommend advertising for adoption an Ordinance amendment as it relates to the composition and function of the Appeals Board for Appeals from Code Enforcement.

5. It was recommended and approved at the Committee meeting by Council to partner with the Wissahickon School District to hire Public Financial Management to serve as TIF Consultants, with the expense to be reimbursed by the developer. 7-Aye; 1-Nay (Mrs. Baigis); 1-Absent.
6. Recommend making appointments for vacancies on the Vacancy Board, Zoning Hearing Board and Planning Commission, with applications for nomination as follows:

Vacancy Board (Chairman) – Patricia Strus

Zoning Hearing Board (Member) – Michael Williams, Francine Tomlinson

Zoning Hearing Board (Alternate) – Chris Genell, Francine Tomlinson

Planning Commission (2 seats) – Steve Ware, George Benigno

In new business:

1. Authorization is requested to advertise for adoption an Ordinance increasing the Tax Collector's salary for the years 2010 through 2013 and increasing the Tax Certification Fee. (This Ordinance must be scheduled for adoption at the February 3, 2009 Committee Meeting.)

Discussion ensued. Mr. J. Mastromatteo of 216 Rosemary Avenue asked specifically what salary increase had been requested. Mr. Kenney replied that the current salary is \$7,000 and that the salary increase requested was \$1,000. Mr. Sal Boccuti of 300 Rosemary Avenue asked when the requested had been received by Council. Mrs. Aversa stated the request had been made on the Wednesday prior to the Council Meeting. Mr. Kenney stated that it was difficult for Council members to make informed decisions on matters such as these without sufficient time to review documents.

2. Preliminary applications were submitted to the County for consideration of improvements to the Lindenwold Parking Lot, for façade improvements on Main Street, and for archives maintenance and a display case for Ambler Theater.
3. Recommend advertising a Public Meeting (to be scheduled) with Carter Van Dyke on the Borough's Transportation Revitalization Investment District (TRID) status.

In other business the following was discussed:

1. The Borough Engineer's December 2008 report was reviewed.
2. Borough Committee and Council Meetings will be held the first and third Tuesday of the month, respectively, at 7:00 p.m.

3. Chief Foley is researching the feasibility of employing part-time police officers for overtime purposes only.
4. The Committee will be scheduling workshops to discuss proposed Five-Year Plans.

Salary and Personnel Committee – Mr. S. Paceri, Chairman

Committee members: Mr. S. Pasceri, Mr. Amento, Ms. Maxion

The Committee met on Tuesday, January 6, 2009 at 7:00 p.m. in Borough Council Chambers located at 122 E. Butler Ave. Present: Mr. Isabella, Mr. Dooley, Mrs. Pieri, Mr. G. Pasceri, Mr. Kenney, Mrs. Baigis, Mr. S. Pasceri, Mr. Amento and Ms. Maxion. Also present: Mayor Wahl, Chief Bill Foley, Solicitor Bresnan and Mrs. Aversa.

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

The Committee will make no recommendations at this time.

In other business the following was discussed:

1. Minutes from the December Safety Meeting were received.
2. Two Highway and two Water Department employees recently took and passed a Water Certification Test for Distribution.

Mr. Isabella asked if there were questions or comments from Council or the public. There being none, it was moved the report be accepted and filed. Seconded, carried.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Public Safety Committee – The Committee will recommend and Mr. G. Pasceri moves:

Recommend formation of a search committee to research/contact potential developers interested in opening a food market in the Borough, this due to the closing of the ACME Market. Seconded, carried.

Parks & Recreation Committee – The Committee will recommend and Mrs. Pieri moves:

Recommend advertising for adoption an Ordinance setting forth Park and Recreation Regulations. Seconded, carried.

Public Utilities Committee – The Committee recommends and Mr. Amento moves:

Recommend advertising for bids for the purchase of liquid alum for 2009. Seconded, carried.

Recommend adopting **Resolution 2009-2** authorizing the Borough to pursue a grant request from the state for rehabilitation of Loch Alsh Dam at a total project cost of \$550,000 to \$650,000. Seconded, carried.

Finance & Planning Committee – The Committee recommends and Mr. Kenney moves:

Recommend that the **December** invoices in the amount of **\$618,910.63** be paid. Seconded, carried

Recommend adopting **Ordinance 1031** regulating the placement of Dumpsters in the Borough. Seconded. Poll Council. 7-Aye; 0-Nay; 2-Absent. Carried.

Recommend adoption of **Resolution 2009-1** establishing a new Borough Fee Schedule. Seconded, carried.

Recommend advertising for adoption an Ordinance amendment as it relates to the composition and function of the Appeals Board for Appeals from Code Enforcement. Seconded, carried.

Recommend appointing Patricia Strus to Vacancy Board (Chairman). Seconded, carried.

Recommend appointing Michael Williams to the Zoning Hearing Board. Seconded. 5-Aye; 2-Nay (Mrs. Baigis, Mr. Kenney); 2-Absent. Carried.

Recommend appointing Chris Genell to the Zoning Hearing Board (Alternate). Seconded. 5-Aye; 2-Nay (Mrs. Baigis, Mr. Kenney); 2-Absent. Carried.

Recommend appointing Steve Ware to the Planning Commission. Seconded. 6-Aye; 1-Nay (Mrs. Baigis); 2-Absent. Carried.

Recommend appointing George Benigno to the Planning Commission. Seconded. 6-Aye; 1-Nay (Mrs. Baigis); 2-Absent. Carried.

Recommend advertising for adoption an Ordinance increasing the Tax Collector's salary for the years 2010 through 2013 and increasing the Tax Certification Fee. Seconded. 4-Aye; 3-Nay (Mr. G. Pasceri, Mrs. Pieri, Mr. S. Pasceri); 2-Absent. Carried.

Recommend advertising a Public Meeting (to be scheduled) with Carter Van Dyke on the Borough's Transportation Revitalization Investment District (TRID) status. Seconded, carried.

[**Note:** It was recommended and approved at the January 6, 2009 Committee meeting by Council to partner with the Wissahickon School District to hire Public Financial Management to serve as TIF Consultants, with the expense to be reimbursed by the developer.] 7-Aye; 1-Nay (Mrs. Baigis); 1-Absent.

Salary & Personnel Committee – States Mr. S. Pasceri, the Committee will make no recommendations at this time.

There being no further business, Mr. Isabella moved the meeting be adjourned. Seconded, motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Elizabeth Russell
Administrative Assistant
Borough of Ambler