

AMBLER BOROUGH COUNCIL MINUTES

August 18, 2009

The regular monthly meeting of Ambler Borough Council was held Tuesday, August 18, 2009 at 7:00 p.m. in Borough Council Chambers located at 122 E. Butler Avenue, Ambler, Pennsylvania 19002. President Tony Isabella presided.

Mrs. Baigis led the public in the Pledge of Allegiance and a moment of silence.

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

A motion was made to approve the July 21, 2009 Minutes with suggested revisions. Seconded. Carried.

Ambler Borough received funding for revitalization projects from the Montgomery County Revitalization Program, with a check presented for \$249,000 by County Commissioners James Matthews and Joseph Hoeffel. Commissioner Matthews stated that each year for the past nine years the county has contributed \$5 million to municipalities for revitalization projects. Ambler Borough's funds will be used to finance a variety of projects, including reconfiguring the Lindenwold Ave parking lot, landscaping and lighting improvements, façade improvements and renovations at the Ambler Theatre.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Public Safety Committee – Mr. G. Pasceri, Chairman

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

The Committee met on Tuesday, August 4, 2009 at 7:00 p.m. in Borough Council Chambers located at 122 E. Butler Ave. Present: Mr. Isabella, Mr. Kenney, Mr. G. Pasceri, Mrs. Pieri, Mrs. Baigis, Mr. S. Pasceri, Mr. Amento, Ms. Maxion and Mrs. Strus. 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, upon inspection by a tree expert, removal of a tree located at the sidewalk frontage of 140 E. Butler Avenue (the law firm of Jenkins, Siergiej and

Smith), with final determination of establishing a new planting to be made by Susan Curry of the Environmental Advisory Committee

Discussion ensued. The recommendation arose from a presentation made by Bernie Siegiej regarding a concern for sidewalk pedestrian hazards caused by tree roots lifting the sidewalk in front of the law firm's offices. During the meeting Mr. Siegiej made a site visit with Susan Curry to determine the disposition of the tree. After viewing the tree, Ms. Curry suggested to council that the tree be removed after she had tree experts inspect it.

In other business the following was discussed:

1. The Police Department and Fire Company reports for July 2009 were received.
2. The July 2009 Public Works and Code Enforcement reports were reviewed.
3. Borough residents spoke to Council regarding flooding issues resulting from August 2 flooding.

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

Parks and Recreation Committee – Mrs. Pieri, Chairman

Committee members: Mrs. Pieri, Ms. Maxion, Mrs. Strus

The Committee met on Tuesday, August 4, 2009 at 7:00 p.m. in Borough Council Chambers located at 122 E. Butler Ave. Present: Mr. Isabella, Mr. Kenney, Mr. G. Pasceri, Mrs. Pieri, Mrs. Baigis, Mr. S. Pasceri, Mr. Amento, Ms. Maxion and Mrs. Strus. 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 make no recommendations:

In other business the following was discussed:

1. Quotes are being solicited for the purchase of skate ramps at Ricciardi Park.
2. Quotes are being solicited for the installation of a storage fence at Ricciardi Park.
3. The Committee will be reviewing drawing for a Skate Park at Knight Park.
4. Staff is planning the Family Movie Night to be held this fall at Pickering Field.

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, August 4, 2009 at 7:00 p.m. in Borough Council Chambers located at 122 E. Butler Ave. Present: Mr. Isabella, Mr. Kenney, Mr. G. Pasceri, Mrs. Pieri, Mrs. Baigis, Mr. S. Pasceri, Mr. Amento, Ms. Maxion and Mrs. Strus. Also present: Mayor Wahl, Chief Bill Foley, Solicitor Bresnan and Mrs. Aversa.

The Public Utilities Committee report was given this evening by Mr. Amento.

The Committee will recommend the following:

1. Recommend awarding the bid for the WWTP for the Chemical Feed Additions to Eastern Environmental Contractors in the amount of \$176,780.00, with other bids to be provided to Council. .
2. Recommend approval of the WWTP revised Enforcement Response Plan. [The original plan, drafted in 1993, with subsequent update drafted in 2005, were approved by the EPA. EPA has amended certain General Pretreatment Regulations, with changes incorporated in the WWTP ERP. The EPA has reviewed and commented on the ERP.]

In other business the following was discussed:

1. The July WWTP Supervisor's and Engineer's reports were reviewed.
2. Water distribution system flushing (hydrants) has been underway and occurs between the hours of 11:00 p.m. and 6:00 a.m.

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, August 4, 2009 at 7:00 p.m. in Borough Council Chambers located at 122 E. Butler Ave. Present: Mr. Isabella, Mr. Kenney, Mr. G. Pasceri, Mrs. Pieri, Mrs. Baigis, Mr. S. Pasceri, Mr. Amento, Ms. Maxion and Mrs. Strus. 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 and Mrs Baigis.

The Committee will recommend the following:

1. Recommend that the **July** invoices in the amount of **\$422,336.88** be paid as follows: General (\$52,515.40); Street Lights (\$4,699.73); Fire (\$0.00); Parks & Rec. (\$0.00); Water (\$4,626.80); Sewer (\$1,335.33); WWTP (\$24,830.78); Rail Corridor (\$0.00); Road Overlay (\$0.00); Debt Fund (\$0.00); Water Capital (\$0.00); Liquid Fuels (\$13,877.66); with end of month cycle totaling \$101,885.70, voided checks totaling \$0.00 and July bills totaling \$320,451.18.
2. Recommend continued participation in the Classic Town program, with \$2,500 fee due in September
3. Recommend designating areas in the downtown for local businesses to be eligible to receive façade improvement matching grant monies from the County.

Discussion ensued. Mrs. Baigis asked whether the designated areas could be expanded to include more businesses. Mrs. Aversa responded that revitalization efforts are concentrated in the downtown area.

4. Recommend approval of the Finore 2-lot subdivision (132-134 Mattison Ave.) and the Finore 3-lot subdivision at 155-159 Rosemary, with the Countys' letter, the Borough Planning Commission letter and the Engineer's letter having been received for each application.

In Other Business:

1. A public hearing was held to accept public comment on **Ordinance 1040** placing the Sign Ordinance back in the Zoning Ordinance. The Ordinance was adopted 9-Aye.
2. **Ordinance 1043** regarding the 2009 Bond project which authorizes staff to execute bond documents when savings exceed \$95,000 was adopted. 9-Aye.
3. **Resolution 2009-11** was adopted on August 11, 2009 authorizing the submittal of a \$250,000 PA Conservation Grant request for solar panels to be installed at the Borough Garage. Grant application request remittance of a \$2,000 fee for application preparation and \$8,000 consultant's fee if the grant is approved. A determination on ownership of energy credits will be made within 90 days.

In other business the following was discussed:

1. The Borough Engineer's July 2009 report was reviewed.

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.

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

Committee members: Mr. S. Paceri, Mr. Amento, Mrs. Strus

The Committee met on Tuesday, August 4, 2009 at 7:00 p.m. in Borough Council Chambers located at 122 E. Butler Ave. Present: Mr. Isabella, Mr. Kenney, Mr. G. Pasceri, Mrs. Pieri, Mrs. Baigis, Mr. S. Paceri, Mr. Amento, Ms. Maxion and Mrs. Strus. Also present: Mayor Wahl, Chief Bill Foley, Solicitor Bresnan and Mrs. Aversa.

The Salary and Personnel Committee report was given this evening by Mrs. Strus.

The Committee will make no recommendations at this time.

In other business the following was discussed:

1. Minutes from the July 2009 Safety Meeting were received and with copies of the Delaware Valley Insurance Trust (DVIT) report to be forthcoming to Council.

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, upon inspection by a tree expert, removal of a tree located at the sidewalk frontage of 140 E. Butler Avenue (the law firm of Jenkins, Siergiej and Smith), with final determination of establishing a new planting to be made by Susan Curry of the Environmental Advisory Committee. Seconded. Carried. 8-0.

Parks & Recreation Committee – Mrs. Pieri states the Committee will make no recommendations at this time.

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

Recommend awarding the bid for the WWTP for the Chemical Feed Additions to Eastern Environmental Contractors in the amount of \$176,780.00. Seconded. Carried.

Recommend approval of the WWTP revised Enforcement Response Plan. [The original plan, drafted in 1993, with subsequent update drafted in 2005, were approved by the EPA. EPA has amended certain General Pretreatment Regulations, with changes incorporated in the WWTP ERP. The EPA has reviewed and commented on the ERP.] Seconded. Carried.

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

Recommend that the **July** invoices in the amount of **\$422,336.88** be paid. Seconded. Carried.

Recommend continued participation in the Classic Town program, with \$2,500 fee due in September. Seconded. 7-Aye; 1-Nay (Mrs. Baigis).

Recommend designating areas in the downtown for local businesses to be eligible to receive façade improvement matching grant monies from the County. Seconded. 7-Aye; 1-Nay (Mrs. Baigis).

Recommend approval of the Finore 2-lot subdivision (132-134 Mattison Ave.) and the Finore 3-lot subdivision at 155-159 Rosemary, with the County's letter, the Borough Planning Commission's letter and Engineer's letter having been received for each application. Seconded. 7-Aye. 1-Nay (Mrs. Baigis). [Solicitor Bresnan reviewed procedural rules for voting on zoning issues with Council, stating that if all zoning conditions have been met, Council members are compelled to vote for the recommendation. Mrs. Baigis offered that the vote she cast was because she disapproved of the waivers.]

Salary & Personnel Committee – States Mrs. Strus, 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