

## AMBLER BOROUGH COUNCIL MINUTES

**December 15, 2009**

The regular monthly meeting of Ambler Borough Council was held Tuesday, December 15, 2009 at 7:00 p.m. in Borough Council Chambers located at 122 E. Butler Avenue, Ambler, Pennsylvania 19002. President Tony Isabella presided.

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

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

A motion was made to approve the November 17, 2009 Minutes with suggested revisions. Seconded. Carried.

Mayor Wahl recognized the dedication and service of Councilwoman Pieri and Councilwoman Baigis for their years of service to the Borough. The terms for Ms. Pieri and Mrs. Baigis end December 31, 2009.

### **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

The Committees of the Ambler Borough Council met on Tuesday, December 1, 2009 at 7:00 p.m. in Borough Council Chambers located at 122 E. Butler Ave. Present: Mr. Isabella, Mr. G. Pasceri, Mrs. Pieri, Mr. Kenney, Mr. S. Pasceri, Mrs. Baigis, Mr. Amento, Ms. Maxion and Mrs. Strus. Also present: Chief Bill Foley, Mayor Wahl, Solicitor Bresnan and Mrs. Aversa.

At the Council Meeting this evening, the Committees conducted business as follows:

#### **Public Safety Committee – Ms. Maxion, Chairman**

Committee members: Mr. G. Pasceri and Mr. Kenney

The Public Safety Committee report was given this evening by Ms. Maxion.

**The Committee will consider no actions this evening.**

#### **In other business the following was reviewed:**

1. The Police Department and Fire Company reports for November 2009 were received.
2. The November 2009 Public Works and Code Enforcement reports were reviewed.

3. Minutes from the November Public Safety Meeting were received.
4. The Committee received a letter recommending new snow removal procedures be implemented similar to street sweeping procedures. [The Highway Supervisor has responded to the request in a memorandum distributed to Council.] Ms. Maxion stated at tonight's Council meeting that the issue has been tabled for further study.

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: Ms. Maxion, Mrs. Strus

The Parks and Recreation Committee report was given this evening by Mrs. Strus.

**The Committee will consider no actions this evening.**

**In other business the following was reviewed:**

1. Ambler Borough's EAC approached the Clean Water Fund (CWF) regarding the Borough's Schuylkill River Storm Water and Resource Protection Ordinances. A memo outlining recommended language from the EAC for inclusion in the Borough Floodplain Ordinance is being reviewed. A meeting to discuss the proposed language was held.
2. Drawings were prepared for a skate park at Knight Park. The Committee and staff are in the process of finalizing plans.
3. The Borough's lawn contract is expiring. Bid documents will be prepared in January 2010 and the contract request for bids will be advertised in February.
4. The First Annual Holiday Window Spectacular Contest (sponsors Nancy Algeo and Robert B. Royal of Royal Interior Decorating) was initiated to make Ambler businesses more attractive for the holidays. The top three businesses are scheduled to receive prizes at the December 15<sup>th</sup> Council meeting.

This evening a presentation to prize winners was made by Robert Royal. First Prize (\$1,000) was awarded to A Touch of the Old Country; Second Prize (\$500) was awarded to Tony Laguda Formal Wear; Third Prize, awarded for most interesting window item, was awarded to Shared Network Users (SNUG).

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.

**Public Utilities Committee – Mr. Amento, Chairman**

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

Mr. Amento thanked Mrs. Baigis for her work on the Committee, stating he appreciated her hard work and that she was an asset to Ambler Borough. Mr. Amento turned the chair over to Mrs. Baigis at that time. Mrs. Baigis proceeded to give the Public Utilities Committee report:

**The Committee will consider the following actions this evening:**

1. Recommend authorizing the plant engineer prepare and advertise the specification documents to replace the existing fine screens and ram compactor with like kind equipment. (This is a maintenance item and is not subject to bidding. Staff will obtain quotes per RFP's for pre-purchase and installation.)

**The following recommendation was made and approved at the December 1, 2009 Committee Meeting:**

1. Recommend authorizing the Borough Manager to execute an Underground Grant Agreement with Verizon which has requested approval for the addition of an on-ground cabinet for installation of a regular phone line conduit for the County 911 cell site facilities at Houston Tank. Seconded. All Aye. Carried.

**In other business the following was reviewed:**

1. The November WWTP Supervisor's and Engineer's reports were reviewed.
2. A new DEP Groundwater Rule, effective December 1, 2009, requires immediate Public Notification and corrective action if samples test positive for *E coli*. A procedure must be approved and in place by April 2010.
3. Winterization of fire hydrants in the distribution system is underway.

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: Mrs. Pieri and Mrs. Baigis

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

**The Committee will consider the following actions this evening:**

1. Recommend that the **November** invoices in the amount of **\$660,329.46** be paid as follows: General (\$30,737.97); Street Lights (\$4,699.73); Fire (\$283.68); Parks & Rec. (\$0.00); Water (\$14,032.95); Sewer (\$652.38); WWTP (\$1,319.11); Rail Corridor (\$0.00); Road Overlay (\$0.00); Debt Fund (\$1,000.00); Water Capital (\$0.00); Liquid Fuels (\$17.49); with first run totaling \$52,725.82, voided checks totaling \$49.99 and second run bills totaling \$607,653.63.
2. Recommend adoption of **Ordinance 1044** Fixing the Real Estate Tax Rate for the Year 2010. (This Ordinance was advertised for adoption.)
3. Recommend adoption of **Resolution 2009-15** Appropriating Specific Sums Estimated per the 2010 Budget Required for the Specific Purpose of the Municipal Government.

Discussion ensued. Bernadette Dougherty (Borough Tax Collector) asked for a clarification as to the need for increased property tax of 0.6 mil. Mr. Kenney stated that lack of income from earned income taxes, water, fees and real estate transfers was the reason for the tax increase, and not bad investments. Mr. Kenney stated that the property tax increase is equivalent to an increase of \$60 per year for a home assessed at \$100,000.

**The following recommendation was made and approved at the December 1, 2009 Committee Meeting:**

1. Recommend approval on a trial basis at the request of the owners of Dettera and Shanachie to allow certain parking spaces (the cutout in front of Twisters) on Butler Avenue to be designated for valet parking after 6:00 p.m.

Discussion ensued this evening. Chief Foley stated his department was working on the logistics situation and that it was too soon to determine whether allowing valet parking was workable.

**In other business the following was reviewed:**

1. The Borough Engineer's November 2009 report was reviewed.
2. Preliminary Revitalization applications are due January 15, 2010. The Borough intends to apply for funding for the Lindenwold Avenue Parking Lot.
3. Applications for the County Economic Development are due in January. The Borough intends to apply for funding for the Lindenwold Avenue Parking Lot.
4. The Borough submitted a grant application to Transportation and Community Development Initiative (TCDI) funding through the DVRPC (Delaware Valley

- Regional Planning Commission) for \$67,500 to conduct a feasibility study for a proposed parking deck at the Lindenwold Avenue Parking lot.
5. Several term appointments expire December 31, 2009 and as such Committee members are being contacted by staff to determine intentions to seek re-appointment. Letters of interest are being accepted from Borough residents.
  6. A public meeting was held November 17 2009 at 6:00 pm to discuss the FY2010 Budget.
  7. Meeting dates were suggested for the 2010 calendar year and an advertisement was placed. The Reorganization & Committee Meetings will be held Monday, January 4, 2010 at 7:00 pm.

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. Amento, Mrs. Strus

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

**The Committee will consider the following actions this evening:**

1. Recommend adoption of **Resolution 2009-16** Recognizing the Service of Councilwoman Anita Pieri.
2. Recommend adoption of **Resolution 2009-17** Recognizing the Service of Councilwoman Judy Baigis.

**In other business the following was reviewed:**

1. The Committee is reviewing replacement alternatives for the vacancy that exists in the position of Borough Treasurer and will recommend a replacement in January.
2. An Executive Session was held.

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** – Ms. Maxion states the Committee will make no recommendation at this time.

**Parks & Recreation Committee** – Mrs. Strus states the Committee will make no recommendation at this time.

**Public Utilities Committee** – The Committee recommends and Mrs. Baigis moves:

Recommend authorizing the plant engineer prepare and advertise the specification documents to replace the existing fine screens and ram compactor with like kind equipment. Seconded. Carried.

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

Recommend that the **November** invoices in the amount of **\$660,329.46** be paid. Seconded. Carried.

Recommend adoption of **Ordinance 1044** Fixing the Real Estate Tax Rate for the Year 2010. (This Ordinance was advertised for adoption.) Seconded. Poll Council, All Aye. Carried.

Recommend adoption of **Resolution 2009-15** Appropriating Secific Sums Estimated per the 2010 Budget Required for the Specific Purpose of the Municipal Government. Seconded. Carried.

**Salary & Personnel Committee** – The Committee recommends and Mr. S. Pasceri moves:

Recommend adoption of **Resolution 2009-16** Recognizing the Service of Councilwoman Anita Pieri. Seconded. Carried.

Recommend adoption of **Resolution 2009-17** Recognizing the Service of Councilwoman Judy Baigis. Seconded. Carried.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Elizabeth Russell  
Administrative Assistant  
Borough of Ambler