



ASHLEY BOROUGH

49 West Cemetery St, Ashley, PA 18706

Main Line: (570) 824-1364 Fax Number: (570) 855-1803

Main Office: ashlevboroughoffice@gmail.com

Mayor: Brian Demchak

Council President: Lisa Wildes

Council Vice President: Andrew Potsko

Carl Byra

Frank Sorokach

Don Bly

Edward Flynn

Borough Secretary: Lisa Scharer

Code Enforcement Secretary: Amy Campbell

Borough Manager: Samuel Guesto

ASHLEY BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING SUMMARY MEETING MINUTES March 10, 2026, 6:40 PM

Attendance:

Lisa Wildes –Present
Andrew Potsko –Present
Carl Byra –Not Present
Frank Sorokach – Present
Don Bly – Present
Edward Flynn – Present
Mayor Brian Demchak. –Present
Borough Manager Guesto –Present
Borough Secretary Scharer - Present
Police Chief McGlynn –Present
Code Officer Campbell- Present

Lisa Wildes called the meeting or Order. Peter Moses called roll for the Council, Mayor, and Borough Officials.

COMMITTEE AND BOROUGH OFFICIALS' REPORTS

Personnel Committee – Nothing for this meeting.

Mayor Demchak – Nothing for this meeting.

Secretary Lisa Scharer –Ms. Scharer presented the Treasurer's Report, a copy of which is attached hereto and made a part hereof.

Borough Manager Guesto- Nothing for this meeting.

Code Officer Amy Campbell- Code Officer Campbell provided the Borough with the Code Officer Report, a copy of which is attached hereto and made a part hereof.

Chief Joe McGlynn –Chief Joe McGlynn presented the Police Chief's Monthly Report a copy of which is attached hereto and made a part hereof.

PUBLIC COMMENT – PENDING LEGISLATION

Barry Tomchu, 33 Wyoming Street, 570-760-4782 – Questioned why there was a bond purchase or Certificate of Deposit completed in the sum of \$250,000.00 if the Borough is in Debt.

Peter Moses stated that this was not a bond but a Certificate of Deposit.

Borough Manager Guesto went on to explain that this was done with funds rolled over from last year and it does not add to any debt for Ashley Borough.

Mr. Tomchu then questioned why taxes were going up if we had all this extra money. Borough Manager Guesto stated that council had discussed in meetings leading up to the November 2025 meeting where the budget was put together that it was in the best decision to raise taxes since they had not been raised in 11 years and with the cost of everything rising it was best to raise taxes. He added that if he wished to discuss this further after the meeting, he would be more than willing to meet with Mr. Tomchu.

Mr. Tomchu stated that he wants it to be on record why taxes are going up. He states that it is unjustified with the percentage that the taxes are going up. Asked for justification and Borough Manager stated that there were significant increases in electric bills, insurance (property, liability and auto), health insurance, wages and the right sizing of the police force since the last tax increase. Continued discussion was had regarding the newspaper article regarding tax increases due to construction was also brought up.

LEGISLATION

RESOLUTION 30 OF 2026 – A Resolution to approve the February 10, 2026, Borough Council Meeting Minutes.

Motion: Lisa Wildes
Second: Andrew Potsko

Lisa Wildes - Y
Frank Sorokach - Y
Carl Byra - NP
Andrew Potsko- Y
Don Bly – Y
Edward Flynn – Y
PASS

RESOLUTION 31 OF 2026 – A Resolution to approve the February 2026 bills in the amount of \$152,707.66.

Motion: Lisa Wildes
Second: Edward Flynn

Lisa Wildes - Y
Frank Sorokach - Y
Carl Byra - NP
Andrew Potsko- Y
Don Bly – Y
Edward Flynn – Y
PASS

RESOLUTION 32 OF 2026– A Resolution to approve the February 2026 payroll in the amount of \$47,492.64.

Motion: Frank Sorokach
Second: Andrew Potsko

Lisa Wildes - Y
Frank Sorokach - Y
Carl Byra - NP
Andrew Potsko- Y
Don Bly – Y
Edward Flynn – Y
PASS

RESOLUTION 33 OF 2026- A Resolution to pass **ORDINANCE No. 1 OF 2026**
AN ORDINANCE OF THE BOROUGH OF ASHLEY, LUZERNE COUNTY,
PENNSYLVANIA REITERATING SEWER LATERAL/SERVICE LINE OWNERSHIP;
PROVIDING FOR THE MARKING OF SEWER LATERALS/SERVICE LINES FOR
ALL 811 RELATED

Motion: Lisa Wildes
Second: Andrew Potsko

Lisa Wildes - Y
Frank Sorokach - Y
Carl Byra - NP
Andrew Potsko- Y
Don Bly – Y
Edward Flynn – Y
PASS

RESOLUTION 34 OF 2026 – A Resolution to approve the purchase of a
Certificate of Deposit in the amount of \$250,000.00 from First Keystone Bank
at a rate of 4% APY.

Motion: Lisa Wildes
Second: Andrew Potsko

Lisa Wildes - Y
Frank Sorokach - Y
Carl Byra - NP
Andrew Potsko- Y
Don Bly – Y
Edward Flynn – Y
PASS

RESOLUTION 35 OF 2026 – A Motion to add for consideration on the agenda,
a resignation of a police officer.

Motion: Lisa Wildes
Second: Don Bly

Lisa Wildes - Y
Frank Sorokach - Y
Carl Byra - NP
Andrew Potsko- Y
Don Bly – Y
Edward Flynn – Y
PASS

RESOLUTION 36 OF 2026 – A Resolution to accept the resignation of Officer Zowotski of the Ashley Borough Police Department effective March 6, 2026.

Motion: Don Bly

Second: Edward Flynn

Lisa Wildes - Y

Frank Sorokach - Y

Carl Byra - NP

Andrew Potsko- Y

Don Bly -- Y

Edward Flynn – Y

PASS

PUBLIC COMMENT

Jo Wildes, 20 Culvert Street, 570-899-8845– No comment as the councilman he needs to direct is not present for the meeting.

Alison Byra, 2 Joe Street, 570-417-0383 – Wanted to bring up an issue that she had personally. Stated that someone on this council was in a topic of discussion at a prior private meeting among council members. She stated that this person donates their time, as does everyone else in the Borough of Ashley, and knows for a fact that this person has taken time away from their family to be a part of this council and she listed a couple reasons for this being true and what he has done for the Borough. He did these things because of the type of person he is, and she wants to know why that meeting was made public and he was shamed. She feels like the council is being led by a select few and not by all the members and she cannot sit quietly when someone's character is attacked or made public. She wants to bring this up because an anonymous call was made into Zoning, that anonymous call was made for a person who was running for council during that election cycle. There were members of council in addition to the mayor that were present at the private meeting, and this was discussed. During that meeting a closed session became argumentative and escalated to hands being banged on the table. When that councilman saw that the member was removed after voicing their concerns and he had no knowledge, this was upsetting to him. She wants it to be known that he was speaking at this private meeting in support of her, his spouse.

Bonita Tomchu, 33 Wyoming Street, 570-328-2668 – Had grievances regarding the people that are moving in on Wyoming Street these days. People move in and out at night and it seems that permits and certificates of occupancy, which were always requirements when she rented homes, are not being upheld and landlords are not in compliance with these requirements.

It was also brought up that where the Sipples used to live on Maxwell and Davis Street, people moved in there and totally renovated the entire house with no permits.

Also brought up two doors down from her home there is a family that lives there who have not been purchasing garbage stickers and getting rid of the trash. The owner spoke with Code Enforcement to obtain stickers from the previous owner to get rid of the trash. Some have

been removed but a lot still lies in the backyard. It has gotten to the point that there are dead rats lying on Wyoming Street.

Discussion was then had on how to resolve that issue. Multiple people chimed in regarding this.

Mr. Moses asked for the addresses to be provided to the Code Officer regarding the issues and Ms. Campbell will oversee the issues.

Barry Tomchu, 33 Wyoming Street, 570-760-4782 – Stated that 75% of the residents in Ashley are elderly and they pay for fifty-six garbage stickers for the year and use two throughout the year. Where is the excess money that the Borough is receiving from the purchase of the garbage stickers not being used going towards.

Discussion was had regarding this and how to control garbage. Mr. Moses discussed the Ordinance for garbage sticker pricing and stated that garbage fees are not fluctuating without a public vote because the ordinance cannot be changed without a resolution. This is all happening publicly and people are free to attend and voice opinions.

Robert Gayewski, Cook Street – Asked if we license the contractors coming into the Borough and giving them permits to work as well as charging them for same. Has seen a lot of New York and New Jersey plates for contractors working on homes. They are obviously licensed in their states but is our Borough charging them permits to work and making them take a test to perform said work. Asked if Ashley Borough has an electrical inspector as he does not want a third party to come and do the work when the Borough could be making taking the full benefit of having their own inspector.

Borough Manager Guesto spoke, stating anyone who does these types of inspections has to be certified within the Unified Construction Code and have their certifications to employ them in the Borough and it would be extremely expensive for the Borough to have their own. Borough Manager Guesto stated that most Boroughs and towns have a third-party independent contractor come in and perform that work.

Mr. Gayewski says that he knows a few contractors who he believes could come on a part-time basis that are local to perform the work necessary. Borough Manager Guesto was not opposed to having further discussion with Mr. Gayewski regarding same. Further was discussed amongst others regarding this.

Lisa Wildes chimed in stating that this could be brought up with the council for a decision to be made regarding this issue.

Donna Ransom – She is incredibly happy that a mirror has been finally placed to remedy the issue with Interstate 81.

Jennifer Heller, 60 Carey Street, 570-709-8254 – Posed a question for Chief McGlynn. Asked if he could explain something to her that she got in the mail regarding her 12-year-old son. Chief McGlynn stated that it was a citation given by Officer Lombardi and she can speak with him if she chooses. She then asked why she was not alerted to this citation due to his age before

receiving said citation in the mail and Chief McGlynn stated that contacting parents due to a child's age does not always occur.

Ms. Heller expressed her concern that she was not contacted when her minor son received a citation due to riding his dirtbike to the baseball field on the sidewalk. During further discussion with Chief McGlynn she was made aware that riding a dirt bike on the sidewalk is not allowed as it is considered a motor vehicle and that is state law. This is what her son received a citation for.

Attorney Moses wanted to recognize that State Representative, Alec Ryncavage, who has joined us at tonight's meeting for the Penn DOT meeting. He thanks him for being here.

MOTION TO ADJOURN

Motion: Frank Sorokach
Second: Lisa Wildes

MEETING ADJOURNED

ASHLEY BOROUGH
Payroll Summary
28-Feb-26

	Year -to-date	Current Month
Police		
Regular	\$ 42,596.04	\$ 20,703.36
Overtime	\$ 6,089.12	\$ 3,512.89
Court	\$ 470.00	\$ 95.00
	\$ 49,155.16	\$ 24,311.25
Road Department		
Regular	\$ 24,547.14	\$ 12,204.91
Sick Day Buyout > 125 days per policy	\$ 437.12	\$ -
Overtime	\$ 5,160.21	\$ 3,102.48
	\$ 30,144.47	\$ 15,307.39
Main Office		
Regular	\$ 11,472.04	\$ 5,769.64
Overtime	\$ 609.75	\$ 404.85
	\$ 12,081.79	\$ 6,174.49
Council		
Regular	\$ 1,550.00	\$ 900.00
Mayor		
Regular	\$ 300.00	\$ 150.00
Tax Collector		
Regular	\$ 1,299.02	\$ 649.51
Fire		
Regular	\$ -	\$ -
2025 Total	\$ 94,530.44	\$ 47,492.64

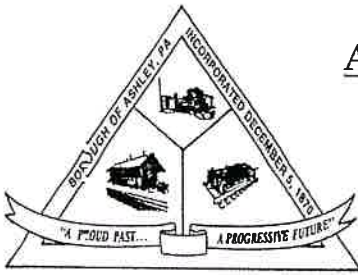
ASHLEY BOROUGH
Cash Balances
28-Feb-26

<u>Peoples Security Bank & Trust</u>		
Code Enforcement	\$	44,649.76
Trash Sticker Funds	\$	129,115.11
Debit Cards	\$	160.90
General Fund	\$	119,396.15
Lokie Account	\$	100.14
Recreation	\$	1,597.33
<u>Citizen's Bank</u>		
General Fund	\$	21,958.13 est
<u>ESSA Bank</u>		
General Fund	\$	11,492.32 est
Total	\$	328,469.84

<u>First Keystone</u>		
CD - Investment	Total	\$ 250,000.00 est

<u>Peoples Security Bank & Trust</u>		
Sewer Fund	\$	51,120.82
<u>M&T Bank</u>		
Sewer Account	Total	\$ 346,609.96
		<u>\$ 397,730.78</u>

<u>Peoples Security Bank & Trust</u>		
ARPA Account	(\$32.50 int. due Luzerne Cty)	<u>\$ 16,912.95</u>
Liquid Fuels Fund		<u>\$ 739.68</u>
Fire Equipment Fund		<u>\$ 27,649.26</u>
Debt Service Account		<u>\$ 36,273.29</u>
GRAND TOTAL		<u>\$ 1,057,775.80</u>



ASHLEY BOROUGH CODE ENFORCEMENT

49 Cemetery St, Ashley, PA 18706

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Main Office: ashleycodeoffice@gmail.com

FEBRUARY CODE ENFORCEMENT REPORT

WARNINGS- 7

FINES- 4

CITATIONS- 1

OCCUPANCIES- 15

BUILDING PERMITS- 1C

DUMPSTER PERMITS- 2



49 West Cemetery St.
Ashley, Pa 18706

Phone: (570) 822-6995
Fax: (570) 855-1804

Joseph McGlynn, Chief of Police

Ashley Borough Police Department

Monthly Report for February 2026

Total Incidents logged: 134

Total Parking Tickets Issued: 19

Total Traffic Citations Issued: 15

Total Non-Traffic Citations Issued: 11

Total Amount Received from Magistrate: \$ 3918.60 (Crimes Code, Vehicle Code and Ordinances)

Total Amount Received from Report Requests: \$ 30.00

Total Amount Received from Parking Violations: \$ 375.00

Luzerne County Dept. of Probation: \$ 0

Total Received: \$ 4323.60

Vehicle Milage

Miles, 2399

Averaging, 86 miles per day

Respectfully Submitted by,

**Joseph McGlynn
Chief of Police**