

ASHLEY BOROUGH

Donald Sipple Sr., Mayor

Lisa Wildes, Council Chair

Brian Casey

Frank Sorokach, Council Vice Chair

Carl Byra

Gerald Maldonado

Brian Demchak

Ashleypa.net

Lisa Scharer, Borough Secretary

Moses & Gelso LLP, Solicitor

ASHLEY BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING

SUMMARY MEETING MINUTES

AUGUST 10, 2021

Attendance:

Lisa Wildes- Present

Frank Sorokach- Present

Gerald Maldonado- Present

Brian Casey- Absent

Carl Byra- Present

Brian Demchak- Present

Mayor Donald Sipple Sr- Present

Secretary Lisa Scharer- Present

Police Chief David Fedorczyk- Present

Peter John Moses, Solicitor - Present

Code Enforcement Officer David Watkins- Present

Meeting was called to order by Lisa Wildes. Attorney Moses called roll for Council, Mayor and Borough Officials. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by all,

Attorney Moses opened the meeting by calling on Eagle Scout Christopher Durko. Christopher presented to Council a United States Flag along with a certificate stating that the Flag had been flown over the United States Capital on November 30, 2020.

The Flag was flown at the request of the Honorable Matt Cartwright, Member of Congress. The Flag serves to honor our country and to commemorate the 150th anniversary of the Borough of Ashley Pennsylvania.

Mayor Sipple presented to Christopher a Certificate of Appreciation signed by the Mayor and Council Members.

COUNCIL AND BOROUGH OFFICIAL PRESENTATIONS

Lisa Wildes- Ms. Wildes opened by inquiring about the current situation of garbage sticker sales. Secretary Scharer informed her that there were currently 41 properties that have not paid for the first half, 72 properties that are listed as vacant and 14 properties that were previously listed as vacant but found not to be. Those properties are paid. Ms. Wildes asked if letters had been sent to the 41 unpaid properties. Secretary Scharer informed her that they had been sent.

Additionally, Ms. Wildes asked for the number of properties that are delinquent on the second half of 2021. Secretary Scharer informed her that she did not yet have that figure but those late notices will be mailed the following week.

Frank Sorokach- Mr. Sorokach opened by stating that there were two interviews for Part Time Police Officer. They are James George of Cresco and Brandon Gonzalez of Sugar Notch, Mr. Sorokach recommended hiring Mr. Gonzalez.

Gerry Maldonado- Mr. Maldonado opened by stating that the little league has a donation of two new gates. The existing gate will need to be moved. He asked that the Street Department help with the digging.

Mr Maldonado also mentioned that the Little League is requesting assistance with their internet fees. He asked that it be put on the agenda. Attorney Moses informed him that it was preferable to be added to the September Agenda.

Additionally, Mr. Maldonado stated that the property at 84 S, Main had ten bags of dog waste on the property. He informed a gentleman there that it must be cleaned up or he would be fined.

Mr. Maldonado also noted that he had noticed twelve-foot-high hedges, grass and weeds in sidewalk all over town.

Lastly, Mr. Maldonado inquired about 31 S. Main. Mr. Moses informed him that there will be a court hearing in September. He also stated that Wells Fargo had informed him that the owner, Mr. Zawatski, has refused to allow the Borough to come on the property. Mr. Maldonado expressed concerns that it has become a health issue and that the Borough had in the past cleaned the property and sent a bill for doing so.

Frank Sorokach- Mr. Sorokach opened by stating there were properties that need to be torn down. He began with the former Andro's store. Mr. Watkins stated that the building is not condemnable. It is however unfit for human habitation. He also stated that the sale had not gone through and the check that was written for inspection had bounced. The account did not exist. Mr. Jim Barberio asked how the property went from being condemned to now safe. Mr. Watkins stated that if it is structurally sound, we cannot tear it down. He also stated that the Judge would not turn the property over to the borough because it is not in imminent danger of collapsing. Mr. Moses stated that there is a difference between condemnable and unfit for human habitation.

Mr. Sorokach also mentioned the former liquor store. Mr. Watkins stated that he was waiting for BHW to inspect.

Mr. Moses suggested that the Property Committee schedule a separate meeting for next week.

Carl Byra- Nothing for this meeting.

Brian Demchak- Nothing for this meeting.

Mayor Donald Sipple- Nothing for this meeting.

Chief David Fedorczyk- Chief Fedorczyk read the Police Chief's Report {a copy of which is attached hereto and made part hereof}

David Watkins- No report.

Secretary Lisa Scharer- Ms. Scharer read the Treasurer's Report (a copy of which is attached hereto and made part hereof}

COMMITTEE REPORTS

None

LEGISLATION

RESOLUTION 91 OF 2021- A Resolution to pay the July 2021 Payroll in the amount of \$50,078.67

Motion- Carl Byra

Second- Lisa Wildes

Lisa Wildes- Y

Frank Sorokach- Y

Gerry Maldonado- Y

Carl Byra- y

Brian Demchak- Y

Brian Casey-

PASS

RESOLUTION 92 OF 2021- A Resolution to pay the July 2021 Bills in the amount of \$34,837.58

Motion- Frank Sorokach

Second- Carl Byra

Lisa Wildes- Y

Frank Sorokach- Y

Gerry Maldonado- Y

Carl Byra- y

Brian Demchak- Y

Brian Casey-

PASS

RESOLUTION 93 OF 2021- A Resolution t July 3, 2021 to approve the July 13, 2021 Council Meeting Minutes

Motion- Lisa Wildes

Second- Brian Demchak

Lisa Wildes- Y

Frank Sorokach- Y

Gerry Maldonado- Y

Carl Byra- y

Brian Demchak- Y

Brian Casey-

PASS

RESOLUTION 94 OF 2021- A Resolution to approve the July 22, 2021 Special Council Meeting Minutes.

Motion- Lisa Wildes

Second- Brian Demchak

Lisa Wildes- Y

Frank Sorokach- Y

Gerry Maldonado- Y

Carl Byra- y

Brian Demchak- Y

Brian Casey-

PASS

RESOLUTION 95 OF 2021- A Resolution to authorize payment to Lyons Recreation in the amount of \$9,166.30 for purchase and installation of a playground pursuant to their July 13, 2021 Proposal.

Motion- Carl Byra

Second- Gerry Maldonado

Lisa Wildes- Y

Frank Sorokach- Y

Gerry Maldonado- Y

Carl Byra- y

Brian Demchak- Y

Brian Casey-

PASS

RESOLUTION 96 OF 2021- A Resolution to amend Resolution 84 of 2021 to change amount of grant funds from \$129,000 to \$126,637.00.

Motion- Frank Sorokach

Second- Gerry Maldonado

Lisa Wildes- Y

Frank Sorokach- Y

Gerry Maldonado- Y

Carl Byra- y

Brian Demchak- Y

Brian Casey-

PASS

At this time Attorney Moses addressed the Council and Residents. He stated that although Ashley Borough is ahead of the curve in posting the Meeting Agendas on the Friday before the meetings, there are times like the present when the agenda will need to be amended.

RESOLUTION 97 OF 2021- A Resolution to amend the agenda to include the addition of a Police Officer.

Motion- Lisa Wildes

Second- Brian Demchak

Lisa Wildes- Y

Frank Sorokach- Y

Gerry Maldonado- Y

Carl Byra- y

Brian Demchak- Y

Brian Casey-

PASS

RESOLUTION 98 OF 2021- A Resolution to hire Brandon Gonzalez as Part Time Police Officer at a rate of \$17.00 hr.

Motion- Frank Sorokach

Second- Brian Demchak

Lisa Wildes- Y

Frank Sorokach- Y

Gerry Maldonado- Y

Carl Byra- y

Brian Demchak- Y

Brian Casey-

PASS

PUBLIC COMMENT

Regina Shultz complained about the Rodgers Ave bridge closure. She stated that larger vehicles such as ambulance, fire trucks and delivery trucks need to back out of the street. She also stated that a white Kia had pulled quickly out of Ryan's lot and forced her off the road. UPS and Fed Ex trucks have a difficult time delivering.

There had also been a flatbed truck carrying porta-potty's that took 45 minutes to get out. People either do not notice or choose to ignore the signs.

Ms. Shultz and other neighbors complained that they are unable to get out in the winter. They stated that the fencing across the bridge has been cut to allow people to walk over the bridge and attempts to fix it only result in the fencing being cut again.

Carl Byra stated that he had spoke to the owner of the lot along side the bridge to possibly purchase it for easier access to Main St but was informed that it was already under contract to be sold.

Helen Burke stated that it was dangerous to block the bridge to traffic. She also stated that the residents at 1 Rodgers Ave have hit her cars and fence trying to get out.

Lisa Wildes stated that we will see what we can do.

Gerry Maldonado asked Bob Hess if we still have reflective tape. Mr Hess stated that we do.

Lisa Wildes aske if we have flashing lights to put on the signs. Mr Hess stated that we do and that he will place new signs and flashers at the end or the street.

MEETING ADJOURNED