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

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Greg Gulick, Borough Manager Moses & Gelso LLP, Solicitor

ASHLEY BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING

 SUMMARY MEETING MINUTES

JULY 14, 2020

Attendance:

Lisa Wildes – Present

Frank Sorokach – Present

Gerald Maldonado – Present

Brian Casey – Present

Carl Byra – Present

Brian Demchak – Absent

Mayor Donald Sipple, Sr. – Present

Borough Manager Greg Gulick - Present

Police Chief David Fedorczyk – Present

Peter John Moses, Esq. for Solicitor Moses & Gelso LLP – Present

Meeting was called to Order by Attorney Moses. Attorney Moses called roll for the Council.. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by all.

COUNCIL AND BOROUGH OFFICIAL PRESENTATIONS

Lisa Wildes – Nothing for this Meeting.

Frank Sorokach – Nothing for this Meeting.

Gerald Maldonado – Nothing for this Meeting.

Brian Casey – Nothing for this Meeting.

Carl Byra – Nothing for this Meeting.

Brian Demchak – Nothing for this Meeting.

Mayor Donald Sipple, Sr. – Nothing for this Meeting.

Borough Manager Greg Gulick – Mr. Gulick read the Treasurer’s Report (See attached). Mr. Gulic added that the funds for the Loki were currently being taken from the Parks and Recreation Account and they needed to open account for the Loki but there were insufficient funds. Mr. Maldonado asked about an additional grant for $20,000.00. Mr. Gulic replied there was no contract for that grant at this time so they do not yet have the funds.

Chief Fedorczyk – Chief Fedorczyk read the Police Chief’s Report (See attached). Additionally, the Chief thanked Mr. Don Bly and Mr. Jim Barberio for supplying the Police Department with upgraded equipment for their automobiles. Finally, the Chief requested that Council address a handicapped parking application for the property at 74 W. Hartford St. at tonight’s meeting.

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COMMITTEE REPORTS

There were no Committee Reports for this meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENT – PENDING LEGISLATION

**Mike Chrobak** – Mr. Chrobak is seeking information on an empty lot that used to be a theatre. More specifically, he is seeking the dimensions of the lot and if there are any liens or back-taxes on the lot. Attorney Moses responded that a title search will yield information such as existing liens or back-taxes, but he will work on getting him the dimensions. Mr. Gulic added that Ashley Borough sold part of that lot in the past and there may have been a subdivision done on it.

**Clyde Harvey** – Mr. Harvey asked how Council can justify hiring another Part-Time Borough Secretary in addition to Mr. Gulic and Ms. Casey. He also asked for specifics regarding what work Mr. Gulic does as Borough Manager and if his pay raise was ever approved by Council. Finally, he asked whether the Borough tracks the internet activities of its employees.

Mr. Gulic responded that Lisa Casey was hired before him to work on garbage issues. He also stated his raise was approved in the budget and he consented to only receiving an eighty cent because to allow other employees to receive a one dollar raise.

Mr. Sorochak stated that budget was approved by the previous Council. Mr. Casey asked if the new council ever rescinded the pay raises in the budget. Ms. Wildes stated the budget was opened up and three things were revised. Mr. Casey asked if all raises stayed as is.

Attorney Moses then addressed Mr. Harvey, stating that there are two separate issues: Mr. Gulic’s pay raise; and 2. Mr. Gulic’s contract. The pay raise was in the budget which was approved by the previous Council. The contract, which included more provisions than just a pay raise, was never voted on by any council and should never have been in place.

Attorney Moses then addressed Mr. Harvey’s question regarding computer use. He stated that, after six months of requests, Council only very recently received the passwords to Borough computer systems. He also stated a computer audit would be required to determine computer activity and the Borough has never performed a computer audit.

**Matt Segura** – Mr. Segura provided counsel with an update on the Lokie. He stated the Lokie was unloaded two weeks ago and work is currently being performed on it, specifically cosmetic work. He stated there has already been an uptick in traffic to the area and there were approximately 100 people present the day it arrived. He also stated there were issues with people climbing on it recently so they are in the process of fencing off the area. Mr. Gulic added the Lokie has been added to the Borough insurance.

Mr. Casey asked about asbestos removal and Mr. Stegura stated he needed to follow up. Mr. Casey stated there needs to be a fence erected asap as well as signs indicating “Danger Asbestos.”

LEGISLATION

**RESOLUTION 70 OF 2020** – A Resolution to terminate Greg Gulick, Borough Manager, effective July 28, 2020.

Motion: Gerry Maldonado

Second: Frank Sorokach

Lisa Wildes – Y

Frank Sorokach – Y

Gerry Maldonado – Y

Carl Byra – Y

Brian Demchak – Y

Brian Casey – N

PASS

**RESOLUTION 71 OF 2020** – A Resolution to pay the June 2020 Payroll in the amount of $34,862.54.

Motion: Lisa Wildes

Second: Brian Demchak

Lisa Wildes – Y

Frank Sorokach – Y

Gerry Maldonado – Y

Carl Byra – Y

Brian Demchak – Y

Brian Casey – Y

PASS

**RESOLUTION 72 OF 2020** – A Resolution to pay the June 2020 Bills in the amount of $49,614.41.

Motion: Carl Byra

Second: Frank Sorokach

Lisa Wildes – Y

Frank Sorokach – Y

Gerry Maldonado – Y

Carl Byra – Y

Brian Demchak – Y

Brian Casey – Y

PASS

**RESOLUTION 73 OF 2020** – A Resolution to approve the June 2020 Council Meeting Minutes.

Motion: Lisa Wildes

Second: Carl Byra

Lisa Wildes – Y

Frank Sorokach – Y

Gerry Maldonado – Y

Carl Byra – Y

Brian Demchak – Y

Brian Casey – Y

PASS

**RESOLUTION 74 OF 2020** – A Resolution to hire Northeast Signal for a traffic light repair at the intersection of Hazletine St. and Route 309 for an estimated $16,466.08.

Motion: Lisa Wildes

Second: Carl Byra

Lisa Wildes – Y

Frank Sorokach – Y

Gerry Maldonado – Y

Carl Byra – Y

Brian Demchak – Y

Brian Casey – Y

PASS

**RESOLUTION 75 OF 2020** – A Resolution to approve the submission of a Multimodal Transportation Fund grant in an amount not to exceed $3,000,000 from the Commonwealth Financing Authority.

Motion: Brian Demchak

Second: Lisa Wildes

Lisa Wildes – Y

Frank Sorokach – Y

Gerry Maldonado – Y

Carl Byra – Y

Brian Demchak – Y

Brian Casey – Y

PASS

**RESOLUTION 76 OF 2020** – A Resolution to approve the submission of a Flood Mitigation grant in an amount not to exceed $499,999 from the Commonwealth Financing Authority.

Motion: Frank Sorokach

Second: Lisa Wildes

Lisa Wildes – Y

Frank Sorokach – Y

Gerry Maldonado – Y

Carl Byra – Y

Brian Demchak – Y

Brian Casey – Y

PASS

**RESOLUTION 77 OF 2020** – A Resolution to hire Reilly Associates to inventory and inspect all traffic signals owned, operated and maintained by Ashley Borough pursuant to § 75 Pa. C.S. §6122(a)(2).

Motion: Lisa Wildes

Second: Carl Byra

Lisa Wildes – Y

Frank Sorokach – Y

Gerry Maldonado – Y

Carl Byra – Y

Brian Demchak – Y

Brian Casey – Y

PASS

**RESOLUTION 78 OF 2020** – A Resolution to hire Roger Heydt as Part-Time Borough Secretary/Treasurer for 20 hours/week at a rate of $20.00/hour.

Motion: Frank Sorokach

Second: Gerry Maldonado

Lisa Wildes – Y

Frank Sorokach – Y

Gerry Maldonado – Y

Carl Byra – Y

Brian Demchak – Y

Brian Casey – N

PASS

**RESOLUTION 79 OF 2020** – A Resolution to appoint Roger Heydt as Open-Records Officer pursuant to the Pennsylvania Right to Know Law.

Motion: Frank Sorokach

Second: Gerry Maldonado

Lisa Wildes – Y

Frank Sorokach – Y

Gerry Maldonado – Y

Carl Byra – Y

Brian Demchak – Y

Brian Casey – Abstained (Reason for Abstention: insufficient information on Appointee)

PASS

**RESOLUTION 80 OF 2020** – A Resolution to execute a Memorandum of Understanding agreeing to participate in the Luzerne County DUI Task Force.

Motion: Carl Byra

Second Lisa Wildes

Lisa Wildes – Y

Frank Sorokach – Y

Gerry Maldonado – Y

Carl Byra – Y

Brian Demchak – Y

Brian Casey – Y

PASS

**RESOLUTION 81 OF 2020** – A Resolution authorizing the Borough Solicitor to advertise an ordinance Approving the Agreement and Participation of the Ashley Borough Police Department with the Luzerne County Driving Under the Influence (DUI) Task Force and Luzerne County District Attorney’s Office.

Motion: Lisa Wildes

Second Carl Byra

Lisa Wildes – Y

Frank Sorokach – Y

Gerry Maldonado – Y

Carl Byra – Y

Brian Demchak – Y

Brian Casey – Y

PASS

**RESOLUTION 82 OF 2020** – A Resolution to enforce the closing of all Borough Playgrounds from dusk until dawn 7 days/week.

Motion: Carl Byra

Second: Frank Sorokach

Lisa Wildes – Y

Frank Sorokach – Y

Gerry Maldonado – Y

Carl Byra – Y

Brian Demchak – Y

Brian Casey – Y

PASS

**RESOLUTION 83 OF 2020** – A Resolution to purchase and install time clocks for the Street Department, Police Department and Borough Building.

Motion: Brian Demchak

Second Lisa Wildes

Lisa Wildes – Y

Frank Sorokach – Y

Gerry Maldonado – Y

Carl Byra – Y

Brian Demchak – Y

Brian Casey – Y

PASS

**RESOLUTION 84 OF 2020** – A Resolution to accept the resignation of Part-Time Police Officer Chad Callahan, effective immediately.

Motion: Frank Sorokach

Second Gerry Maldonado

Lisa Wildes – Y

Frank Sorokach – Y

Gerry Maldonado – Y

Carl Byra – Y

Brian Demchak – Y

Brian Casey – Y

PASS

**RESOLUTION 85 OF 2020** – A Resolution to allow the Borough Solicitor to meet with the Personnel Committee and develop a Personnel Policy.

Motion: Lisa Wildes

Second Carl Byra

Lisa Wildes – Y

Frank Sorokach – Y

Gerry Maldonado – Y

Carl Byra – Y

Brian Demchak – Y

Brian Casey – N

PASS

**RESOLUTION 86 OF 2020** – A Resolution to allow the Borough Solicitor to meet with the Police Committee and establish the Standard Operating Procedures of the Ashley Borough Police Department.

Motion: Carl Byra

Second Brian Demchak

Lisa Wildes – Y

Frank Sorokach – Y

Gerry Maldonado – Y

Carl Byra – Y

Brian Demchak – Y

Brian Casey – Y

PASS

**RESOLUTION 87 OF 2020** – A Resolution to appoint Susan Mergo to the Planning Commission to replace her late husband, Jack Mergo.

Motion:

Second

Lisa Wildes – Y

Frank Sorokach – Y

Gerry Maldonado – Y

Carl Byra – Y

Brian Demchak – Y

Brian Casey – Y

PASS

**RESOLUTION 88 OF 2020** – A Resolution to approve a handicapped parking space on 74 W. Hartford St. for Sharon Guirno.

Motion:

Second

Lisa Wildes – Y

Frank Sorokach – Y

Gerry Maldonado – Y

Carl Byra – Y

Brian Demchak – Y

Brian Casey – Y

PASS

**RESOLUTION 89 OF 2020** – A Resolution to hire an accounting firm to conduct a full audit from January 1, 2020 through July 28, 2020.

Motion:

Second

Lisa Wildes – Y

Frank Sorokach – Y

Gerry Maldonado – Y

Carl Byra – Y

Brian Demchak – Y

Brian Casey – Y

PASS

PUBLIC COMMENT

Jennifer Watkins – Mrs. Watkins inquired about the Borough recovering $2,000.00 in legal fees paid to Attorney Vinsko. Attorney Moses addressed this issue stating that Mr. Gulic sent Mr. Vinsko a correspondence on this matter but received no response. Mr. Gulic confirmed the lack of a response. Mr. Casey asked Attorney Moses to reach out to Attorney Vinsko on this issue.

Dave Watkins – Mr. Watkins informed council that a property owned by Mr. Steven Santiago required attention as the yard was in extremely poor condition. He informed Council that he will follow up and if Mr. Santiago does not bring his property into compliance he will ask Council to take action.

An Ashley Borough resident requested Council take action to address fireworks being set off several days a week and in hot and dry conditions. She noted that veterans with PTSD live in Ashley Borough and it is disrespectful to them.