

# ASHLEY BOROUGH

Donald Sipple, Sr., Mayor

John Gibbons, Council Chair  
Donald Sipple, Jr. Council Vice Chair  
Frank Sorokach

Gerald Maldonado  
Donna Schappert  
Brian Casey

Ashleypa.net

---

Greg Gulick, Borough Manager

William E. Vinsko, Jr., Esquire, Solicitor

## ASHLEY BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING SUMMARY MEETING MINUTES JUNE 12, 2018

Meeting Start Time: **6:34 PM**

Meeting End Time: **8:25 PM**

### Attendance:

Gerald Maldonado-	Present
Frank Sorokach-	Present
Donna Schappert-	Present
Brian Casey-	Present
Donald Sipple -	Present
John Gibbons-	Present
Mayor Donald Sipple, Sr.-	Present
Borough Manager, Greg Gulick -	Present
Police Chief David Fedorczyk-	Present
Solicitor William E. Vinsko, Jr. -	Present
Andrew Kratz, Code Officer-	Absent

Meeting was called to Order by President of Council, **John Gibbons**. **Attorney Vinsko** called roll call for the Council, Mayor and Borough Officials. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by all.

**Jason Fitzgerald** of Penn Strategies presented a complete outline of all grants that they have submitted and ones that they are working on to Borough Council and to all residents. He presented a written submission to Borough Council for review and consideration. **Mr. Maldonado** asked about the DEP Grant saying it was less than what everyone came up with at DEP. It was thought that none of the legal parts (acquisition costs, etc.) were included which accounted for the differential. **Mr. Fitzgerald** confirmed that many of these grants are being applied for to obtain the local match for other grants and opportunities. **Mr. Gibbons** stated that DEP sent information to **Mr. Gulick** last week and instructed **Mr. Gulick** to give it to Council. **Mr. Casey** asked by **Mr. Maldonado** has copies of the DEP Grant information and no other council member does. **Mr. Fitzgerald** wants to have a meeting next week to address any issues and to compare the grant information everyone has. Right now, the Borough and Penn Strategies is focusing on all Main Street Grants with the exception of Sulphur Run. **Mr. Sorokach** asked if there were any homes

on Main Street which are in disrepair. **Mr. Fitzgerald** stated that the Borough could use Community Development Block Grant Money (CDBG) for demolition of properties. The state also has facade improvement grants but the state does not want to do anything with those until the Main Street Grants and the Main Street project has started. **Mr. Gulick** stated that after the Main Street Grants the Borough can apply for **Elm Street** Grants for side streets. **Mr. Gibbons** stated that the whole idea is to bring businesses into the Borough. Right now, there are only a few but there are eight (8) lined up. Before, the Borough never got calls, but now the Borough is getting calls.

### COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENTATIONS:

**GERALD MALDONADO** – **Mr. Maldonado** raised the following issues:

- (1) **33-35 Barnes Street** – The grass is cut, but the property is still a mess. There is trash, pipes, and other debris. **Mr. Coleman** was there, but more has to be done. Would like **Mr. Coleman** to go back and further address the issue.
- (2) **Playground** – The issue was brought up at the last meeting, but nothing was done. **Mr. Maldonado** wanted to know what the plan was. **Mr. Gibbons** confirmed that he went to view the playground and that there was a safety issue with the sliding board. He recommended that the slide be removed. **Mr. Maldonado** stated that he investigated it and the slide can remain, and a part of it can be purchased and installed to replace the bad portion of it. **Mr. Gibbons** expressed concern over spending the funds since the entire park is being moved and replaced. Additionally, that slide cost about \$25,000 30 years ago, and today's costs is approximately \$50,000. **Mr. Maldonado** suggested adding liquid rubber to resolve the concern as well since children are still actively playing there. **Mr. Maldonado** confirmed that he is on the Recreation Committee and that he was also concerned with puddles under the swings and standing water attracting mosquitos. **Mr. Gibbons** confirmed that he is actively looking into a course of action to address the current park while the Borough plans the new park.
- (3) **Catch Basin on Ashley Street.** - **Mr. Gulick** provided the outline of the issues in everyone's Council Meeting Packet. In order to replace the catch basin safely, using Borough workers, the Borough must hire a flagger which will be a cost of \$1,000. **Mrs. Schappert** expressed concern for Borough workers confirming that she believed that a flagger was absolutely necessary for the safety of the Borough workers and to protect their lives. There was a discussion about potentially hiring a third-party company to replace the catch basin, but the amount would exceed the cost of the Borough workers and the flagger. **Mr. Maldonado** agreed to look into the costs differential and report back at the next meeting.
- (4) **Culvert** – **Mr. Maldonado** had conversations with Jim Brozena and they are trying to secure \$70,000 in CDBG funds to address the same.
- (5) **42 Carey Street** – The fence is down, brush, grass needs to be cut. **Mr. Sipple** (Councilman) suggested that the meetings are getting long because of problem property issues. He suggested that all property and grass complaints be submitted to **Andy Kratz** and to not wait 30 days for the next meeting.

(6) **House on Main Street Near Bank Building** – The roof has partially caved in and is structurally unsound. **Mr. Sorokach** verified the building was owned by the Clinton family. **Attorney Vinsko** stated that he would reach out to see what they would like to do with the building and whether they would be interested in turning it over to the Borough.

(7) **Alley Behind Carey Street** – The Borough needs to consider leveling it off.

(8) **Water Problem Behind Bank** – **Mr. Maldonado** requested that the Borough Engineer to investigate the water problem in the alley behind the bank building on Main Street.

**FRANK SOROKACH** – **Mr. Sorokach** had the following issues:

(1) **Dip in Road on Main Street** – There is a dip in the road due to a water company repair across from Asti's and it seems to be getting worse. **Mr. Gulick** stated that he would notify the water company and report back to Council.

(2) **Vegetation Growth on Barnes Street** – It is getting high and needs to be cut. **Mr. Hess** confirmed it was started but the workers ran out of time to complete. It will be cut and completed.

(3) **Homes in the Patch that the Borough Needs to Address through Code Enforcement** – **Mr. Sorokach** is going to present addresses to **Mr. Gibbons** to allow the Borough to review.

(4) **Trucks / Trailers on Lot on Main Street** – This is the same issue from previous meetings regarding Cabs and Trailers parked on a lot on Main Street. The first issue is that they are not permitted to drive on the Ashley roads. The second issue the lot is not zoned for parking, and they cannot park there. **Attorney Vinsko** confirmed that the matter was discussed with **Mr. Kratz** today and that **Mr. Kratz** was working on the zoning issue. **Chief Fedorczyk** confirmed that he cannot take action unless they are actually observed driving on the Ashley roads.

**DONNA SCHAPPERT** – Nothing for this meeting.

**BRIAN CASEY** – Nothing for this meeting.

**DONALD SIPPLE, JR.** – Concerned about property owners living far outside the area and is interested in an ordinance for property management allowing the Borough to require that a property manager be appointed within a certain radius. **Attorney Vinsko** confirmed that he would present a draft ordinance for review at the next meeting for consideration. It would be a Rental Inspection Ordinance.

**JOHN GIBBONS** – **Mr. Gibbons** had the following issues:

(1) **Old Townhall Subdivision** – the matter is completed and any potential sale can proceed.

- (2) **Old Garage/Creek Matter** – He is working on the garage building where the creek is causing the structure to be wasted away.
- (3) **Rails to Trails – Mr. Gibbons** has been in touch with PennDOT on the Rails to Trails issue and the reconstruction of Interstate 81 Bridges are going to allow for a carve-out to have the trails continue.
- (4) **Next Meeting at Municipal Building – Mr. Gibbons** wants the next meeting at the Municipal Building. **Attorney Vinsko** will advertise.

**MAYOR DONALD SIPPLE, SR.** – Mayor **Sipple** raised the following issues:

- (1) **Community Yard Sale** - He is working with the Fire Chief **Wes Saltz** to have a Community Flea Market/Yard Sale at the Fireman’s Grounds where people can purchase a table and sell their items.
- (2) **Donations for K9 Unit** – Mayor **Sipple** has arranged for additional donations for the K9 Unit.

**BOROUGH MANAGER GREG GULICK** – Provided the financial report for the Borough.

**POLICE CHIEF DAVID FEDORCZYK** – Chief **Fedorczyk** provided the Police Report including the amounts that were collected for the Borough. **Chief Fedorczyk** also wanted to publicly thank **Donna Schappert** for obtaining food vouchers for the year for the Borough’s K9.

### COMMITTEE REPORTS

No Committees had any reports or issues to address.

### PUBLIC COMMENT

**CAROL BARRY** – She is the owner of 49 Vine Street and has requested a handicapped parking sign be placed at or near her house. She has had about 10 surgeries and there are many people who are parked on Vine Street who do not live there. She has lived there since 1984 and particularly has trouble in the winter months. **Ms. Schappert** checked the location and was looking at the neighbors (Samcos) to see where their handicapped parking sign was located. **Ms. Barry** has tears on her hips and bicep reattachment. The spot that she is looking to have her handicapped parking sign will not affect the **Brays** and/or the **Samcos**.

**BERNIE GAVLICK** – Concerned about the increase in garbage at the property on 22-24 Ashley Street. Also, he expressed concern about the disrepair on the property located at 27

Timpson Street. **Mr. Sipple** (Councilman) stated that he suggested that **Mr. Kratz** will be prepared to address the inspections.

**RESIDENT** - Raised a concern about the alley behind the bank on Main Street. She stated that her garage is on the alley and it is difficult to back out of the garage safely. **Ms. Schappert** asked **Mr. Hess** if the Borough had “Hidden Driveway” signs, but the Borough does not.

**DON KANE** – Would like the water company to only pave ½ of the Patch streets at a time so cars could pass without having an issue or using an alley. **Mr. Maldonado** confirmed that the water company could not do that logistically.

**MARY GEISER** – Resident – Concerned about 54 Vine Street, which has high grass and weeds which are 4-5 feet high. It is causing mice problems.

**DARRYL METRICK** – Concerned about the alley-way issue which was already addressed by **Mr. Maldonado**. Wanted also to commend the Borough’s new police officer and also **Mr. Hess** for work performed.

**LEGISLATION**

**RESOLUTION NUMBER 37 OF 2018** – A Resolution authorizing the May, 2018 Payroll in the amount of \$38,487.65.

Date: June 12, 2018

Motion: **FRANK SOROKACH**      Second: **GERALD MALDONADO**

Gerald Maldonado –	<b>Y</b>	Brian Casey -	<b>Y</b>	<b>PASS</b>
Donna Schappert -	<b>Y</b>	Donald Sipple, Jr. -	<b>Y</b>	
Frank Sorokach -	<b>Y</b>	John Gibbons -	<b>Y</b>	

---

**RESOLUTION NUMBER 38 OF 2018** – A Resolution authorizing the May, 2018 Bills in the amount of \$79,757.10.

Date: June 12, 2018

Motion: **DONNA SCHAPPERT**      Second: **DONALD SIPPLE, JR.**

Gerald Maldonado –	<b>Y</b>	Brian Casey -	<b>Y</b>	<b>PASS</b>
Donna Schappert -	<b>Y</b>	Donald Sipple, Jr. -	<b>Y</b>	
Frank Sorokach -	<b>Y</b>	John Gibbons -	<b>Y</b>	

**RESOLUTION NUMBER 39 OF 2018** – A Resolution authorizing Ashley Borough to be the host municipality for the Huber Breaker Preservation Society’s request to acquire a steam locomotive (a “lokie”) to be housed at Miners’ Memorial Park.

Date: June 12, 2018

Motion: **GERALD MALDONADO** Second: **FRANK SOROKACH**

Gerald Maldonado –	<b>Y</b>	Brian Casey -	<b>Y</b>	<b>PASS</b>
Donna Schappert -	<b>Y</b>	Donald Sipple, Jr. -	<b>Y</b>	
Frank Sorokach -	<b>Y</b>	John Gibbons -	<b>Y</b>	

---

**RESOLUTION NUMBER 40 OF 2018** – Resolution to approve a curb cut at 68 Carey Street for a driveway.

Date: June 12, 2018

Motion: **GERALD MALDONADO** Second: **DONNA SCHAPPERT**

Gerald Maldonado –	<b>Y</b>	Brian Casey -	<b>Y</b>	<b>PASS</b>
Donna Schappert -	<b>Y</b>	Donald Sipple, Jr. -	<b>Y</b>	
Frank Sorokach -	<b>Y</b>	John Gibbons -	<b>Y</b>	

---

**RESOLUTION NUMBER 41 OF 2018** – Resolution to approve a curb cut at 35 Cook Street for a driveway.

Date: June 12, 2018

Motion: **GERALD MALDONADO** Second: **DONNA SCHAPPERT**

Gerald Maldonado –	<b>Y</b>	Brian Casey -	<b>Y</b>	<b>PASS</b>
Donna Schappert -	<b>Y</b>	Donald Sipple, Jr. -	<b>Y</b>	
Frank Sorokach -	<b>Y</b>	John Gibbons -	<b>Y</b>	

---

**RESOLUTION NUMBER 42 OF 2018** – Resolution to approve a curb cut at 9 Green Street for a driveway.

Date: June 12, 2018

Motion: **GERALD MALDONADO** Second: **DONNA SCHAPPERT**

Gerald Maldonado –	<b>Y</b>	Brian Casey -	<b>Y</b>	<b>PASS</b>
Donna Schappert -	<b>Y</b>	Donald Sipple, Jr. -	<b>Y</b>	
Frank Sorokach -	<b>Y</b>	John Gibbons -	<b>Y</b>	

**RESOLUTION NUMBER 43 OF 2018** – Resolution to approve authorizing the Borough to proceed with a Federal Yellow Book Appraisal on the Centennial Park Property as outlined by DCNR and the Miner Park Property as outlined by DCNR. Price not to exceed \$2,500.00.

Date: June 12, 2018

Motion: **DONNA SCHAPPERT**      Second: **DONALD SIPPLE, JR.**

Gerald Maldonado –	<b>Y</b>	Brian Casey -	<b>Y</b>	<b>PASS</b>
Donna Schappert -	<b>Y</b>	Donald Sipple, Jr. -	<b>Y</b>	
Frank Sorokach -	<b>Y</b>	John Gibbons -	<b>Y</b>	

---

**RESOLUTION NUMBER 44 OF 2018** – REMOVED AND DELETED.

---

**RESOLUTION NUMBER 45 OF 2018** – Resolution to approve tearing down the jungle gym at Centennial park for safety reasons.

Date: June 12, 2018

**TABLED** – for further review.

---

**RESOLUTION NUMBER 46 OF 2018** – Resolution to approve a phase I environmental assessment of Miner park where the new playground will be.

Date: June 12, 2018

Motion: **DONNA SCHAPPERT**      Second: **DONALD SIPPLE, JR.**

Gerald Maldonado –	<b>Abstain</b>	Brian Casey -	<b>Y</b>	<b>PASS</b>
Donna Schappert -	<b>Y</b>	Donald Sipple, Jr. -	<b>Y</b>	
Frank Sorokach -	<b>Y</b>	John Gibbons -	<b>Y</b>	

---

**RESOLUTION NUMBER 47 OF 2018** – Resolution to approve the flagger for grate installation on Main Street for \$1,000.00.

Date: June 12, 2018

**TABLED** – for further review.

---

**RESOLUTION NUMBER 48 OF 2018** – Resolution approving a handicapped parking sign for 49 Vine Street, Ashley.

Date: June 12, 2018

Motion: **DONALD SIPPLE, JR.** Second: **FRANK SOROKACH**

Gerald Maldonado –	<b>Y</b>	Brian Casey -	<b>Y</b>	<b>PASS</b>
Donna Schappert -	<b>Y</b>	Donald Sipple, Jr. -	<b>Y</b>	
Frank Sorokach -	<b>Y</b>	John Gibbons -	<b>Y</b>	

**Mr. Gibbons** announced that an Executive Session on litigation issues would follow the meeting.

Meeting Ended at 8:25 PM.

#####