

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 NOVEMBER 13, 2018

49 West Cemetery Street, Ashley, Pennsylvania

Meeting Start Time: **6:32 PM**

Meeting End Time: **7:23 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 Council President **John Gibbons**. **Attorney Vinsko** called roll call for the Council, Mayor and Borough Officials. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by all.

Mayor **Sipple** announced and presented a Certificate of Appreciation to Kalen Davis, the daughter of Ashley Borough Police Officer, **Scott Davis** for her outstanding work coordinating a fundraiser Outback Steakhouse for Mick, the Ashley Borough K9.

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENTATIONS:

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

- (1) **Sewer Maintenance Fee** – **Mr. Maldonado** asked Mr. Gulick to provide the outstanding delinquencies for the Sewer Maintenance Fee for Ashley Borough.
- (2) **Holes in Rear of Mr. Colotty's Residence** – **Mr. Maldonado** thanked Mr. Hess for having the holes in the rear of Mr. Colotty's residence addressed.

(3) **Hazleton Street / Luzerne County Redevelopment Authority – Mr. Maldonado** requested a status on the Luzerne County Redevelopment Authority’s transfer of a portion of Hazleton Street to the Borough. **Attorney Vinsko** confirmed that the Borough is proceeding, but we need to pass a resolution this evening confirming the zoning change for the Ashley Rail Yards, at which time, the Redevelopment Authority will proceed to complete the transfer. **Mr. Gibbons** confirmed the same.

(4) **31 North Main Street – Mr. Maldonado** confirmed that he was in the property on Saturday and it was not up to code. **Mr. Gibbons** gave Andy **Kratz** mold samples for 31 North Main Street and there appears to be black mold. Additionally, there was water coming in from the room in the back of the building. **Mr. Gibbons** confirmed that **Mr. Kratz** is addressing the matter and **Mr. Gulick** stated that 1 family left is moving out in 2 ½ weeks.

FRANK SOROKACH – Mr. Sorokach had the following issues:

(1) **Conyningham Street – Mr. Sorokach** expressed significant concern that Conyningham Street was recently paved for \$80,000 and the gas company has 4 or 5 new pave cuts. **Mr. Gibbons** confirmed the price was actually \$100,000 for the paving and agreed that this was an issue. **Mr. Maldonado** said he spoke with the gas company representatives and they will pave curb to curb. He was providing the gas company contact information to **Mr. Gulick** so he could follow up.

(2) **Injured Offices – Mr. Sorokach** asked **Attorney Vinsko** to follow up with the current injured officers to see when they plan on returning.

(3) **Stewart Alley Property on Tax Sale – Mr. Sorokach** followed up with the dilapidated property on Stewart’s Alley. **Attorney Vinsko** confirmed that the property was removed from the tax sale. It will likely be on the April, 2019 sale.

(4) **Garbage Bills – Mr. Sorokach** asked **Mr. Gulick** how much was collected in 2018. **Mr. Gulick** stated that only 15 people have not paid and that they will be taken to the magistrate.

(5) **Permit Fees - Mr. Sorokach** followed up and asked how much has been collected in Permit Fees. **Mr. Gulick** announced that the amount collected was in the financial report.

(6) **Acquisition of 29 North Main Street – Mr. Sorokach** asked that the Council table Resolution 91 until it could be discussed at an executive session on potential acquisition.

DONNA SCHAPPERT – Trunk or Treat was a huge success, and she thanked the Borough and its residents.

BRIAN CASEY – Nothing for this meeting.

DONALD SIPPLE, JR. – Congratulated Borough resident and business owner **Steve Biernacki** for his “Outstanding Veteran Award” on Veteran’s Day. There was applause from the attendees.

JOHN GIBBONS – Announced that the DCED Meeting that was supposed to be on November 14, 2018 was moved to December, and they just forwarded that information to us.

Centennial Park RFP was distributed and bids will be opened in December. (Due December 7, 2018)

Miner Park – Soil samples were taken and after help from the state legislators, DEP is reviewing the sample information and they should be responding to **Mr. Gibbons** shortly.

Catch Basins – **Mr. Gibbons** thanked the Wyoming Valley Sanitary Authority for their great work on completing the catch basin work. **Mr. Maldonado** stated that there is ponding in Carey’s Patch, even though they are brand new. They simply are not doing what they were designed to do.

There is a request for use of the United Methodist Church, since the Church is closing, to use the Municipal Building room on Thursdays from 1 PM to 4 PM for their crochet group. That will be considered through a resolution this evening.

Mr. Gibbons confirmed that the street sweeping analysis was completed and they know how much time it will take. They will create a schedule for 2019.

The money for Sulphur Run came in today. **Mr. Gulick** confirmed the funds have to be spent within the next three (3) years. **Mr. Maldonado** asked for volunteers (as he will be volunteering) to clean Sulphur Run, cut branches and brush.

Mr. Gibbons thanked Officer Callahan and to Mick, the K9, who was used to locate an autistic boy who was lost on the night of the Trunk or Treat.

MAYOR DONALD SIPPLE, SR. – Great job on the Trunk or Treat, and applauded **Ms. Schappert** who directed it, and **Mr. Sipple** who also did a lot of work.

BOROUGH MANAGER – **Mr. Gulick** gave the financial report. **Mr. Sipple** noted that the K9 Fund did not include the recent \$2,000 grant from the Luzerne Foundation. **Ms. Schappert** agreed.

Also, new water lines will be installed in the next 2-3 weeks, weather permitting, on Evans Lane, Green Street and Mary Street. Those roads will be completely repaved in the Spring.

POLICE CHIEF DAVID FEDORCZYK – Gave the Police Report, and confirmed that School Crossing Guard applicant, **Charles Middaugh** has is clearances. He will be presented for resolution this evening.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY UPDATE – Member **Steve Biernacki** said that their solicitor, **Joseph Mashinski, Esquire**, resigned and they need a new solicitor.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

There were no committee meetings. **Mr. Sorokach** asked that the Finance Committee and/or all of Council meet on the budget for 2019. **Mr. Gibbons** arranged that Thursday, from 1-3, they can meet with **Mr. Gulick**. **Mr. Sorokach** stated that he wanted to do it in public.

PUBLIC COMMENT

BERNICE GAVLICK – Requested that the Borough put new lighting in the Municipal Building Parking Lot. **Mr. Maldonado** stated that the timers were reset with daylight savings time.

LEGISLATION

RESOLUTION NUMBER 84 OF 2018 – A Resolution authorizing the October, 2018 Payroll in the amount of \$33,757.36.

Date: November 13, 2018

Motion: **DONALD SIPPLE, JR.** Second: **BRIAN CASEY**

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

RESOLUTION NUMBER 85 OF 2018 – A Resolution authorizing the October, 2018 Bills in the amount of \$41,680.13.

Date: November 13, 2018

Motion: **DONNA SCHAPPERT** Second: **BRIAN CASEY**

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

RESOLUTION NUMBER 86 OF 2018 – A Resolution approving the SECOND READING of the 2019 Ashley Borough General Fund Budget in the amount of \$1,128,245.76.

Date: November 13, 2018

Motion: **DONALD SIPPLE** Second: **BRIAN CASEY**

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

RESOLUTION NUMBER 87 OF 2018 – A Resolution authorizing the Borough to apply for a loan in the amount of \$12,252.90 to purchase a police car.

Date: November 13, 2018

Motion: **BRIAN CASEY** Second: **FRANK SOROKACH**

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

RESOLUTION NUMBER 88 OF 2018 – A Resolution authorizing the Borough to apply for a grant in the amount of \$1,192,455.00 for 2019 Infrastructure Projects.

Date: November 13, 2018

Motion: **DONNA SCHAPPERT** Second: **FRANK SOROKACH**

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

RESOLUTION NUMBER 89 OF 2018 – A Resolution approving the Zoning Application of the Luzerne County Redevelopment Authority to rezone the Ashley Rail Yards from r2 to M1 (approved by the Ashley Borough Planning Commission).

Date: November 13, 2018

Motion: **DONALD SIPPLE, JR.** Second: **BRIAN CASEY**

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

RESOLUTION NUMBER 90 OF 2018 – A Resolution approving the sale of the cell tower on top of the former Ashley Borough Municipal Building for a total sales price of \$115,750.00 to Tower Point Capital, together with the terms and conditions outlined on the proposal of October 17, 2018 (99 year purchase term of easement and lease agreement).

Date: November 13, 2018

Motion: **DONNA SCHAPPERT** Second: **FRANK SOROKACH**

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

Mr. Sorokach confirmed that the new buyer will be subject to this Agreement. **Mr. Wes Saltz** asked if the building could be knocked down, and **Mr. Gibbons** confirmed it could not.

RESOLUTION NUMBER 91 OF 2018 – A Resolution authorizing the Luzerne County Tax Claim Bureau, by and through its agent, Northeast Revenue Services, LLC, to sell the real property located at 29 North Main Street, Ashley, under PIN Number 01-I9SE4-009-012-000 to Ashley Borough for the amount of \$1.00 plus the Northeast Revenue Fee of \$100.00 through its Repository Sale.

Date: November 13, 2018

Tabled at the request of Council

RESOLUTION NUMBER 92 OF 2018 – A Resolution appointing Charles Middaugh as crossing guard for Ashley Borough.

Date: November 13, 2018

Motion: **DONALD SIPPLE, JR.** Second: **JOHN GIBBONS**

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

RESOLUTION NUMBER 93 OF 2018 – A Resolution approving permitting the United Methodist Church Ladies to use the Municipal Building Meeting Room once a month for their crochet club.

Date: November 13, 2018

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

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

Meeting Ended at 7:23 PM.

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