

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

OCTOBER 12, 2021

Attendance:

Lisa Wildes- Present

Frank Sorokach- Present

Gerald Maldonado- Present

Brian Casey- Absent

Carl Byra- Present remote

Brian Demchak- Absent

Mayor Donald Sipple Sr- Present

Secretary Lisa Scharer- Present

Police Chief David Fedorczyk- Present

Peter John Moses, Solicitor – Absent

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

COUNCIL PRESENTATIONS

Lisa Wildes-

Ms Wildes opened by calling on Comcast representative Jenn Frees. Ms Frees opened by stating that she had forwarded a service agreement and that Comcast could not proceed without a signed agreement. She stated that they are currently serving Wilkes Barre Twp, Pringle, Courtdale and Larksville. It is their goal to also service Hanover Twp, Ashley and Warrior Run.

Ms Frees also stated that the benefits of serving our community is that they can offer internet service to our qualifying families, low income with school age children for \$9.95 a month. She stated that the service contract offers a 3% service agreement. Mr Byra stated that Service Electric pays the Borough 5%. Ms Frees stated that they can match that.

Ms Wildes asked how long it would take to be up and running. Ms Frees stated that if we sign the agreement as soon as possible, they could be up and running six months to a year.

Ms Frees asked that she be provided a point of contact and that she be kept informed.

Ms Wildes continued by discussing the Trunk or Treat event. She stated that she needs volunteers to help stuff 1200 candy bags.

Ms Wildes also mentioned that the Christmas Parade will take place on December 4th and will follow the Memorial Day Route and ending at the Borough Building for a tree lighting ceremony.

Additionally, Ms Wildes inquired about the creek by Larry Casey's house. Mr Byra stated that the tree removal is the responsibility of the Borough. Don Bly offered to remove the trees for \$1400.00. This cost reflects the fact that he must be in the creek to remove them. Mr Maldonado stated that he will contact Penn Dot to inquire about who is responsible for the removal. Mr Byra stated that he had already called and was informed that it was the Borough's responsibility.

Lastly, Ms Wildes inquired about the salt shed. Mr Hess stated that the blocks were moved and Carlos would be coming to rebuild the rest of the shed.

Frank Sorokach-

Mr Sorokach stated that the November Work Session needed to be moved to November 9th due to election day.

Gerry Maldonado-

Mr Maldonado opened by stating that cameras were sent through the sewer line on Barnes St and they found that water was gushing into the sewer and undermining the retaining wall. Ms Wildes asked if that wall belongs to the state. Mr Maldonado informed her that Carol Keip owns the property. Ms Wildes stated that we need to contact the Redevelopment Authority about this matter and also the rail road bridge. Mr Maldonado suggested we ask the Attorney to send them a letter.

Mr Maldonado also noted there was a complaint about a pile of dirt covered by a tarp on the sidewalk on Hannis St.

Lastly, Mr Maldonado thanked the Street Department for the line painting in Carey's Patch.

Carl Byra- Nothing for this meeting

Brian Demchak- Not present

Brian Casey- Not present

Mayor 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}

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 117 OF 2021- A Resolution to pay the September 2021 Payroll in the amount of \$35,336.27.

Motion- Frank Sorokach

Second- Lisa Wildes

Lisa Wildes- Y

Frank Sorokach- Y

Gerry Maldonado- Y

Carl Byra- y

Brian Demchak-

Brian Casey-

PASS

RESOLUTION 118 OF 2021- A Resolution to pay the September 2021 Bills in the amount of \$24,473.29

Motion- Lisa Wildes

Second- Gerry Maldonado

Lisa Wildes- Y

Frank Sorokach- Y

Gerry Maldonado- Y

Carl Byra- y

Brian Demchak-

Brian Casey-

PASS

RESOLUTION 119 OF 2021- A Resolution to approve the September 14, 2021 Council Meeting Minutes.

Motion- Gerry Maldonado

Second- Frank Sorokach

Lisa Wildes- Y

Frank Sorokach- Y

Gerry Maldonado- Y

Carl Byra- y

Brian Demchak-

Brian Casey-

PASS

RESOLUTION 120 OF 2021- A Resolution to approve the September 28, 2021
Special Council Meeting Minutes.

Motion- Lisa Wildes

Second- Gerry Maldonado

Lisa Wildes- Y

Frank Sorokach- Y

Gerry Maldonado- Y

Carl Byra- y

Brian Demchak-

Brian Casey-

PASS

RESOLUTION 121 OF 2021- A Resolution to approve payment of \$3000.00 for
Ashley Borough to join the Lower South Valley Land Bank.

Motion- Lisa Wildes

Second- Carl Byra

Lisa Wildes- Y
Frank Sorokach- Y
Gerry Maldonado- Y
Carl Byra- y
Brian Demchak-
Brian Casey-

PASS

RESOLUTION 122 OF 2021- A Resolution to appoint Carl Byra as the Ashley Borough Representative on the Land Bank Steering Committee.

Motion- Lisa Wildes

Second- Frank Sorokach

Lisa Wildes- Y
Frank Sorokach- Y
Gerry Maldonado- Y
Carl Byra- Abstain
Brian Demchak-
Brian Casey-

PASS

RESOLUTION 123 OF 2021- A Resolution to enter in a Franchise Agreement with Comcast of Colorado/Pennsylvania/West Virginia.

TABLED

RESOLUTION 124 OF 2021- A Resolution to accept Bob Williams' resignation from the Ashley Borough Zoning Board.

Motion- Lisa Wildes

Second- Frank Sorokach

Lisa Wildes- Y

Frank Sorokach- Y

Gerry Maldonado- Y

Carl Byra- y

Brian Demchak-

Brian Casey-

PASS

RESOLUTION 125 OF 2021- A Resolution to appoint Chrissy Hannon to the Ashley Borough Zoning Board.

Motion- Lisa Wildes

Second- Carl Byra

Lisa Wildes- Y

Frank Sorokach- Y

Gerry Maldonado- Y

Carl Byra- y

Brian Demchak-

Brian Casey-

PASS

RESOLUTION 126 OF 2021- A Resolution to appoint Ken Kaufer as an alternate to the Ashley Borough Zoning Board.

Motion- Lisa Wildes

Second- Carl Byra

Lisa Wildes- Y

Frank Sorokach- Y

Gerry Maldonado- Y

Carl Byra- y

Brian Demchak-

Brian Casey-

PASS

RESOLUTION 127 OF 2021- A Resolution to hire Bob Williams as Ashley Borough Code Enforcement Officer at a rate of \$15.00 per hour.

Motion- Lisa Wildes

Second- Frank Sorokach

Lisa Wildes- Y

Frank Sorokach- Y

Gerry Maldonado- Y

Carl Byra- y

Brian Demchak-

Brian Casey-

PASS

RESOLUTION 128 OF 2021- A Resolution to hire PROCOM Professional Communications to design the Ashley Borough Website for a fee of \$1166.04.

Motion- Lisa Wildes

Second- Carl Byra

Lisa Wildes- Y

Frank Sorokach- Y

Gerry Maldonado- Y

Carl Byra- y

Brian Demchak-

Brian Casey-

PASS

RESOLUTION 129 OF 2021- A Resolution to apply for an LSA Grant in the amount of \$238,909.00 from the Department of Community and Economic Development for the 2021 Ashley Borough Municipal Building Roof Replacement Project.

Motion- Lisa Wildes

Second- Frank Sorokach

Lisa Wildes- Y

Frank Sorokach- Y

Gerry Maldonado- Y

Carl Byra- y

Brian Demchak-

Brian Casey-

PASS

RES/OLUTION 130 OF 2021- A Resolution to Motion the addition of a Resolution to sell 8/10 N Main St

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 131 OF 2021-A Resolution to sell 8/10 N Main St.

Motion- Lisa Wildes

Second- Carl Byra

Lisa Wildes- Y
Frank Sorokach- Y
Gerry Maldonado- Y
Carl Byra- y
Brian Demchak-
Brian Casey-

PASS

PUBLIC COMMENT

Geldine Musial/Lorraine Bilski- Ms Bilski mentioned that 14 Rutz St has new tenants.

She also inquired about Charlies Tire Station. Mr Byra noted that he had been in contact with the owner who stated he is still in business and that the tires there

are all good tires. Mr Maldonado suggested sending a letter ordering them to clean up the property. Mr Byra suggested telling him he needed to have proper storage for the tires. Herb Nahas stated that he will send the appropriate correspondence

Lastly, Ms Bilski asked if the Methadone Clinic is still moving. Mr Maldonado stated that it is moving but there is no time as to when. Jim Barberio stated that they would be moving in January. Jennifer Watkins stated that they will not be moving. She noted that Wilkes-Barre has turned down the application, She also noted that they would be opening a second location in Hazleton but that they would be staying in Ashley. Mr Barberio noted that Wilkes-Barre had approved the clinic in April. Mr Watkins noted that if they chose to stay there is nothing we can do about it, only the owner of the building can.

MEETING ADJOURNED