

ASHLEY BOROUGH

Donald Sipple, Sr., Mayor

Lisa Wildes, Council President
Frank Sorokach, Council Vice President
Gerald Maldonado, Member

Brian Casey, Member
Carl Byra, Member
Brian Demchak, Member

Ashleyapa.net

Roger Heydt, Borough Secretary/Treasurer

Moses & Gelso LLP, Solicitor

ASHLEY BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING MEETING MINUTES OCTOBER 13, 2020 6:30 P.M.

Attendance:

Lisa Wildes – Present
Frank Sorokach – Present
Gerald Maldonado – Present
Brian Casey – Absent
Carl Byra – Present
Brian Demchak – Absent
Mayor Donald Sipple, Sr. – Present
Borough Secretary Roger Heydt - 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 (Mr. Moses) called roll for the Council, Mayor and Borough Officials. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by all.

SOLICITOR MOSES ANNOUNCEMENTS: SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING/EXECUTIVE SESSION HELD CHANGE OF NOVEMBER MEETINGS DATE SALE OF PROPERTY

BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA EAGLE SCOUT CHRISTOPHER DERCO PRESENTATION

Ashley Borough Council met in Executive Session to discuss a personnel matter prior to the September 30, 2020, Special Council Meeting.

The Council Work Session scheduled for November 3, 2020, is cancelled due to the fact that date is the General Election date. That Council Work Session is now scheduled for November 10, 2020 at 6:00 p.m. at the Ashley Borough Municipal Building. That Council Work Session

will take place immediately before the Regular Council Meeting, scheduled for 6:30 p.m. also on November 10, 2020. Information on those meeting will be advertised and posted in accordance with the Sunshine Act.

Ashley Borough intends to sell the property located at 8 – 10 North Main Street, Ashley, Pennsylvania, further identified by Tax Parcel Number 01-I9FE4-016-021-000. A public meeting is required if the Borough intends to sell that lot.

Boy Scouts of America Eagle Scout Candidate Christopher Derco is in the process of becoming an Eagle Scout and will speak on a community service project he has proposed to Ashley Borough Council.

Eagle Scout Candidate Derco, Boy Scout Troop 166, Hanover Township:
Christopher said he has proposed erecting a flag pole outside the Borough Building to commemorate Ashley's Sesquicentennial (150th year).

COUNCIL AND BOROUGH OFFICIALS' PRESENTATIONS

President Lisa Wildes – Reviewed and summarized the upcoming Trunk 'R Treat and noted that volunteers would be appreciated.

Vice President Frank Sorokach – Announced that the Hubler Breaker Society would hold a meeting on Thursday, October 14, at 6:30 p.m. He said that any Council Member is welcome to attend.

Member Gerald Maldonado – Said he would like to get the Finance Committee together for a meeting sometime this week. He also asked that the Personnel Committee meet, if possible, sometime this week.

Member Brian Casey – Absent

Member Carl Byra – Nothing for this meeting

Member Brian Demchak – Absent

Mayor Donald Sipple, Sr. – Nothing for this meeting

Borough Secretary/Treasurer Roger Heydt – Gave the Treasurer's Report. Vendor Expenses for September 2020, were \$87,624.42. Salaries for September 2020, were \$31,387.37. Balances of accounts for September are, Debt Service, \$117,133.02; Capital Improvement Fund, \$1.55; Liquid Fuels (Highway Aid) Fund, \$62,653.83; General Fund, \$660,665.50; Fire Equipment fund, \$93,650.91; Citizens Bank, \$17,565.44.

Mr. Maldonado interjected asking why the Citizens Bank balance was part of the General Fund. He stated that it seemed to him that every month the balance does not change. Mr. Heydt indicated that he did not understand the question, believing that Mr. Maldonado was viewing the bank's reconciliation statement. Mr. Sorokach asked if the questions was rather

why that balance was designated as part of the General Fund. Mrs. Wildes indicated that although the funds, per se, were deposited into Citizens Bank, those funds were allocated to the Borough's General Fund. Mr. Moses restate the question in similar fashion to Mrs. Wilde's explanation. Mr. Heydt said he did not know why the funds in the Citizens Bank were allocated to the Borough's (overall) General Fund. Mr. Heydt opined that there may be some requirement that the Citizens Bank funds be carried as General Fund revenue. He said he would provide an answer for Mr. Maldonado answer as soon as possible.

Mr. Heydt continued with the Treasurer's Report – Stating, the M&T Super Account, \$178,344.94

Mr. Sorokach said that the revenue in the M&T account should be increasing rather than decreasing. He asked Mr. Heydt to look into that. Mr. Heydt said he would do that.

Mr. Heydt summarized the reconciliation of the accounts that had been provided to Council. He then referenced a report on grants submitted by Mr. Jason Fitzgerald, President, PENNSTRATEGIES that had been requested by several Council Members. Mr. Heydt also referenced a list of names of Ashley Borough Sewer Maintenance Fee non-payers obtained by Mr. Moses from Wyoming Valley Sanitary Authority regarding Mr. Maldonado's request for such a list during the Council Work Session last week. Mr. Heydt informed Council that a Hiring/Employment Announcement was posted on the Borough Building as required. Another item reported by Mr. Heydt referred to a "COVID-19 Grant" and several emails received from Mr. Fitzgerald indicating that vendors were providing invoices that could be submitted for review in order to receive those grant funds. Mr. Heydt also reported that he contacted Luzerne Bureau of Elections and informed them that Ashley Borough Municipal Building would be available as a polling place for the General Election on November 3. He then said he was reporting good news -- that the Borough's backhoe had been paid in full.

Chief Fedorczyk – Chief Fedorczyk reported for September that Ashley Police Department logged 102 calls - 42 parking tickets, 37 traffic citations and 3 non-traffic citations. He indicated that a reimbursement check was received from the magistrate for \$1,768.29 He stated that \$75.00 was collected in report requests and \$100.00 in parking violations, totaling \$1943.29. He added that a number of vehicles break-ins were reported, including one vehicle stolen – that police were able to arrest two individuals that were caught breaking into vehicles. He issued a caution saying that everyone is reminded to remove valuables from their vehicle and be she the vehicle is locked.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

NO COMMITTEE REPORTS

PUBLIC COMMENT – PENDING LEGISLATION

NO PUBLIC COMMENT ON PENDING LEGISLATION

LEGISLATION

RESOLUTION 110 OF 2020 – A Resolution to pay the September 2020 Payroll in the amount of \$31,387.37

Motion: **Carl Byra**
Second: **Frank Sorokach**

Lisa Wildes – Y
Frank Sorokach – Y
Gerald Maldonado – Y
Carl Byra – Y
Brian Demchak – Absent
Brian Casey – Absent

PASS

RESOLUTION 111 OF 2020 – A Resolution to pay the September 2020 Bills in the amount of \$ 87,624.42

Motion: **Carl Byra**

Mr. Maldonado questioned the expenditure of \$5,100.00 paid to JDM, parent company of PENNSTRATEGIES. Mr. Heydt explained that \$5000.00 of the bill likely represented two month payment, but he did not know why the \$100.00 was included. **NOTE:** Subsequent to the meeting Mr. Heydt contacted Mr. Fitzgerald of PENNSTRATEGIES and discovered it was a standard filing fee for filing grant applications that was to be reimbursed by the Borough. This information was provided to Mr. Maldonado several days later.

Failed for lack of a Second

RESTATEMENT OF AND AMENDMENT OF RESOLUTION 111 OF 2020 – A Resolution to pay the September 2020 Bills, which in totality are in the amount of \$87,624.42 but payment of \$5100.00 thereof shall be exclude.

Motion: **Lisa Wildes**

Second: **Gerald Maldonado**

Lisa Wildes – Y
Frank Sorokach – Y
Gerald Maldonado – Y
Carl Byra – Y
Brian Demchak – Absent
Brian Casey – Absent

PASS

RESOLUTION 112 OF 2020 – A Resolution to approve the July 29, 2020 Special Council Meeting Minutes.

Motion: **Lisa Wildes**
Second: **Carl Byra**

Lisa Wildes – Y
Frank Sorokach – Y
Gerald Maldonado – Y
Carl Byra – Y
Brian Demchak – Absent
Brian Casey – Absent

PASS

RESOLUTION 113 OF 2020 – A Resolution to approve the September 2020 Council Meeting Minutes.

Motion: **Frank Sorokach**
Second: **Gerald Maldonado**

Lisa Wildes – Y
Frank Sorokach – Y
Gerald Maldonado – Y
Carl Byra – Y
Brian Demchak – Absent
Brian Casey – Absent

PASS

RESOLUTION 114 OF 2020 – A Resolution to approve the September 30, 2020 Special Council Meeting.

Motion: **Lisa Wildes**
Second: **Carl Byra**

Lisa Wildes – Y
Frank Sorokach – Y
Gerald Maldonado – Y
Carl Byra – Y
Brian Demchak – Absent
Brian Casey – Absent

PASS

RESOLUTION 115 OF 2020 – A Resolution requiring the Ashley Borough Economic Development Authority to submit copies of all of their Annual Financial Reports to Ashley Borough Council no later than October 23, 2020.

Motion: **Frank Sorokach**
Second: **Lisa Wildes**

Lisa Wildes – Y
Frank Sorokach – Y
Gerald Maldonado – Y
Carl Byra – Y
Brian Demchak – Absent
Brian Casey – Absent

PASS

RESOLUTION 116 OF 2020 – A Resolution to require Ashley Borough Economic Development Authority to submit copies of all of their Annual Audits to Ashley Borough Council no later than October 23, 2020.

Motion: **Frank Sorokach**
Second: **Lisa Wildes**

Lisa Wildes – Y
Frank Sorokach – Y
Gerald Maldonado – Y
Carl Byra – Y
Brian Demchak – Absent
Brian Casey – Absent

PASS

RESOLUTION 117 OF 2020 – A Resolution requiring Ashley Borough Economic Development Authority to submit copies of all proofs that their Financial Statements were published in a newspaper of general circulation to Ashley Borough Council no later than October 23, 2020.

Motion: **Frank Sorokach**
Second: **Gerald Maldonado**

Lisa Wildes – Y
Frank Sorokach – Y
Gerald Maldonado – Y
Carl Byra – Y
Brian Demchak – Absent
Brian Casey – Absent

PASS

RESOLUTION 118 OF 2020 – A Resolution prohibiting the Ashley Borough Economic Development Authority from taking any action or expending any funds until copies of their Financial Statements, Audits, and proofs of advertising for concise Financial Statements are submitted to Ashley Borough Council.

Motion: **Frank Sorokach**
Second: **Gerald Maldonado**

Lisa Wildes – Y
Frank Sorokach – Y
Gerald Maldonado – Y
Carl Byra – Y
Brian Demchak – Absent
Brian Casey – Absent

PASS

RESOLUTION 119 OF 2020 – A Resolution to approve the Luzerne County Hazzard Mitigation Plan.

Motion: **Carl Byra**
Second: **Lisa Wildes**

Lisa Wildes – Y
Frank Sorokach – Y

Gerald Maldonado – Y
Carl Byra – Y
Brian Demchak – Absent
Brian Casey – Absent

PASS

RESOLUTION 120 OF 2020 – A Resolution authorizing Ashley Borough Council to execute the PennDot Winter Traffic Safety Agreement.

Motion: **Carl Byra**
Second: **Lisa Wildes**

Lisa Wildes – Y
Frank Sorokach – Y
Gerald Maldonado – Y
Carl Byra – Y
Brian Demchak – Absent
Brian Casey – Absent

PASS

RESOLUTION 121 OF 2020 – A Resolution to hire Randal Yost as an Ashley Borough Police Officer, in training at a rate of \$10.00 per hour until completion of the Act 120 Municipal Police Officers' Training Program and any other certifications, at which time his rate will increase to \$16.50 per hours.

Motion: **Lisa Wildes**
Second: **Frank Sorokach**

Lisa Wildes – Y
Frank Sorokach – Y
Gerald Maldonado – Y
Carl Byra – Y
Brian Demchak – Absent
Brian Casey – Absent

PASS

RESOLUTION 122 OF 2020 – A Resolution to hire Brian Kalish as a full-time Ashley Borough Police Officer at a rate of \$18.00 per hour.

Motion: **Carl Byra**

Second: **Lisa Wildes**

Lisa Wildes – Y
Frank Sorokach – Y
Gerald Maldonado – Y
Carl Byra – Y
Brian Demchak – Absent
Brian Casey – Absent

PASS

Mayor Sipple administered the oath of office to Officers Kalish and Yost. (Applause)

RESOLUTION 123 OF 2020 – A Resolution to engage FiberTel Inc., in the amount of \$1,443.00 for the installation of camera systems in the Borough Building, pending approval of COVID-19 Grant Relief Funds from Luzerne County.

Motion: **Lisa Wildes**
Second: **Gerald Maldonado**

Lisa Wildes – Y
Frank Sorokach – Y
Gerald Maldonado – Y
Carl Byra – Y
Brian Demchak – Absent
Brian Casey – Absent

PASS

TABLED

NOTHING TABLED

PUBLIC COMMENT – GENERAL MATTERS

NO PUBLIC COMMENT

Motion to Adjourn:

Motion: **Lisa Wildes**
Second: **Carl Byra**

Lisa Wildes – Y
Frank Sorokach – Y
Gerald Maldonado – Y
Carl Byra – Y
Brian Demchak – Absent
Brian Casey – Absent

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