

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 OCTOBER 9, 2018

49 West Cemetery Street, Ashley, Pennsylvania

Meeting Start Time: **6:30 PM**

Meeting End Time: **7:40 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.

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENTATIONS:

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

- (1) **Trucks on Main Street** – **Mr. Maldonado** asked about the status of the truck citations on Main Street in Ashley. Mr. Kratz was going to cite the owners on a daily basis. **Attorney Vinsko** confirmed that the owners were to be cited, and he was aware of notice being sent to the owner in Mountain Top. **Mr. Gibbons** said that they are citing them and the tire place. Also, **Mr. Gulick** said that they are citing the Family Dollar as well.

(2) **Pot Holes on Main Street** – **Mr. Maldonado** confirmed that the pot holes were addressed.

(3) **COG Issues – Paving and Milling** – **Mr. Maldonado** followed up with his concern on the paving for the Borough. He spoke with Sam Guesto of Hanover Township, and while the COG is paving in Ashley, he would like Barnes Street and Culvert Street paved. **Mr. Gulick** stated that \$35,000 was allocated, and that amount has to cover the local share for three roads – Davis, Wyoming and Rose Lane – which includes the manpower, asphalt and the milling equipment. Additionally, the Borough is paving the pad at the Borough building for the salt before winter. **Mr. Maldonado** questioned whether the paving the pad was more important than paving the streets. He also asked for the exact figures for the respective roads and the pad. **Mr. Sorokach** said that the concern is the streets in the Borough, and pointed out that Rose Lane is small. **Mr. Gulick** advised that the Borough still has a grant application pending for paving roads in the Borough. **Mr. Hess** said that it is between \$4 and \$8 per square foot for milling. Barnes and Culvert are about 1900 sf of paving or so. **Mr. Hess** estimated that it would be a tri-axel of blacktop, and they could use Hanover Township’s smaller milling machine. **Mr. Maldonado** asked Mr. Gulick if he told the COG that there were no streets to pave. **Mr. Gulick** confirmed that on July 1, 2018 he submitted a list of streets but they moved the grant awards from July to November, 2018. **Mr. Gibbons** confirmed again that the Borough committed \$35,000, and **Mr. Hess** said that of that amount approximately \$28,000 has been committed for all paving, manpower and equipment. **Mr. Gibbons** advised that the Borough was still underbudget. **Mr. Maldonado** said he would like to have the budget set so the Borough could pave at least one road per year. **Mr. Gibbons** stated that there is \$35,000 in the 2019 Budget and they will work with the COG to pave every year.

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

(1) **Home on Stewart’s Alley** – **Mr. Sorokach** wanted to check the status of this property to see if it was on tax sale. **Mr. Maldonado** said that there is \$4,000 still in blighted property money that the Borough still has to spend, and asked if we could speed up the process. **Mr. Gibbons** stated that the property next to the bank is on the tax sale and there is a joint wall. We would be into the property for over \$110,000 if we purchased it. That would all be General Fund money.

(2) **Cellar Dwellars** – **Mr. Sorokach** asked if the Borough could send a letter to the District Attorney to check the status on this matter. **Chief Fedorczyk** said that there has been nothing on this for a while.

(3) **Grant Copies** – **Mr. Sorokach** asked that Mr. Gulick to provide copies of all grants applied for to the Borough Council Members.

DONNA SCHAPPERT – Trunk or Treat will be held 5-8 on October 31, 2018. Prizes for the best decorated cars.

BRIAN CASEY – **Mr. Casey** stated that if there is extra money for road paving, he would like to see it used for Stewarts Alley. **Mr. Gibbons** stated that the Sulphur Run project will cover that alley. He further stated that **Mr. Maldonado, Mr. Sorokach** and **Jason Fitzgerald** are calling people to speed things up. We need a current map, and DEP said it cannot be done for about 8 months. We have a \$300k grant and a \$400k grant. It took us 28 years to get this far. **Attorney Vinsko** discussed the easement issues with Sulphur Run.

Mr. Casey asked for a copy of the Wilkes-Barre City Towing Contract for consideration in Ashley Borough.

DONALD SIPPLE, JR. – Nothing for this meeting.

JOHN GIBBONS – Thanked the Wyoming Valley Sanitary Authority for their catch basin work. They did a great job.

Mr. Gibbons called upon **Jason Fitzgerald** to provide a grant funding update. There are two currently-pending grants: (1) the multimodal grant from the state and (2) the Main Street Grant. There is \$3 million available and the Borough is optimistic. Grants do not include legal fees. The façade grant is all for the Main Street for this particular round. After Main Street, it will be the Elm Street which is the side streets. **Mr. Sorokach** confirmed there is \$100,000 total for the façade grant. **Mr. Fitzgerald** said that there is a RACP Grant for the former borough building site. Also there is a Redevelopment Capital Assistance Grant for the Huber Breaker Site. There is also the Business in our Sites Program which is a 60% Loan and 40% grant. The goal would be to get a private developer to cover the loan. The grant would go to cover the infrastructure. Finally, there is an RFP out on the former park site. The Borough will open bids on November 9, 2018.

MAYOR DONALD SIPPLE, SR. – He clarified the independent evaluation of the police department. He clarified that the Borough just wants to improve things. Chief Fedorczyk is a good chief and will continue to be our chief. **Mr. Gibbons** added that the Borough is looking for grants for the police department and the street department.

BOROUGH MANAGER – **Mr. Gulick** gave the financial report. On October 18-23 there will be street cleaning, but he is not sure where. When the Borough mills and paves Davis, Wyoming, and Rose Lane everyone will have to move their cars. It will likely take two (2) days, depending on weather.

POLICE CHIEF DAVID FEDORCZYK – Gave the Police Report, and confirmed that the Borough now has the new unmarked Police Car.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY UPDATE – There was no meeting to report.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Mr. Sipple stated that the Police Committee recommended Autumn Atkinson as the part time police officer.

PUBLIC COMMENT

DARRYL METRIC – Concerned about 29 Main Street, the old post office. She asked about Eminent Domain. **Attorney Vinsko** discussed issues with eminent domain.

RESIDENT OF 31 MAIN STREET – She is a tenant in the building next to the post office and she raised a concern about not knowing what was happening. **Mr. Gibbons** confirmed that we are addressing every meeting. **Mr. Hess** put caution tape out. She stated that water is coming in and running down the steps and it is a safety issue. **Mr. Sipple** and **Mr. Gibbons** confirmed that it has to be reinspected.

JOHN HALLIDAY – Mr. Wildes announced that the Borough was about to violate certain sections of the Civil Service law. He also provided documents to Council on the Civil Service law.

LEGISLATION

RESOLUTION NUMBER 75 OF 2018 – A Resolution authorizing the September, 2018 Payroll in the amount of \$33,904.78.

Date: October 9, 2018

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

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

RESOLUTION NUMBER 76 OF 2018 – A Resolution authorizing the September, 2018 Bills in the amount of \$30,365.92.

Date: October 9, 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 77 OF 2018 – A Resolution to approve Submission of a MultiModal Transportation Fund Grant in an amount not to exceed \$3,000,000.00 from the Commonwealth Financing Agency to be used for the Borough of Ashley’s Main Street Repair Project. The President of Ashley Borough Council is authorizing to sign all documents.

Date: October 9, 2018

Motion: **BRIAN CASEY** 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 78 OF 2018 – A Resolution approving all pending Meeting Minutes for the Council Meetings and Work Sessions.

Date: October 9, 2018

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

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

RESOLUTION NUMBER 79 OF 2018 – A Resolution approving the hiring of Autumn Atkinson as part-time police officer in Ashley Borough.

Date: October 9, 2018

Motion: **BRIAN CASEY** 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 80 OF 2018 – A Resolution authorizing the hiring of Britany Edwards as a school crossing guard in Ashley Borough.

Date: October 9, 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 81 OF 2018 – A Resolution approving the FIRST READING of the 2019 Ashley Borough General Fund Budget in the amount of \$1,128,245.76.

Date: October 9, 2018

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

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

RESOLUTION NUMBER 82 OF 2018 – A Resolution authorizing the partial paving and milling of Barnes and Culvert Streets in the Borough.

Date: October 9, 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 83 OF 2018 – A Resolution authorizing the sale of the cell tower on top of the former municipal building for \$250,000.

Date: October 9, 2018

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

Gerald Maldonado –	Y	Brian Casey -	Y	PASS
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Donna Schappert - **Y**
Frank Sorokach - **Y**

Donald Sipple, Jr. - **Y**
John Gibbons - **Y**

Meeting Ended at 7:40 PM.

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