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

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Roger Heydt, Borough Sec./Treas. Moses & Gelso LLP, Solicitor

ASHLEY BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING

 SUMMARY MEETING MINUTES

JANUARY 12, 2021

Attendance:

Lisa Wildes – Present

Frank Sorokach – Present

Gerald Maldonado – Present

Brian Casey – Absent

Carl Byra – Present

Brian Demchak – Present

Mayor Donald Sipple, Sr. – Present

Secretary/Treasurer 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 called roll for the Council, Mayor and Borough Officials. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by all.

COUNCIL AND BOROUGH OFFICIAL PRESENTATIONS

Lisa Wildes – Nothing for this meeting.

Frank Sorokach – Mr. Sorokach called upon B. Hess to determine if the ambulance building had been cleared of all equipment. Mr. Hess indicated it was his understanding that about 90% of the equipment was still in the building. Mr. Sorokach responded that it may be possible to sell some of that equipment, but in any event the building needs to be cleared out in anticipation of sale.

Gerald Maldonado – Nothing for this meeting.

Brian Casey – Not Present.

Carl Byra – Nothing for this Meeting.

Brian Demchak – Nothing for this Meeting.

Mayor Donald Sipple, Sr. – Nothing for this Meeting.

Secretary/Treasurer Hedyt – Mr. Heydt read the Treasurer’s Report (a copy of which is attached hereto and made a part hereof). Mr. Maldonado asked Mr. Heydt why the payroll register contained social security numbers. Mr. Hedyt indicated he did not know. Mr. Maldonado reminded him that they discussed this issue.

Attorney Moses inquired about the Citizen’s Bank Acct. containing approximately $18,000.00. He asked Chief Fedorczyk what this money was from and Chief Fedorczyk indicated it may be from probation but he was not sure. Attorney Moses stated that if that money can be moved from that account to the general fund it should be, otherwise the general fund estimate is inaccurate.

Attorney Moses also inquired about the ESSA account. Mr. Heydt responded that the account has approximately $39,000.00 which serves as collateral for a loan to the Borough.

Mr. Sorokach commented that the Sewer Account figures reflect that the correspondences sent by Attorney Moses informing residents of the need to pay their delinquent accounts have been effective.

Chief Fedorczyk – Chief Fedorczyk read the Police Chief’s Report (a copy of which is attached hereto and made a part hereof). Additionally, the Chief informed Council that a crossing guard had recently passed away. As such, he requested Council advertise to hire an additional crossing guard. Council inquired as to the area in which he worked, and the Chief stated he worked at the intersection of Main St. and Cook St.

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COMMITTEE REPORTS

There were no Committee Reports for this meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENT – PENDING LEGISLATION

Clyde Harvey – Mr. Harvey asked Council to address the Ashley Borough Website. He indicated it is lacking minutes and other information. Atty. Moses asked who that comment is addressed to, adding that maintenance of the site is no longer his responsibility. Mr. Harvey responded that he is asking generally to Council and Borough Officials.

LEGISLATION

**RESOLUTION 1 OF 2021** – A Resolution to pay the December 2020 Payroll in the amount of $44,555.29

Motion: Frank Sorokach

Second: Lisa Wildes

Lisa Wildes – Y

Frank Sorokach – Y

Gerry Maldonado – Y

Carl Byra – Y

Brian Demchak – Y

Brian Casey –

PASS

**RESOLUTION 2 OF 2021** – A Resolution to pay the December 2020 Bills in the amount of $ 103,856.63.

Motion: Lisa Wildes

Second: Carl Byra

Lisa Wildes – Y

Frank Sorokach – Y

Gerry Maldonado – Y

Carl Byra – Y

Brian Demchak – Y

Brian Casey –

PASS

**RESOLUTION 3 OF 2021** – A Resolution to postpone approval of the December 2020 Ashley Borough Council Meetings Minutes to the date certain, February 9, 2021, which is the date scheduled for the Regular Council Meeting of Ashley Borough Council.

TABLED

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**RESOLUTION 4 OF 2021** – A Resolution to retain all Borough Council Officers, who shall hold their Council Officer appointments, at the pleasure of the council, until Council may determine otherwise, or until the next scheduled Reorganization Meeting scheduled for the First Monday in January, 2022, whichever comes first.

Motion: Lisa Wildes

Second: Brian Demchak

Lisa Wildes – Y

Frank Sorokach – Y

Gerry Maldonado – Y

Carl Byra – Y

Brian Demchak – Y

Brian Casey –

PASS

**RESOLUTION 5 OF 2021** – A Resolution to continue the Ashley Borough 2021 Real Estate Tax rate, without increase, at 4.85 Mills.

Motion: Frank Sorokach

Second: Lisa Wildes

Lisa Wildes – Y

Frank Sorokach – Y

Gerry Maldonado – Y

Carl Byra – Y

Brian Demchak – Y

Brian Casey –

PASS

**RESOLUTION 6 OF 2021** – A Resolution to retain current School Crossing Guards at their present status until such time as State Guidelines for the COVID-19 Pandemic might change and require a different status be implemented, or until Council at its discretion may determine otherwise.

Motion: Frank Sorokach

Second: Brian Demchak

Lisa Wildes – Y

Frank Sorokach – Y

Gerry Maldonado – Y

Carl Byra – Y

Brian Demchak – Y

Brian Casey –

PASS

**RESOLUTION 7 OF 2021** – A Resolution to retain in their current positions and at their current levels of compensation Ashley Borough employees and other personnel previously appointed by Ashley Borough Council, until such time as Borough Council, at its discretion, may determine otherwise, or change if mandated by higher authority.

Motion: Brian Demchak

Second: Frank Sorokach

Lisa Wildes – Y

Frank Sorokach – Y

Gerry Maldonado – Y

Carl Byra – Y

Brian Demchak – Y

Brian Casey –

PASS

**RESOLUTION 8 OF 2021** – A Resolution to accept the resignation of Roger Heydt as Ashley Borough Secretary/Treasurer and Open Records Officer, effective January 15.2020

Motion: Lisa Wildes

Second: Frank Sorokach

Lisa Wildes – Y

Frank Sorokach – Y

Gerry Maldonado – Y

Carl Byra – Y

Brian Demchak – Y

Brian Casey –

PASS

**RESOLUTION 9 OF 2021** – A Resolution authorizing the Borough Solicitor to advertise to fill the position of Borough Manager.

Motion: Lisa Wildes

Second: Brian Demchak

Lisa Wildes – Y

Frank Sorokach – Y

Gerry Maldonado – Y

Carl Byra – Y

Brian Demchak – Y

Brian Casey –

PASS

**RESOLUTION 10 OF 2021** – A Resolution authorizing the lines and curbs

painted for parking enforcement in accordance with Ordinance No. 6 of 2020.

Motion: Frank Sorokach

Second: Gerry Maldonado

Lisa Wildes – Y

Frank Sorokach – Y

Gerry Maldonado – Y

Carl Byra – Y

Brian Demchak – Y

Brian Casey –

PASS

**RESOLUTION 11 OF 2021** – A Resolution to appoint Lisa Scharer as Open Records Officer.

Motion: Gerry Maldonado

Second: Lisa Wildes

Lisa Wildes – Y

Frank Sorokach – Y

Gerry Maldonado – Y

Carl Byra – Y

Brian Demchak – Y

Brian Casey –

PASS

**RESOLUTION 12 OF 2021** – A Resolution authorizing the Borough Solicitor to prepare an Ordinance prohibiting drugs and drug paraphernalia.

Motion: Lisa Wildes

Second: Frank Sorokach

Lisa Wildes – Y

Frank Sorokach – Y

Gerry Maldonado – Y

Carl Byra – Y

Brian Demchak – Y

Brian Casey –

PASS

**RESOLUTION 13 OF 2021** – A Resolution authorizing the Borough Solicitor to give thirty (30) days-notice to Penn Strategies and Jason Fitzgerald that Ashley Borough’s intent to terminate their services in accordance with their agreement.

Motion: Lisa Wildes

Second: Frank Sorokach

Lisa Wildes – Y

Frank Sorokach – Y

Gerry Maldonado – Y

Carl Byra – Y

Brian Demchak – Y

Brian Casey –

PASS

PUBLIC COMMENT

Jennifer Heller- Ms. Heller asked Council to comment on what is being done to address vehicle speeding in the Borough. She commented that all side streets in the Borough have speed limits of 25 MPH with the exception of Barnes, and that she would like a reduction in the 25 MPH speed limit. She also indicated she would like “Watch Children” or “Children-At-Play” signs erected to increase safety and discourage speeding.

Chief Fedorczyk commented that the Borough is limited to enacting/enforcing speed limits on Borough-owned streets and cannot change limits on state-owned roads.

Attorney Moses added that we considered adopting one ordinance regulating speed limits on all Borough-owned streets and it was deemed unworkable.

Council also discussed the possibility of renting/purchasing a solar-powered speed monitor to erect in areas of concern.

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MEETING ADJOURNED