ASHLEY BOROUGH

Donald Sipple, Sr., Mayor

Lisa Wildes, Council Chair Brian Casey  
Frank Sorokach, Council Vice Chair Carl Byra

Gerald Maldonado Brian Demchak

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Greg Gulick, Borough Manager Moses & Gelso LLP, Solicitor

ASHLEY BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING

SUMMARY MEETING MINUTES

MARCH 10, 2020

Attendance:

Lisa Wildes – Present

Frank Sorokach – Present

Gerald Maldonado – Present

Brian Casey – Present

Carl Byra – Present

Brian Demchak – Present

Mayor Donald Sipple, Sr. – Present

Borough Manager Greg Gulick - 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 – Nothing for this Meeting

Gerald Maldonado – Mr. Maldonado asked for an update regarding the $2,000.00 legal bill paid to Atty. Vinsko for the month of January 2020. Mr. Gulick indicated that he sent a letter to Atty. Vinsko regarding this matter but received no response. Mr. Sorokach commented that Mr. Gulick usually pays bills at month’s end and therefore paying Atty. Vinsko at the beginning of the month was highly irregular. Atty. Moses added that Atty. Vinsko’s invoice indicated something was filed on behalf of Ashley Borough, but it is impossible to file something prior to that invoice because Courts were closed on January 1, 2020.

Mr. Maldonado inquired into recent Council action concerning garbage stickers. Mr. Maldonado stated that Mr. Gulick gave the impression that legislation was passed very recently, when, in fact, the last legislation on this matter was passed in 2004. Mr. Gulick then clarified that legislation in connection with garbage stickers was discussed by Council in 2018 but a resolution was never passed.

Mr. Maldonado discussed the ambulance building and asked whether it will be cleaned out in the near future. Mr. Sorokach informed him that there is a resolution addressing the matter on tonight’s agenda.

Mr. Maldonado asked for an emergency resolution to be added to tonight’s agenda to repair the channel on Stewart’s Alley.

Brian Casey – Mr. Casey thanked the Borough for the fruit basket which was sent to him and his wife.

Carl Byra – Nothing for this Meeting

Brian Demchak – Nothing for this Meeting

Mayor Donald Sipple, Sr. – Nothing for this Meeting

Borough Manager Greg Gulick – Mr. Gulick read the Treasurer’s Report. (See Attached)

Chief Fedorczyk – Chief Fedorczyk indicated there were 84 calls for police assistance this month not including those related to traffic and parking. Regarding total calls, he indicated Ashley Borough is 144 calls ahead of where it was at this point last year, which is significant.

Chief Fedorcyzk stated that Ms. Dorothy Joyce applied for a handicap parking spot last month due to complaints stemming from her vehicle blocking a mail box. He asked if this issue may be addressed at tonight’s meeting.

Chief Fedorczyk indicated, after speaking with the Fire Marshal, that the Cellar Dwellars Fire Case is scheduled to go to trial in a month’s time and the public is welcome to attend.

Mr. Maldonado asked Chief Fedorczyk if he could address uncovered and dismantled vehicles currently sitting idle on Davis St. Chief Fedorczk indicated he had the owners relocate those vehicles from the street to the driveway at an earlier date. Additionally, now that the vehicles are off the roadway it is likely a code enforcement issue.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

PROPERTY COMMITTEE – Mr. Sorokach reported that a realtor took Mr. Byra around the Borough Building to have it assessed, and that he would like to pass a resolution to list the property tonight. Atty. Moses responded that, after researching the Borough Code, there are a number of steps which must be taken prior to listing the property for sale.

PUBLIC COMMENT – PENDING LEGISLATION

Clyde Harvey – Mr. Harvey posed several questions to council about Mr. Gulick’s employment contract. They are as follows:

1. Does Greg have a valid employment contract with this borough?

2. If so, did current council approve his contract by resolution since he serves at the pleasure of council?

3. Why was this contract I have dated September 10, 2019 done on this date?

Mr. Harvey cited Borough Code 1141, which states the borough manager serves at the pleasure of council. He also cited Borough Code 1142, which states an employment agreement with a borough manager executed on or after a municipal election but prior to the first meeting in January of the following year shall be void.

Atty. Moses addressed these issues by informing Mr. Harvey that counsel may indeed enter into a contract with the borough manager, but he is unaware of any time in which Mr. Gulick’s employment contract was ever considered by council.

Ron Wickiser – Mr. Wickiser asked Mr. Byra if council needed to take bids for the purchase of a sliding board. Mr. Byra indicated that, since the Borough was purchasing parts for a sliding board previously purchased from that same company, it would not be necessary.

Mr. Wickiser stated that he feels Penn Strategies is not providing an adequate return in grants considering how much the borough is paying them.

Mr. Wickiser stated that, similarly, hiring a zoning and code official pursuant to the terms outlined in tonight’s agenda is not a worthwhile expenditure. Ms. Wildes stated she believes if the borough finds the right zoning and code officials, who are willing to seek out violations, the borough will profit from it. Mr. Wickiser also stated that the absence of zoning officials has resulted in garbage being put out on streets far in advance of pick-up day, and maybe zoning and code officials can address the issue.

Mr. Fitzgerald (Penn Strategies) – Mr. Fitzgerald addressed Mr. Wickiser’s comments regarding Penn Strategies. He stated he cannot take a percentage of grants due to his status as a registered lobbyist. Additionally, he stated he would be happy to meet with Mr. Wickiser to discuss what Penn Strategies has accomplished for the borough. Finally, he indicated that towns the size of Ashley Borough or larger, such as Williamsport, are being charged much higher rates. Ashley Borough has been locked in at a lower rate.

Don Kane – Mr. Kane provided council with a list of properties in Carey’s Patch which are currently being occupied without inspections or occupancy permits.

LEGISLATION

**RESOLUTION 26 OF 2020** – A Resolution approving the February 11, 2020 Council Meeting Minutes.

Motion: Gerry Maldonado

Second: Brian Demchak

Lisa Wildes – Y

Frank Sorokach – Y

Gerry Maldonado – Y

Carl Byra – Y

Brian Demchak – Y

Brian Casey – Y

PASS

**RESOLUTION 27 OF 2020** – A Resolution to pay the February 2020 Bills in the amount of $28,859.89.

Motion: Frank Sorokach

Second: Lisa Wildes

Lisa Wildes – Y

Frank Sorokach – Y

Gerry Maldonado – Y

Carl Byra – Y

Brian Demchak – Y

Brian Casey – Y

PASS

**RESOLUTION 28 OF 2020** – A Resolution to pay the February 2020 Payroll in the amount of $35,428.11.

Motion: Carl Byra

Second: Brian Demchak

Lisa Wildes – N

Frank Sorokach – Y

Gerry Maldonado – Y

Carl Byra – Y

Brian Demchak – Y

Brian Casey – Y

PASS

**RESOLUTION 29 OF 2020** – A Resolution accepting PWP’s withdrawal via correspondence from the Borough Building Project located at 8 N. Main St., Ashley, Pennsylvania.

Motion: Frank Sorokach

Second: Gerald Maldonado

Lisa Wildes – Y

Frank Sorokach – Y

Gerry Maldonado – Y

Carl Byra – Y

Brian Demchak – Y

Brian Casey – Y

PASS

**RESOLUTION 30 OF 2020** – A Resolution rescind Resolution #92 of 2019.

Motion: Brian Demchak

Second: Gerald Maldonado

Lisa Wildes – Y

Frank Sorokach – Y

Gerry Maldonado – Y

Carl Byra – Y

Brian Demchak – Y

Brian Casey – Y

PASS

**RESOLUTION 31 OF 2020** – A Resolution to amend Resolution #25 of 2020 to authorize the Borough Manager to apply for a Grant to install LED lighting in 184 street lights.

Motion: Brian Demchak

Second: Frank Sorokach

Lisa Wildes – Y

Frank Sorokach – Y

Gerry Maldonado – Y

Carl Byra – Y

Brian Demchak – Y

Brian Casey – Y

PASS

**RESOLUTION 32 OF 2020** – A Resolution authorizing Borough Council to execute a Street Light Services Agreement with PPL Electric Utilities.

Motion: Frank Sorokach

Second: Gerald Maldonado

Lisa Wildes – Y

Frank Sorokach – Y

Gerry Maldonado – Y

Carl Byra – Y

Brian Demchak – Y

Brian Casey – Y

PASS

**RESOLUTION 33 OF 2020** – A Resolution authorizing the Borough Solicitor to draft a Garbage and Refuse Ordinance.

TABLED

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**RESOLUTION 34 OF 2020** – A Resolution authorizing Borough Council to purchase a sliding board from Lyons Recreation for $844.11 for Conyngham St. Park.

Motion: Carl Byra

Second: Frank Sorokach

Lisa Wildes – Y

Frank Sorokach – Y

Gerry Maldonado – Y

Carl Byra – Y

Brian Demchak – Y

Brian Casey – Y

PASS

**RESOLUTION 35 OF 2020** – A Resolution to hire Carl Alber as a part-time Zoning and Code Official for 32 hours per week at a rate of $23.00 per hour.

Motion: Carl Byra

Second: Lisa Wildes

Lisa Wildes – Y

Frank Sorokach – N

Gerry Maldonado – N

Carl Byra – Y

Brian Demchak – Y

Brian Casey – Y

PASS

**RESOLUTION 36 OF 2020** – A Resolution authorizing the Council Chairman to have any and all passwords necessary for access to Borough Computer Systems.

Motion: Frank Sorokach

Second: Gerry Maldonado

Lisa Wildes – Y

Frank Sorokach – Y

Gerry Maldonado – Y

Carl Byra – Y

Brian Demchak – Y

Brian Casey – Y

PASS

**RESOLUTION 37 OF 2020** – A Resolution directing the Ambulance Association to remove all ambulances and ambulance equipment from its current location within 30 days from March 10, 2020.

Motion: Gerry Maldonado

Second: Frank Sorokach

Lisa Wildes – Y

Frank Sorokach – Y

Gerry Maldonado – Y

Carl Byra – Y

Brian Demchak – Y

Brian Casey – Y

PASS

**RESOLUTION 38 OF 2020** – A Resolution to approve the employment contract of Borough Manager Greg Gulick dated September 10, 2019.

Motion: Brian Casey

Second: --------------

FAIL

**RESOLUTION 39 OF 2020** – A Resolution authorizing the Personnel Committee to create a job description and advertise or a part-time Borough Secretary/Treasurer.

Motion: Gerald Maldonado

Second: Frank Sorokach

Lisa Wildes – Y

Frank Sorokach – Y

Gerry Maldonado – Y

Carl Byra – N

Brian Demchak – Y

Brian Casey – N

PASS

**RESOLUTION 40 OF 2020** – A Resolution to appoint Mary Kay Gavlick to the vacancy on the Ashley Economic Development Authority, a position previously held by Clyde Harvey Expiring in January 2020.

Motion: Lisa Wildes

Second: Brian Demchak

Lisa Wildes – Y

Frank Sorokach – Y

Gerry Maldonado – ABSTAIN

Carl Byra – Y

Brian Demchak – Y

Brian Casey – Y

PASS

**RESOLUTION 41 OF 2020** – A Resolution to hire Don’s Tree Service for a fee of $500.00 to remove three trees located on Main St. at Centennial Park.

Motion: Carl Byra

Second: Lisa Wildes

Lisa Wildes – Y

Frank Sorokach – Y

Gerry Maldonado – Y

Carl Byra – Y

Brian Demchak – Y

Brian Casey – Y

PASS

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**RESOLUTION 42 OF 2020** – An Emergency Resolution to repair the channel on Stewart’s Alley.

Motion: Frank Sorokach

Second: Carl Byra

Lisa Wildes – Y

Frank Sorokach – Y

Gerry Maldonado – Y

Carl Byra – Y

Brian Demchak – Y

Brian Casey – Y

PASS

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**RESOLUTION 43 OF 2020** – A Resolution to approve handicap parking at 88 W. Hartford St. based on the application of Dorothy A. Joyce.

Motion: Carl Byra

Second: Frank Sorokach

Lisa Wildes – Y

Frank Sorokach – Y

Gerry Maldonado – Y

Carl Byra – Y

Brian Demchak – Y

Brian Casey – Y

PASS

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Meeting Adjourned.