

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 WORK SESSION SUMMARY MEETING MINUTES DECEMBER 4, 2018

49 West Cemetery Street, Ashley, Pennsylvania

Meeting Start Time: **6:32 PM**

Meeting End Time: **7:08 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.

Mr. Gibbons asked for a moment of silence for the passing of George H.W. Bush, the 41st President of the United States.

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENTATIONS:

GERALD MALDONADO –

1. **Sewer Maintenance Fee** -- **Mr. Maldonado** asked Mr. Gulick how much the Borough pays to the Wyoming Valley Sanitary Authority to collect the Ashley Borough Sewer Maintenance Fees. **Mr. Gulick** stated that he would get that information to him. **Mr.**

Gibbons added that there is an ordinance that was passed by Council. **Attorney Vinsko** confirmed that the ordinance has a specific formula for the issue. **Mr. Maldonado** also asked for the delinquent accounts. **Mr. Gulick** stated that there is a 34-page report that Council has in their packets tonight. **Mr. Gibbons** stated that the Borough gets a CD from WWSA that is not in street order or any other type of order. He will work to try and get the information in a more modifiable format, but he is not going to go through 34 pages. **Mr. Maldonado** stated that the Borough asked the WWSA to collect sewer fees and WWSA was going to charge about \$12,0000, so he wanted to see what the collection amounts were currently.

2. **Keystone Economic Funding Grant** – **Mr. Maldonado** confirmed that there were grants available for homeowners to remodel their homes, but stressed that it was a dollar for dollar match. **Mr. Gibbons** commented that he has copies of the facade grant regulations, so this is only for Main Street. **Mr. Maldonado** wants people to know that it is out there for owners and renters.

Attorney Vinsko followed to let **Mr. Maldonado** know that he has been speaking with the attorney for Knockers' Bar who is looking to resolve the issue before the hearing scheduled for December 11, 2018. **Mr. Maldonado** reiterated that Mr. Halliday was forced to do things, including a fence and other things, and he wanted to know what Knockers' owners wanted to do. **Attorney Vinsko** advised that he had to speak with **Mr. Kratz** to confirm what needed to be accomplished.

FRANK SOROKACH –

1. **Injured Police Officers** – **Mr. Sorokach** wanted to know if the reimbursement for the injured police officers was 100%? **Mr. Gulick** confirmed that it was, in fact, 100% and it is received every two (2) weeks, as it is under the Commonwealth heart and lung program and not workers compensation.
2. **29 Main Street** – **Mr. Sorokach** asked if the Borough had the property yet. **Attorney Vinsko** confirmed that we cannot get the property until we have confirmation of approval from the Borough and from Hanover Area School District. Ashley Council will consider a resolution next week.
3. **Ashley Ambulance** – **Mr. Sorokach** asked if the Ambulance was having trouble getting volunteers. **Mr. Gulick** responded that they are looking into a regional ambulance with Hanover Township.
4. **Sugar Notch/Police Issue** – **Mr. Sorokach** asked **Mayor Sipple** what is going on with the Sugar Notch Police Force and the letter **Mayor Sipple** sent directing that Sugar Notch is not to come to calls without being called by 911. **Mayor Sipple** confirmed that there is an order of response, starting with Hanover, then Wilkes-Barre Township, followed by Sugar Notch. Sugar Notch was showing up without being called.

DONNA SCHAPPERT – Nothing for this meeting.

BRIAN CASEY – Nothing for this meeting.

DONALD SIPPLE – Nothing for this meeting.

JOHN GIBBONS –

1. **Budget - Mr. Gibbons** offered to read the budget line by line for anyone who was interested after the meeting, and to answer any and all questions from the public. No one was interested, and it was stated that anyone interested could also pull the budget from the Ashley Borough website.
2. **Centennial Park - Mr. Gibbons** gave an update for the Centennial Park project and that the project is proceeding.
3. **Miner Park - Mr. Gibbons** stated that DEP gave the Borough authorization to proceed to the next step.
4. **Police Car - Mr. Gibbons** stated that Borough Council has to make a decision as to what to do with the \$7,200 that the Borough received from the insurance proceeds for the police car. Specifically, should the Borough apply all of the funds to the outstanding loan, leaving a total balance of \$2,700? He was looking for an answer at the next meeting.
5. **Redevelopment Authority - Mr. Gibbons** confirmed that the LCRDA has all of the information they need to proceed with the transfer of property.
6. **Cell Tower Sale - Mr. Gibbons** told Council that there are communications with the purchasers of the Cell Tower and everyone is working on logistics at this point. **Attorney Vinsko** confirmed that there is a conference call on Monday at 10:30 AM.
7. **Meeting Minutes - Mr. Gibbons** is looking into a stenographer to take meeting minutes on a monthly basis. The cost would be \$80 - \$100 per meeting. That would not include the cost per page for the actual transcript. **Mr. Gulick** is going to look into it and report to **Mr. Gibbons**.
8. **Building Demolition** – The Borough has received a bill for \$34,480 for building demolition but the insurance company did not pay the bill. **Mr. Kratz** is looking into the situation.
9. **Road Behind Fire Department Building** – The Borough is looking to acquire that pursuant to a prescriptive easement. **Attorney Vinsko** is working on that issue.

10. **Huber Land – Mr. Gibbons** confirmed that the Borough is working on the Huber Breaker Land and will have an update shortly on that.
11. **Camera for Municipal Building / Building Door Lock** – Borough is looking at getting a lock for the door in the same way the door was locked at the old building. The Door lock is not available and the are looking at options to get that installed as soon as possible.
12. **Orchard Street** – The Borough is working on what will need to be addressed to reclaim it.
13. **Salt Shed – Mr. Gibbons** asked about the salt shed issue. **Mr. Gulick** said that he has been in touch with someone to get a price for the new salt shed. **Mr. Sipple** confirmed that the pad is already poured. **Ms. Gulick** confirmed as well that salt has been purchased.

MAYOR DONALD SIPPLE – Nothing for this meeting.

GREG GULICK, BOROUGH MANAGER – **Mr. Gulick** circulated the Stormwater Improvement Plan for Wells Avenue, behind the bank. He asked Council to review the same.

POLICE CHIEF FEDORCZYK – **Chief Fedorczyk** confirmed that the Borough is down another crossing guard. He does have another one ready to go, but that will have to be addressed at the next meeting. **Mr. Maldonado** suggested that **Chief Fedorczyk** proceed with the new individual because it is a safety issue. **Mr. Sipple** stated that we should get this person in now. **Mr. Gibbons** also stated that we need to have an alternate for matters like this and we would put it in the paper anytime we had an ad to go in. We are back to zero again. He directed **Chief Fedorczyk** to have the crossing guard start tomorrow and it would be placed on the agenda for next week's meeting.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY MATTERS – The EDA voted to reinstate their solicitor, Mr. Mashinski. They will not have a meeting in December since it will be December 26, 2018, the day after Christmas.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Police Committee – The Police Committee met and recommends the hiring of John Majikes as a part time police officer. **Mr. Maldonado** asked how many part time officers there were, and **Chief Fedorczyk** stated that there were 7 left. **Mr. Sorokach** asked if all of the part-time officers were getting hours, and **Chief Fedorczyk** responded yes. This will be placed on the agenda for a resolution at the December 11, 2018 meeting.

Meeting Ended at 7:08 PM.

#####