

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 JULY 10, 2018

First Meeting at Ashley Borough Municipal Building
49 West Cemetery Street, Ashley, Pennsylvania

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

Meeting End Time: **8:02 PM**

Attendance:

Gerald Maldonado-	Present
Frank Sorokach-	Present
Donna Schappert-	Present
Brian Casey-	Present
Donald Sipple -	Present
John Gibbons-	Present
Mayor Donald Sipple, Sr.-	Absent
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 President of Council, **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) **Replacement of the Sliding Board at Park** – **Mr. Maldonado** asked why the slide was removed. **Mr. Gibbons** stated that he has pictures of the park and the Borough will be getting a price on the replacement for the slide. **Mr. Maldonado** questioned who authorized the removal of the slide, and **Mr. Gibbons** stated that it was a safety issue. Something was coming literally through the slide and it was not merely a crack. **Mr. Robert Hess** confirmed that something was, indeed, coming through. **Mr. Maldonado** stated that he had someone coming to the park to fix it and that there was jagged steel there

anyway. He admitted something needed to be done, but it did not have to be removed. **Mr. Gibbons** confirmed that he authorized the removal of the slide. Councilman **Sipple** raised the issue of a “media show” referring to **Mr. Maldonado** being on TV with Channel 16 the previous week. **Mr. Maldonado** responded that while Ashley has a Council, he was personally contacted by the media. As to the slide, **Mr. Maldonado** stated that he was not consulted as a member of Council on its removal. **Mr. Gibbons** asked that he refer to the minutes. **Ms. Schappert** confirmed that the safety issue was raised at the prior meeting.

(2) **Question as to Corruption** – **Mr. Maldonado** asked **Attorney Vinsko** as to whether “corruption is a crime.” **Attorney Vinsko** responded that it could be if it is a certain crime. **Mr. Maldonado** asked if fraud is a crime. **Attorney Vinsko** responded yes. **Mr. Maldonado** asked if money laundering is a crime. **Attorney Vinsko** responded yes. **Mr. Maldonado** asked if perjury is a crime. **Attorney Vinsko** responded yes. No further statements were made.

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

(1) **Meeting with Water Company regarding paving issues** – He stated that the water company will rectify any problems they created in terms of paving. **Mr. Gulick** stated that everything was expected to be completed by July 18, 2018.

(2) **Cellar Dwellers and the Property across the street** – He stated that the property is a mess and wanted the Borough to address it. **Mr. Gibbons** stated that the Borough had to be careful about going onto private property. **Mr. Sorokach** asked if the Borough could send a letter to the District Attorney’s Office regarding this matter and to check the status of the trial. **Chief Fedorczyk** stated that any such letter would not do much.

(3) **Catch Basins** – WVSA is expected to replace 5 and clean out 10 of them. **Mr. Gulick** confirmed that it would be both this year and next year.

(4) **Recycling Pickup** – **Mr. Sorokach** expressed concern that people are putting their recycling out very early and wanted that addressed.

(5) **36 Barnes Street** – The owners still do not have garbage stickers and wanted a resolution that all people have to pay for garbage stickers.

(6) **Garbage on Main Street** – There is a concern because the garbage behind the bank on Main Street is still there. **Mr. Maldonado** confirmed that he saw it there as well. **Mr. Hess** advised Council that he would remove.

(7) **Façade Grants** – **Mr. Sorokach** asked if **Mr. Gulick** was able to find anything regarding façade grants. **Mr. Gulick** confirmed that none would be available until 2019. **Mr. Gibbons** advised **Mr. Sorokach** that the Borough was looking at other grants to address the facades on Main Street.

(8) **Any Money Left in 2018 Budget for One Road?** – **Mr. Sorokach** asked if there was any money available in the 2018 Budget for at least one road to be paved as the goal

has been to pave roads when possible. **Mr. Gulick** stated that he had 2 grants in progress, but that there was no money available in the budget. **Mr. Gibbons** advised that we may be able to have some paved at some point through the COG.

(9) **Expenses by Vendor** – In reviewing the financials, **Mr. Sorokach** asked about the financials regarding highway aid; Banashefski truck and auto and **Mr. Gulick** advised that it was for the police car that was in an accident. **Mr. Sorokach** also noted that the gas bills for the Borough have increased consistently for the last three (3) months. **Mr. Gulick** confirmed that the cost of gas increased, the road crew has been busy and there has been increased police activity.

(10) **Handicapped Ramp/Concrete Issue** – **Mr. Sorokach** questioned the status of the concrete repairs on the handicapped ramps.

DONNA SCHAPPERT – Would like to start a neighborhood inspection program to talk to residents and offer assistance, receive suggestions and communicate with the taxpayers. She wanted to offer a “personal touch” to the Borough to see exactly what is occurring. She asked **Attorney Vinsko** to look into the legalities for handling such an issue.

BRIAN CASEY – Nothing for this meeting.

DONALD SIPPLE, JR. – Wanted to suggest passage of the Landlord and Rental Inspection Ordinance for Ashley Borough. **Mr. Sorokach** asked about notice to the residents for garbage fees. **Kathy Jones** from the Ashley Trailer Park asked that with the recent tornado, if they needed to go somewhere, where could they go? **Wes Saltz** (Fire Chief) stated that Ashley has an EMA plan. She, or anyone else, could go to the Hanover Area High School or the Ashley Fireman’s Grounds. However, the Fireman’s Grounds has no generator.

JOHN GIBBONS – **Mr. Gibbons** had the following issues:

(1) **New Businesses** – The Borough has new businesses coming in and he may have more information at the next meeting in August.

(2) **Huber Breaker Land** – The Huber Breaker land is still in court, but Ashley is trying to get the land tested. We have someone to write the grant for free, but the grant will be a matching grant for \$140,000 or so. It will be in our backyard and we will need a federal yellow-book appraisal. **Mr. Sorokach** asked if the land was sold to RW/Reading. **Mr. Gibbons** stated that the owner is the same and the Borough had an agreement signed last week. **Mr. Gibbons** walked 26 acres with Tetra Tech representatives and the owner, and he had permission to do so. But we advised the fire company that if there is a fire, do not go in. **Mr. Maldonado** asked if there is any testing whether Michael Core would be a part of it. **Mr. Gibbons** stated that the contact was Dale Scoff, his boss. He has no idea until they test the soil what the cost will be. **Councilman Sipple** suggested that the Bureau of Surface Mining will do that for free. **Mr. Gibbons** said he had questions on that since he did not have prices on anything yet. There are many steps that need to be done before starting any work: Orphan’s Court, yellow-book appraisals, etc.

(3) **Old Town Hall** – Subdivision issues have been addressed and the Borough has applied for an RCAP grant.

(4) **Bentleys** – We have a potential restaurant going into Bentley’s. Goal is not to have the citizens pay for any of these projects. We are seeking money, investors and grants from different places.

(5) **Issue Report Form** – The Borough now has an Issue Report Form. If anyone has an issue, they could submit this form for handling.

MAYOR DONALD SIPPLE, SR. – Absent

BOROUGH MANAGER GREG GULICK – Provided the financial report for the Borough.

POLICE CHIEF DAVID FEDORCZYK – **Chief Fedorczyk** provided the Police Report including the amounts that were collected for the Borough. There were 129 incidents last month. He also read a letter from the VFW and American Legion thanking the Police Department for assisting with the process of burying the Pearl Harbor decedent.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

No Committees had any reports or issues to address.

PUBLIC COMMENT

LUANNE BLY – She was present on behalf of herself and other residents regarding the creek near Fall and Cook Streets. The area around the creek is filled with garbage and people illegally swim and hang out there. There is nudity and public urination and the residents’ families are stuck viewing these lewd activities. The police are called and respond, but often they are gone by the time the police can arrive. The Chief stated that he has had undercover people there, and that he would continue to address it. **Ms. Bly** stated that she has appeared in prior years on this issue and it seems nothing gets done. The Borough may see a change, but the residents do not see any change. **Mr. Maldonado** asked if the area was patrolled, to which the Chief confirmed it was. **Ms. Bly** stated that her husband Donald was threatened that he was going to be shot, and that word is getting around about it. **Mr. Gibbons** suggested that the Borough put extra people on duty and work on a fence if possible. He stated that Council would work to come up with ideas. **Ms. Bly** would like a follow up once a decision is reached on how to proceed.

MARIO FIORUCCI – Filed a Complaint with the Council about a personnel issue. He handed the written Complaint to **Mr. Gibbons**. Copies of the letter were provided to all Council Members after the meeting. He offered to come back to an executive session if needed.

ERIC COMMISSO – Regarding 37-39 Barnes Street. The adjacent owner of land filled in the pool, and he lost \$8500 of blacktop. He wants the Borough to make him fix it. There are

rocks that are large there and some child fell that was living in his unit. He stated that he may lose his insurance. He has three (3) properties in Ashley. He argued that there were no permits issued for the pool to be filled in. Additionally, 25 feet of his fence was destroyed. **Mr. Sorokach** verified that **Magistrate Judge Halisay** ordered the man to fill in his pool.

RESIDENT - asked whether the yellow building on the corner of Cook and Main Street was condemned. **Mr. Gibbons** stated that he was unsure.

LEGISLATION

ORDINANCE NUMBER 2 OF 2018 – Landlord Registration Ordinance

Date: July 10, 2018

Motion: **DONNA SCHAPPERT** 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 49 OF 2018 – A Resolution authorizing the June, 2018 Payroll in the amount of \$33,948.75.

Date: July 10, 2018

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

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

RESOLUTION NUMBER 50 OF 2018 – A Resolution authorizing the June, 2018 Bills in the amount of \$34,866.22.

Date: July 10, 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 51 OF 2018 – A Resolution authorizing a yellow book appraisal of the Huber Breaker Land not to exceed \$2,000.00.

Date: July 10, 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	

Meeting Ended at 8:02 PM.

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