

# 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 9, 2019

49 West Cemetery Street, Ashley, Pennsylvania

Meeting Start Time: **6:40 PM**

Meeting End Time: **8:40 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 –**

1. People are moving into a property on Main Street – Do they have an Occupancy Permit?

2. What is the status of the roller that the Borough was going to purchase? **Mr. Casey** stated that it cost \$25,000 (\$16,900 for the roller, and \$5,500 for the trailer). He stated it was too high.

3. **Mr. Maldonado** asked how much the Borough spent on cold patch year to date. **Mr. Gulick** stated that he would get that information to him.

4. **Main Street Parking – Mr. Maldonado** presented a letter from February 22, 2019 from Andy Kratz. He also provided pictures showing that the parking lot had ponding at the parking lot entrance. (This was for the parking lot adjacent to the former Town Hall Building).

5. **Cellar Dwellers -** Has a hearing been set yet? **Mr. Gulick** confirmed that the Borough received the money from insurance and returned it to Luzerne County. **Mr. Sorokach** asked **Mr. Gulick** to provide him a copy of the check.

6. **Collection of Cash – Mr. Maldonado** stated that the Borough passed a resolution not to accept cash, are we collecting cash? **Mr. Gulick** stated that they were, as the elderly only have cash. **Mr. Maldonado** stated that they can go get a money order. **Mr. Gulick** stated that it is legal tender, so the Borough accepts it.

7. **Little League – Mr. Maldonado** wants to get a Recreation Committee together and meet with local people who want to use the fields. **Mr. Sorokach** stated that there were 2 requests: (1) That Bob Hess put 4-5 hours in on heavy machinery and (2) payment for some mulch (\$400-\$500). **Mr. Gibbons** stated that he called 4-5 times to the little league representatives and there was no response. We will help, but he wanted to get in touch with them. **Mr. Maldonado** stated that he would have Wayne Grilz call him. **Mr. Gibbons** confirmed that another group wanted to use the fields at the end of the month.

8. **Greenhouse Property – Mr. Maldonado** pointed out that it is overgrown.

9. **Lokie Donation – Mr. Maldonado** asked if the Borough received the donation for the lokie in the amount of \$4,500. **Mr. Gibbons** confirmed that the Borough received it and put it into the account.

10. **More Meetings – Mr. Maldonado** asked that the Borough have more meetings each month. He would like a work session to be reinstated.

11. **44 Conyngham Street – Mr. Maldonado** said it was sold several times. **Mr. Gibbons** stated that the permit expired too. The Borough caught them working there once, and Mr. Kratz has inspected the property.

#### **FRANK SOROKACH –**

1. **Accident with the Officers – Mr. Sorokach** asked if the Borough filed a lawsuit to collect any funds. **Attorney Vinsko** stated that he would look into it.

2. **Sewer Letters – Mr. Sorokach** asked about the sewer collection letters. **Attorney Vinsko** confirmed that the updated list was provided and the payments are being made. The remaining letters would be out within the next month.

3. **Purchases By Council over \$100 – Mr. Sorokach** confirmed that all purchases over \$100 are to be approved by Council. There was a purchase of flowers for \$500. The Borough Manager gave a Council Member a credit card to use. **Mr. Gibbons** confirmed that all flowers were returned and the money was refunded. **Ms. Schappert** confirmed that she asked every member of council about the flowers and each member approved.

4. **Jason Fitzgerald / Penn Strategies – Mr. Sorokach** asked if Mr. Fitzgerald met with Mr. Biernacki on the Main Street Grant. He stated that he had attempted to speak with him, and **Mr. Biernacki** said he wants nothing to do with the former Borough Building. **Mr. Sorokach** also stated that Mr. Fitzgerald was supposed to be at every meeting. Mr. Fitzgerald stated that he would be happy to attend but he has to work in Harrisburg during budget season, and, further, he does not recall that he has to attend every meeting. He stated that if he is invited, he will be here. **Mr. Sipple** confirmed that he was at every meeting for the Economic Development Authority. **Mr. Fitzgerald** responded that he would have appreciated a phone call if **Mr. Sorokach** felt that there was a concern. **Mr. Sorokach** wants to be sure the members of the EDA are kept up to date. **Mr. Clyde Harvey** stated that the EDA members should have been advised of the status of the former Borough Building. Mr. Fitzgerald suggests a memorandum of understanding between the EDA and the Borough. He then provided an outline of upcoming projects.

*Discussion then took place with Mr. Fitzgerald and a resident regarding the new park and potential contamination concerns.*

**DONNA SCHAPPERT** – Nothing for this meeting

**BRIAN CASEY** – Nothing for this meeting.

**DONALD SIPPLE** – Nothing for this meeting.

**JOHN GIBBONS** – **Mr. Gibbons** said that **Attorney Vinsko** is looking into an Ordinance regarding occupying sidewalks.

**MAYOR DONALD SIPPLE** – Nothing for this meeting.

**GREG GULICK, BOROUGH MANAGER** – Gave the Financial Report. **Mr. Sorokach** asked about the insurance for police lawsuits; whether the Borough can use Economy Lumber rather than Home Depot and police cameras for \$2,700.

**POLICE CHIEF FEDORCZYK** – Chief Fedorczyk gave the Police Report. He also stated that there have been animal complaints, but there is not much that can be done since the Borough elected not to pay the SPCA to take animals.

### COMMITTEE REPORTS:

**Mr. Maldonado** asked for the Recreation Committee to meet on the little league. He would have Wayne Grilz contact **Mr. Gibbons**.

### PUBLIC COMMENT

**BERNICE GAVLICK** – Had concerns about 16 Rutz Street. They did not have garbage stickers.

**DARRYL METRICK** – Asked about sewer fees, late fees and penalties. **Attorney Vinsko** confirmed that since it will be a municipal lien, the attorney's fees, late fees and penalties will be added to the lien. **Mr. Maldonado** asked **Mr. Gulick** for the delinquency rate.

**DON KANE / MATT STEGORA** – There was a brief presentation on the Lokie and the fact that the Borough has to own the lokie. **Mr. Gibbons** stated that there is a disconnect between the Huber Breaker Preservation Society and the Borough on this issue. **Mr. Stegora** stated that it will take 2 years to restore, but they plan to make it movable. They have the funds for Phase I of the project. The total cost is still being evaluated. It has to be sent to Youngstown, Ohio.

**PAULETTE FARDECKI** – Discussed the Ashley Culvert Bridge, and the status of the grant application and expiration date. **Mr. Gibbons** reiterated that the grant is with the Luzerne County Redevelopment Authority, not Ashley Borough. He will look into it. She stated that parties are in process of having it declared a historical site. The only way to do it is to have it declared a historical site and/or have Ashley Borough take it over.

**MARIO FIORUCCI** – He is a Sugar Notch Borough Councilman. He said that he came last year with a complaint, and started a newsletter. He stated that the Ashley Borough Minutes are great, as they are easy to search and he found his name in 15 seconds. Mr. Fiorucci gave some history of the Borough and stated that there are some famous people: Professor from Gilligan's Island, Bill McGowan of MCI and Hillary Clinton's father. **Mr. Gibbons** asked to meet with him on the issue of the Professor from Gilligan's Island, as there was an authorization for a historical marker several years ago.

**JENNIFER WATKINS** – Wants to have Council pass a resolution to approve and accept the Culvert Street culvert bridge. She stated that she looked into the cost of insurance and it only costs a few extra dollars to add to insurance. **Mr. Gulick** asked her to provide that in writing, and she said she would try. She stated that the Luzerne County Redevelopment Authority made a motion to demolish the bridge, but gave her 30 days to address with the Borough. Any action has to be taken before next Tuesday. A discussion followed, and a meeting was scheduled for this Monday with Ashley Borough Council (special meeting).

**DEANA PAVLICK** – Asked if there were formal retirement papers for the K9.

**LEGISLATION**

**ORDINANCE NO. 1 OF 2019** – An Ordinance Authorizing an Amendment to the Police Pension Fund.

Date: July 9, 2019

Motion: **BRIAN CASEY**      Second: **FRANK SOROKACH**

Donald Sipple –	<b>Y</b>	Donna Schappert -	<b>Y</b>	<b>PASS</b>
Brian Casey -	<b>Y</b>	Frank Sorokach -	<b>Y</b>	
Gerald Maldonado -	<b>Y</b>	John Gibbons -	<b>Y</b>	

(Ordinance Advertised in both the *Citizens Voice* and *Times Leader*)

---

**RESOLUTION 57 OF 2018** – A Resolution authorizing the June, 2019, payroll in the amount of \$33,648.52.

Date: July 9, 2019

Motion: **DONNA SCHAPPERT**      Second: **JOHN GIBBONS**

Donald Sipple –	<b>Y</b>	Donna Schappert -	<b>Y</b>	<b>PASS</b>
Brian Casey -	<b>Y</b>	Frank Sorokach -	<b>Y</b>	
Gerald Maldonado -	<b>Y</b>	John Gibbons -	<b>Y</b>	

**RESOLUTION 58 OF 2019** – A Resolution authorizing the June, 2019, bills in the amount of \$30,535.17.

Date: July 9, 2019

Motion: **FRANK SOROKACH**      Second: **GERALD MALDONADO**

Donald Sipple –	<b>Y</b>	Donna Schappert -	<b>Y</b>	<b>PASS</b>
Brian Casey -	<b>Y</b>	Frank Sorokach -	<b>Y</b>	
Gerald Maldonado -	<b>Y</b>	John Gibbons -	<b>Y</b>	

---

**RESOLUTION 59 OF 2019** – A Resolution authorizing a letter to be written to Hanover Township confirming that Ashley Borough is interested in Hanover Township taking over police coverage, subject to financial requirements to be requested from the Township and the condition that the current Ashley Borough Police Department facility be used as a manned-substation.

Date: July 9, 2019

Motion: **DONNA SCHAPPERT**      Second: **BRIAN CASEY**

Donald Sipple –	<b>Y</b>	Donna Schappert -	<b>Y</b>	<b>PASS</b>
Brian Casey -	<b>Y</b>	Frank Sorokach -	<b>Y</b>	
Gerald Maldonado -	<b>Y</b>	John Gibbons -	<b>Y</b>	

---

**RESOLUTION 60 OF 2019** – A Resolution authorizing the Borough to submit for a DCED Multimodal Grant for Phase II for an amount not to exceed \$2.5 million. The Borough Manager and Council President, John Gibbons, shall be authorized to execute any documents necessary to for proper grant submission.

Date: July 9, 2019

Motion: **DONNA SCHAPPERT**      Second: **BRIAN CASEY**

Donald Sipple –	<b>Y</b>	Donna Schappert -	<b>Y</b>	<b>PASS</b>
Brian Casey -	<b>Y</b>	Frank Sorokach -	<b>Y</b>	
Gerald Maldonado -	<b>Y</b>	John Gibbons -	<b>Y</b>	

---

Meeting Ended at 8:40 PM.

#####