

# 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

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Greg Gulick, Borough Manager

William E. Vinsko, Jr., Esquire, Solicitor

## ASHLEY BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING SUMMARY MEETING MINUTES SEPTEMBER 11, 2018

49 West Cemetery Street, Ashley, Pennsylvania

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

Meeting End Time: **7:58 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-	Absent
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 victims of 9-11.

### COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENTATIONS:

**GERALD MALDONADO** – **Mr. Maldonado** raised the following issues:

- (1) **Truck Traffic in Carey's Patch** – **Mr. Maldonado** obtained information from the Ashley Borough Police Department regarding the truck traffic and he also contacted the trucking company which is going to reimburse the Borough for damages.

(2) **Cost of Cold Patch** – **Mr. Maldonado** asked for the exact cost of the cold patch used. **Mr. Gulick** stated that it was in his liquid fuels report. **Mr. Maldonado** asked that the amount for the year be available for the next meeting.

(3) **Catch Basins on Sivley Street** – **Mr. Maldonado** was advised that the catch basins on Sivley Street should be replaced by the end of the week this week.

(4) **State Equipment Auctions** – **Mr. Maldonado** asked that **Mr. Gulick** check on the state auctions for the trailer and the roller. **Mr. Gulick** questioned whether it should be the auction in Harrisburg or the one off Interstate 81. **Mr. Maldonado** said he wanted to know about the Harrisburg auction.

(5) **COG Issues** – **Mr. Maldonado** raised a concern that no streets in Ashley would be paved in 2018. **Mr. Gulick** stated that the award would not be coming until November, and the Borough applied for over \$1 million. **Mr. Maldonado** was concerned that Hanover and Nanticoke had the use of the COG but Ashley did not, and, further, the asphalt plants would be closed in November. **Mr. Gibbons** asked **Mr. Maldonado** how much he would like to allocate out of the General Fund to pave roads this year. **Mr. Maldonado** stated that the COG was not available, but **Mr. Gibbons** pointed out that he did not want to wait another month. **Mr. Gulick** stated that the award was supposed to be in July, but it is now November. Ashley submitted for 12 streets. **Mr. Maldonado** stated that the 12 street submission was for the grant, not from the General Fund. He stated that Ashley could still pave this year. **Mr. Sorokach** stated that the Borough allocated \$8,000 last year and got 1 street done. **Mr. Gibbons** added that if the cost is \$32,000, it only cost the Borough \$8,000. **Mr. Gulick** confirmed that the Borough does not have a miller. **Mr. Gibbons** said that the Borough could borrow one from Newport Township. **Mr. Sipple** stated that the Borough must know what streets are going to be paved before we can obtain a cost. **Mr. Gulick** said that if Council allocates an amount, he can match it to the cost of the roads. **Mr. Maldonado** reiterated his concern that Ashley belongs to the COG and that nothing was done this year. **Mr. Gibbons** once again suggested that Ashley Council allocate funds not to exceed \$35,000 – the largest cost for a road would be \$100,000 so if Council allocates \$35,000 the Borough has the 1/3 cost covered. **Mr. Maldonado** said he wants to see which roads are the worst and start with them. **Mr. Gibbons** also suggested that the Borough put a line item in the Budget for 2019 for the COG. **Mr. Maldonado** asked that all Council be notified of the next COG meeting.

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

(1) **Labor Agreement for Part Time Workers** – **Mr. Sorokach** noted a concern about part-time officers being part of the labor agreement. **Attorney Vinsko** stated that the part time officers would not be under the contract, but would have the same rights as which are negotiated at the time of the meeting with the union. There is no intent to prevent Council from adding or eliminating part-time officers as the budget dictates.

(2) **Executive Session Meetings** – Can Council report on them? **Attorney Vinsko** stated that Council Members can release information, but the purpose of the executive session is to prevent public disclosure of privileged matters.

(3) **Property with Weeds – 35-37 Barnes Street** – This Property may be on the tax sale and the weeds are very high. Would like it addressed.

(4) **Garbage Piling Up on Cook Street** – **Mr. Sorokach** stated that he was concerned about the amount of garbage at a certain property there, and **Mr. Gulick** confirmed that the owner is cleaning an apartment and they are getting a dumpster.

(5) **Post Office Building** – May be up for tax sale. There is a tarp on top of the building. **Mr. Gibbons** stated that he was speaking with one of the owners, Mr. Martinelli, and that the parties could negotiate.

(6) **Gas/Water Company Road Corrections** – **Mr. Sorokach** said that he wanted to have the Borough check to see when they are going to correct the road problems they created. A resident called the gas and water company on certain roads, and they came immediately. There are only 2 more left that need to be addressed. **Mr. Gulick** stated that he would contact PennDOT.

**DONNA SCHAPPERT** – Stated that the annual Trunk or Treat is coming up on Halloween this year. The Borough needs a financial allocation and also volunteers. It was decided that the allocation would be made at tonight's meeting.

**BRIAN CASEY** – **Mr. Casey** asked about the tire storage issue. **Attorney Vinsko** confirmed that he is remaining in touch with Attorney John Dean, who represents the owner.

**DONALD SIPPLE, JR.** – Announced that the crime watch meeting would be September 26, 2018 at 6:00 PM.

A Resident, **Mr. Martinelli**, purchased the old Citizens Bank Building. He announced that he will be using the place for event locations (weddings, parties, etc.) He stated that under the terms of the agreement to purchase he will have the keys in approximately 60 days.

**JOHN GIBBONS** – Discussed the party wall issue for the properties adjacent to the bank on Main Street. If one building goes down, the other will have to go down as well. He is up for suggestions on how to proceed. We will need to take the first one down. **Mr. Maldonado** suggested applying for a blighted property grant. The Council discussed the mechanics of the properties there and how to proceed. **Charles Coleman** confirmed that the building with tenants there was inspected and it passed.

**Mr. Gibbons** also discussed the need for a resolution for the new park. The final dirt piles and debris will be removed.

Additionally, there are two RFPs being completed for 2 parcels:

- (a) Town Hall (former)
- (b) Land where Red's School Used to Be

There are parties interested in both.

**MAYOR DONALD SIPPLE, SR.** – Received correspondence regarding the Civil Service Training. It is \$170/pp for PSA Members

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY UPDATE** – **Mr. Gibbons** confirmed that a façade grant application was submitted. The results have not yet been released. **Mr. Maldonado** stated that he believed the façade grant could be used for the entire Borough. **Mr. Gibbons** also announced that the Main Street Grant is not as eco-friendly as thought, and the trees have to be pulled from the grant. That line item was \$54,000. The Borough should hear before the election.

**POLICE CHIEF DAVID FEDORCZYK** – Absent.

### COMMITTEE REPORTS

No Committees had any reports or issues to address.

**Mr. Gibbons** requested that the Finance Committee meet before the next meeting to address the Budget for 2019.

### PUBLIC COMMENT

**DON KANE** – Thanks to the Borough for the use of the backhoe and Bob Hess to volunteered to help with a project. Also, he asked for a status on the Rodgers Avenue Bridge Project. **Mr. Sipple** announced that it was on PennDOT’s list and it will be on the front of the list for next year. **Mr. Kane** asked about dirt being pushed on the Preservation Society Land. Neither the Borough nor the Huber Breaker Preservation Society should be held accountable. **Mr. Gibbons** stated that the Borough is testing the larger and smaller piles for contamination. **Mr. Sorokach** asked if the Borough should test the stack. **Mr. Gibbons** said no because it is not on the Borough Property. He also stated that the Huber land had to have the yellow-book appraisal.

**RON WICKIZER** – He helped a woman out and said that **Mr. Sipple** called him a “troublemaker”. **Mr. Sipple** stated that he left a comment on Facebook and left it at that. **Mr. Wickizer** said that he referenced himself “and your two friends...”. He also questioned the legality of having booze in the Borough building for a specific event and referenced an ordinance that prohibited the same. **Ms. Schappert** confirmed that nothing was paid with Borough money.

**JOSEPH WILDES** – Mr. Wildes announced that the Borough was about to violate certain sections of the Civil Service law. He also provided documents to Council on the Civil Service law.

**LEGISLATION**

**RESOLUTION NUMBER 66 OF 2018** – A Resolution authorizing the August, 2018 Payroll in the amount of \$46,134.29.

Date: September 11, 2018

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

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

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**RESOLUTION NUMBER 67 OF 2018** – A Resolution authorizing the August, 2018 Bills in the amount of \$106,475.26.

Date: September 11, 2018

Motion: **DONALD SIPPLE, JR.**      Second: **BRIAN CASEY**

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

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**RESOLUTION NUMBER 68 OF 2018** – A Resolution authorizing the allocation for an amount not to exceed \$35,000 for paving roads in 2018 from the General Fund.

Date: September 11, 2018

Motion: **BRIAN CASEY**      Second: **JOHN GIBBONS**

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

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**RESOLUTION NUMBER 69 OF 2018** – A Resolution authorizing funds for the trunk or treat in the amount of \$1,000.00.

Date: September 11, 2018

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

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

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**RESOLUTION NUMBER 70 OF 2018** – A Resolution authorizing the reservation for the civil service training seminar at Highland Boulevard for 3 people at \$170/per person, October 25, 2018 from 9AM – 4PM.

Date: September 11, 2018

Motion: **BRIAN CASEY**      Second: **JOHN GIBBONS**

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

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**RESOLUTION NUMBER 71 OF 2018** – A Resolution authorizing Datcom Products to do a study on soil samples, which includes labor and equipment and the samples, in an amount not to exceed \$6,000.

Date: September 11, 2018

Motion: **DONNA SCHAPPERT**      Second: **FRANK SOROKACH**

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

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**RESOLUTION NUMBER 72 OF 2018** – A Resolution authorizing the purchase of a radio for Robert Hess’s Road Crew Truck in an amount not to exceed \$400, which includes installation.

Date: September 11, 2018

Motion: **BRIAN CASEY**      Second: **DONALD SIPPLE, JR.**

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

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**RESOLUTION NUMBER 73 OF 2018** – A Resolution authorizing the purchase of 2 4x4 iron plates not to exceed \$500.00.

Date: September 11, 2018

Motion: **DONNA SCHAPPERT**      Second: **FRANK SOROKACH**

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

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**RESOLUTION NUMBER 74 OF 2018** – A Resolution authorizing and approving the allocation of \$200 for the local services account for application fees for grant submissions.

Date: September 11, 2018

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

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

**Mr. Gulick** gave the financial report.

Resident **Clyde Harvey** asked that the Council start to approve the minutes at the Council meetings.

Meeting Ended at 7:58 PM.

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