

ASHLEY BOROUGH

Donald Sipple, Sr., Mayor

John Gibbons, Council Chair
Donald Sipple, Jr. Council Vice Chair
Frank Sorokach

Gerald Maldonado
Donna Schappert
Brian Casey

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Greg Gulick, Borough Manager

William E. Vinsko, Jr., Esquire, Solicitor

ASHLEY BOROUGH COUNCIL WORK SESSION SUMMARY MEETING MINUTES SEPTEMBER 4, 2018

49 West Cemetery Street, Ashley, Pennsylvania

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

Meeting End Time: **6:50 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 -	Absent
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 announced that an **Executive Session** was held on August 17, 2018 at 7:00 PM for Employment Matters.

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENTATIONS:

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

- (1) **Catch Basins on Sivley Street** – **Mr. Maldonado** stated that there are 2 cones around the catch basins there and there are weeds growing. They should have been replaced. **Mr. Hess** stated that the Wyoming Valley Sanitary Authority is repairing them for free and there is a total of 5 being replaced. **Mr. Maldonado** said that they could not be left like that as there is no timeline for repair. **Mr. Hess** said he does not have any

timelines, but would attempt to find out before the next meeting. Those were the worst ones in the Borough as they need to be totally reconstructed. **Mr. Maldonado** suggested that the Borough replace these as soon as possible and choose five (5) others for replacement.

(2) **Issues with Overgrown Grass** – **Mr. Maldonado** cited certain examples of overgrown grass in the Borough and advised that when people are cutting the grass, they often throw it into the street and it is clogging the catch basins. **Mr. Hess** agreed. **Ms Schappert** stated that the Borough has complaint forms that should be used when people see issues like this. **Mr. Gibbons** agreed and asked that all Borough officials and employees start to use them so things can be documented.

(3) **Old Cars on Property** – **Mr. Maldonado** referenced a property on Davis Street where an old car was left. **Mr. Sipple** stated that Sergeant Capasso cited him and the car was being moved.

(4) **16 Cook Street** – **Mr. Maldonado** stated that there was a large amount of garbage on the property. **Mr. Hess** acknowledged the same and **Ms. Schappert** confirmed that she saw it as well. It is being addressed.

(5) **Trucks on Main Street** – **Mr. Maldonado** requested a status on the trucks stored on Main Street. **Attorney Vinsko** confirmed that he is working on the issue with **Mr. Kratz**. **Mr. Kratz** issued a Notice of Violation on August 20, 2018 to the owner who resides in Mountain Top. After that point, there will be daily violations. However, the matter is being addressed.

(6) **Barnes Street Pool Property** – Hector Tindale's Property – **Mr. Maldonado** stated that the back yard has debris in the back that needs to be addressed. The matter will be referred to **Mr. Kratz**.

(7) **Rear 47 Hartford Street** – **Mr. Maldonado** asked **Mr. Hess** if the Borough had steel plates to cover holes on that property. **Mr. Hess** said the Borough has one 4x4 steel plate, but he was concerned about entering private property. **Mr. Maldonado** suggested leaving the plate for the owners, but **Mr. Hess** confirmed that the plate cannot be moved without a backhoe. **Attorney Vinsko** suggested an authorization form for the owner to sign for access. The letter would be provided to **Mr. Hess**. **Mr. Maldonado** stated that "we can save a life here."

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

(1) **Certain Problem Properties in the Patch** – **Mr. Sorokach** identified 42 Carey Street, where the yard is a mess. Also, he identified 9 Frederick Street, where there is a bee's nest. It was supposedly just sold, but he wanted the concern noted.

Mr. Maldonado also asked for an update on the COG, and who was in contact with them. His concern was that there are streets that need paving and/or patching. **Attorney Vinsko** stated that he was aware from a past Council meeting that the next COG Meeting is supposed to be sometime in November, 2018. **Mr. Maldonado** wanted one sooner because the asphalt plants close in

November and he would like the work done before then. **Mr. Hess** stated that the paving machine is being fixed because it recently broke. **Mr. Maldonado** said that if we cannot pave, we can still patch.

DONNA SCHAPPERT – Nothing for this meeting.

BRIAN CASEY – **Mr. Casey** asked about the tire storage issue. **Attorney Vinsko** confirmed that he was in touch with Attorney John Dean, who represents him now. He also confirmed that the issue may be grandfathered, and that the Pennsylvania Department of Labor and Industry has regulations on tire storage. **Attorney Vinsko** stated that he would follow up with **Mr. Kratz** to see what was being addressed with Labor and Industry.

DONALD SIPPLE, JR. – Requested that the agendas now include a section for a report from the Ashley Borough Economic Development Authority each month.

JOHN GIBBONS – Stated that the Economic Development Authority passed a resolution for a façade grant. Those who live on Main Street may get a certain amount to fix up the front of their homes. It is only in the preliminary stages, and the amount of funding depends on the amount received from the grant.

MAYOR DONALD SIPPLE, SR. – Nothing for this meeting.

BOROUGH MANAGER GREG GULICK – Absent.

POLICE CHIEF DAVID FEDORCZYK – Needs a crossing guard for the corner of Hazleton Street and Cook Street. He had to call in an alternate, but has not heard back. Would like to run an ad as soon as possible. **Attorney Vinsko** confirmed that he would run the ad in **Mr. Gulick's** absence.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

No Committees had any reports or issues to address.

Mr. Casey confirmed that the trailer that the Borough is looking to purchase is \$5,000 from Medico Industries. **Mr. Maldonado** said he spoke to Joe Yudichak and that the state has auctions every three months and often times trailers are there. **Ms. Schappert** asked when the three months ends and **Mr. Maldonado** was not sure. He suggested that someone call Mr. Yudichak.

Meeting Ended at 6:50 PM.

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