

## Mayor & Council of Sharpsburg-Approved-Meeting Minutes

July 12, 2021

- I. Call meeting to order at 6 pm and pledge started by Jacob Martz
- II. Meeting minutes from June 2021 to approve, Ed motioned, Robbie seconded and all were in favor. Approved meeting minutes will be available on the town's website.

In attendance: Russ Weaver, Jacob Martz, Ed Beeler, Robbie Waters, Mia Parsons, John Hammond, Tim Lung, Mike Arant, Carrie Estell, Randy Short, George Hambleton, Anne Johnikan, Eleanor Johnikan, Paul Cecil, Jen Bruni, Katie Nester, Aubrie Nester, and Gage Nester.

### **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

**Girl Scout Troop #15024**-Eleanor and Katie presented the public and council their beautification project/proposal. A power point was projected that highlighted their butterfly bush project. They shared results from their community survey with a dog park coming in first place and a butterfly bush coming in a close second. With cost the troop settled on the butterfly bush project for the park off High Street. Plants and the area for the butterfly bushes were discussed. Robbie offered donated lumber and mulch for the flower beds which will be close to the pavilion as this area will be ideal as it will be out of the way to mowing. Mia motioned to accept the troop's beautification project, Joe seconded the motion and all were in favor. Mia shared her phone number with the troop's leader to further discuss the troop's choice of flowers.

**Mr. Cecil**-commented on the speed bumps near his home and the flooding that occurs when it rains a lot, (109 W High Street). Rocks were placed to aid this issue; the rocks are still not doing an effective job. Russ briefly discussed the history behind the rocks, speed bump and water issues near Mr. Cecil's property. Joe Kudla will meet with the home owner to assist in any ways the town can assist with the water issue. Mr. Cecil also commented on the water tower's appearance, there are many antennas and wires. Unfortunately, there was a special exemption that allows for this; Tim will review the ordinance and the zoning for the water tower.

Mike Arant-Town Crier is going well; the council has first priority for article submissions. Mike is working with Jake on the next step of distribution. The electronic version is going well due to Microsoft Publisher.

### **Mayor's Report**

- **Projects**-all council members who are part of the Project Open Space to concentrate efforts with this program.
- **Budget/QuickBooks, Financial Meeting**-Dee Snyder will continue with office assistance as there are many aspects of QuickBooks that need alignment. There will be an audit as soon as these issues are resolved.
- **Little League**-Town received a EDU letter/bill on commercial water/sewer which is close to 10K. The town will also have the LL be responsible for the electric and power this will start in September. Russ will meet with Matt concerning these changes. Russ motioned and John seconded, all were in favor.
- **This Friday, meeting with town's lawyer @ 9 am at Town Hall-lot purchase**-there are a number of projects that need legal attention, this meeting Russ urged any and all councilmembers to attend. Some of these projects: Wall off Main St., Big Spring fix, purchase of two lots for the Project Open Space.
- **Corderman visit**-the Senator's office has reached out and is interested in assisting with the wall project/fix.
- **Water rebate**-there are 316 residents who would be rebated, this cost is \$12,600 for a one-year rebate of \$35/household, a one-time deal of \$70/household was discussed. John suggested we vote on the rebate for a one-time deal of 70\$, John motioned and Robbie seconded and all were in favor. Russ and John will contact the water department to ensure these rebates are credited to the households in the next couple of months.

### **Zoning with Tim**

- Chicken Ordinance: Planning Commission completed its review. The amendment text has been posted and advertised. Public Hearing will be at the Aug M&C meeting. Citizens may also submit comments in writing by letter or email prior to the hearing. The public discussion was not able to be held this evening due to the public posting to Facebook, town's website and the post office would not have been within the required two week posting time. Any person can testify, all people who are going to speak will need to introduce themselves and their address. Council will allow each person a two-minute time frame. The reason for the chicken ordinance is that there is nothing in the town's ordinance/zoning documents. There have been inquires about having chickens and the planning committee has worked on getting something drafted. Russ reiterated that the town does not want to police chickens and after the public comment session, an ordinance will be applied to the town.
- Reminder placed in tax bills regarding the town's regulations on trash, weeds and junk. It is not the intent to search out violations but to remind citizens of the regulations in an effort to beautify the town. The Town will not act on

anonymous complaints. Tim will draft a complaint form where a resident can fill out and submit; this will provide a written record of complaints and avoid any neighbor arguments.

- Have received an application for Special Exception to establish a short-term rental at 110 S. Mechanic St. Need to schedule a hearing by the BZA.
- Continue to work with the agent for the new owners of the old Church at the corner of N. Church and E. Main St regarding possible uses for the building. Nothing has been formally accepted; there were questions regarding an artisan's studio, however, at this time there is not enough information to move forward.
- Had a phone conversation with the Town's Attorney, Brian Kane to introduce myself and to go over some procedural matters and ongoing zoning related matters in the Town. Russ asked that Tim be the point person for the lawyer to make communication more streamlined.

### Council comments

- Jacob Martz-Vice Mayor, communications, Memorial Day Parade, grants
  - Flags to come down this week
  - Town Crier is going well and paper distribution will be coming soon
  - Memorial Day parade committee to meet in September, Jake has reached out to reenactment soldiers to participate in next year's parade. A certificate of appreciation was ordered for the grand marshal.
  - Jake also commented on the Western Maryland Consortium's intern, Adam Oates, as he is helping out at the museum, with Robbie and in the office.
  - Jake motioned to nominate Randy Short to the Board of Zoning Appeals group. Mr. Short introduced himself to the council and public. Randy is a recent home owner who is a retired army veteran and lives with his wife and daughter. He assisted Jake in the parade booklet and enjoyed that project. Jake gave the motion to elect him to the BZA, Ed seconded the motion and all were in favor of the election.
- Robbie Waters-parks, railroad station, town operations
  - The park was mulched, painting the pavilion will be done by the end of the month.
  - Curb painting will start this month as well
  - Trees/bushes/shrubs need to be trimmed; some stop signs are obstructed and some trees are in the view of oncoming traffic. This is a safety issue. There was some discussion of the inmates from the jail to do this work, Russ will speak to the person that heads that program.
  - T-pole was removed from the outside of the parking lot of the bank.
  - Took care of painting over the graffiti at the basketball court
  - Camera and lights for the park were approved in a council meeting a couple years ago. Russ will be in touch with the owner/manager of Dynamark/Atlantic Security as when they came to do a security/alarm check they made the elevator inoperable. This company will also offer an estimate for updating the security and providing lights and/or a camera in the park. In the meantime, Robbie will lock the park at night.
  - Robbie reviewed Officer Peyton's monthly report-10 checks of the park
    - 10 checks of Little League
    - 9 checks of school
    - traffic assignments at E and W Main St, S Mechanic St, S Potomac St, and High St at the Little League as requested. Seven warnings for parking and the stop sign
    - 4 1/2 hours foot patrol.
- Mia Parsons-Planning-(Streetscape), grants
  - Arborist has established the scope and parameters of the survey. This will be from Church to Potomac. This assessment will start this week and completed by the end of the month.
  - Russ requested a written policy on trees to assist council, streetscape and residents as to the appropriate responsibility of care/removal/maintenance of trees.
  - Streetscape update: lighting and decorative poles have been considered as viable options; next planning meeting these options will be discussed in greater detail.
- Joe Kudla-streets, roads, culverts
  - Verizon telephone poles-Joe made a formal complaint and hope that the bricks will be replaced soon.
  - Joe has been in contact with Tim Johnson regarding the widening of the scope of repair.
  - Tree removal on the backside of the spring is being coordinated with the owner, Mr. Hall.

- Spoke with Brian Poffenberger and the portion of the Main Street wall that was damaged due to a car accident will start soon.
- Mick Carr is working on the street signage.
- The culvert off Main as overflowed due to the excessive rain this afternoon, hoping MDOT and Taylor's will finish the flush work to alleviate this issue.
- Ed Beeler-Historical Planning, town archives, communications, grants
  - Summer Intern:
    - Adam Oates
    - Training in different jobs throughout the museum
    - Likes artifact processing and exhibit construction
    - Jobs also with Carrie and Robbie
  - Cemetery Restoration Mgt. @ 6pm. With Robert Masko will be with us from Masko Cemetery Monument Service. There's a meeting tomorrow for the Lutheran Cemetery, Russ suggested that Ed ask the volunteers to assist in applying for a 501(c)3 to assist the museum in applying and receiving grant money. Possible Lutheran cemetery group. A possibility to check on any state or national Lutheran groups that would assist with this costly restoration.
  - I found two ledgers of the Community Hall
  - The Museum has received a grant from the Washington County Visitors Bureau for printing a brochure for the museum. (1000)
  - Attendance: May 118, June 133 and so far, July is 55
- John Hammond-Building and Infrastructure
  - All issues discussed
- Chris Vincent-advisory board-, Mr. Vincent was not in attendance, but emailed a report that Carrie read: The Battlefield Advisory Board's next meeting is scheduled for July 21. The overlook area at the Burnside Bridge is open now, as is the observation tower. This week the park is transitioning to the temporary building and will be operating out of there by this coming weekend.

### **Old Business/ACTIONS**

Light in the municipal parking lot

High Street signs-in process

Park Opened and pavilion will be painted this month

West Antietam Street issue will be discussed with town lawyer

### **Projects**

**Main Street Walls**-lawyer to review letter/email that Trone's staff research efforts

**POS project @ Main/Church Street purchase**-POS # is needed before purchase, Russ praised all the hard work Suzanne did with the application.

**Big Spring Repair**-the repair will be made to the back of this structure; lawyer will also meet with Fred Frederick who is willing to sell.

Capital planning meeting; council to set aside a portion of money for future projects and improvements

**New Business-none at this time**

**Meeting was adjourned at 7:28 pm**

**Council met for a brief executive session**