

Town of Sharpsburg



Town Crier

Volume 27

December 2018

Number 11

The minutes of the Council meeting are an overview of business conducted and are not the official minutes of the meeting. The official minutes will be available at the Clerk's office after they are approved by the Mayor and Council at next month's council meeting.

The December meeting of the Sharpsburg Mayor and Council was called to order by Mayor Spielman at 7 pm. The November minutes were approved as presented.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Chris Vincent shared about the Lion's Club dinner program on January 10th at St. Paul's Episcopal Church at 7 pm. The guest speaker will be Dr. Thomas Clemens.

Mr. Vincent also shared that the open house at the Rohrbach Inn will be held on Sunday December 9th from 2 pm – 6 pm.

Mayor Spielman read a statement from Meredith Moore stating that the Sharpsburg Merchant's and Community Association will reconvene on January 28, 2019 at 5 pm at Captain Bender's. The Merchant's Association would also like to congratulate the newly elected and re-elected officials.

Parks and Railroad Station – The electric company is working on placing the electric at the park for the cameras.

Building – Michael is going to have someone look at the air conditioner to see what a cost would be for a replacement. Tamara stated that the decorations on Town Hall look very nice.

Streets – The South side of West Chapline Street will have additional 'No Parking' signs placed. When traveling W Chapline Street, you cannot get two cars through if both sides of the street are parked on. Residents that live there are also having trouble with no being able to see to pull out of driveways.

No Parking signs will also be placed at the wall at the end of North Hall Street, towards Main Street.

Planning and Zoning – Voting by the Council on the Farmers Market Ordinance will take place this

evening. Planning Commission is down one person, so a replacement will need to be appointed. There is still an issue with short-term rentals in the town. The Commission will be seeking advice and working on an ordinance for Airbnb's and short term rentals. In the interim, these types of rentals will be cited for non-compliance if they continue to operate.

Battlefield Advisory Committee – Memorial Illumination will be held Dec 8. The historic split rail fence placement along the Hagerstown Pike is underway. The next meeting will be Jan 9.

Town Archives and Historical Planning - We received donations of pictures, Heritage Festival memorabilia and parade books.

Public Safety - The weeds along the little league alley were cleared away. Darryl and Michael are working with Verizon to attempt to get the tree branch out of the wires on N Mechanic St.

Mayor's Report – Mayor is meeting with the Legislators tomorrow. He will discuss the crosswalk with them and find out a timeframe

Old Business – The Farmers Market Ordinance was passed unanimously.

Christmas Tree Lighting was November 30th. Mayor Spielman stated that there were so many people that they had to come upstairs in shifts. He stated that he thought it was a well-attended and well-received event. The students from the Sharpsburg Elementary will be down on Dec 13th to decorate the tree. Jean Harne asked that a write up be placed in the Crier thanking Kim and Ed and Cindy Beeler for the hard work with the preparations for the Christmas event.

Williamsport Water and Sewer Debt Forgiveness – Russ will try to attend the County Commissioner meeting on Dec 4th. The Mayor of Smithsburg contacted Russ and stated that they are interested in joining forces with Sharpsburg to go forward to the County Commissioners, asking them to rescind the Williamsport debt relief vote.

Evaluation of W Antietam St – The engineer has not arrived to evaluate the situation yet.

New Business – Apple Valley would like to continue their contract with the Town for an additional 2 years. Steve, an associate of Apple Valley was unavailable to attend the meeting. Russ is concerned because the workers tend to not pick up trash bags at certain locations. They have missed pick-ups at locations as well. Russ would like for them to do the job that we are paying them to do to keep the contract. Public comments included that the trash cans are left in the roadway/parking spaces. Russ stated that he would like to work with Steve to get the problems resolved. Russ has no problems renewing the contract if Steve can assure us that the issues we are having will be fixed. Mayor Spielman suggested renewing for one year, and if the issues are fixed, then continuing with Apple Valley. Mayor Spielman will see if Steve is able to attend the January meeting.

Computer at Town Hall – Ed stated that it may be time for a new computer for the Clerk, as it seems to be very slow and takes the Clerk an extended period of time to complete simple tasks. Mr. Anderson stated that it appears that the system is very slow, perhaps maybe it is out of memory. Russ stated he would come down and take a look at the computer. If it cannot be figured out/fixed, a budget of \$1,500 was set to replace the computer.

Town Garage – Darryl stated that there are bleachers in the garage and was asking if we could ask the little league if they want them. It was suggested to scrap them, as they are 20 plus years old. Darryl also stated that we have old street signs. It was suggested to give these to the Founders Day Committee to sell for a fundraiser.

Town News

Trash Collection Delayed

Trash collection will be delayed the week of December 23 (Christmas week) and the week of December 30 (New Year's week.) Both weeks the trash will be delayed by one day. Place your trash out for collection on Wednesday both weeks.

Sharpsburg Residents Elect Vice Mayor and Councilpersons

On Tuesday November 20th, town residents re-elected Vice Mayor Russ Weaver for another four-year term. Incumbents Darryl Benner and Ed Beeler were also re-elected for another four-year term as Councilpersons. Newcomer Robbie Waters was elected to serve on the third vacant seat for a four-year term. The newly elected and re-elected members will be sworn in by the Clerk of the Circuit Court, Kevin Tucker, at the January 7, 2019 Town meeting. Congratulations to these individuals.

Thanks to all who visited 'Who-ville'

The Town held a Christmas tree lighting and gathering on Friday November 30th. The event allowed visitors to visit 'Who-ville', the town that The Grinch steals from in the Christmas classic 'How the Grinch Stole Christmas.'

Approximately 100 residents attended the event, which included visits from The Grinch (Jack Gustafson), the Grinch's dog, Max (Gracie Gabriel) and Santa (Arnold Martin.)

Firefighter and Councilperson Darryl Benner brought the guests of honor to Town Hall down Main Street in the Fire Truck. After the tree was illuminated by the guests of honor, everyone gathered in Who-ville (Council Chambers) to enjoy cookies, cake, hot chocolate, hot cider and visits and photos with The Grinch, Max and Santa.

A great time was had by all! Thank you to all that were involved with bringing Who-ville to Sharpsburg.



Santa's Workshop



Santa (Arnold Martin) visits with Max (Gracie Gabriel) and Madelyn Fulk



Who-ville



Cookies from the
'who-feast'



Mayor Spielman and
The Grinch

Workshop meeting of the Mayor and Council

Workshop meetings of the Mayor and Council are held on the fourth Wednesday of each month at 6:30 pm in the council chambers. The next meeting will be held Wednesday January 23rd.

Town Office Closures

The Town Office will be closed Monday December 24th – Wednesday December 26th, and Monday December 31st – Tuesday January 1st 2019.

Community News and Events

Thank you, Sharpsburg Elementary School!!



On December 13th, the students from the Sharpsburg Elementary School made the trek from the school to Town Hall to decorate the town tree. The art teacher, Kayla Motheral, purchased the materials and assisted the children in making beautiful snowflakes to hang on the tree. Bus Driver Tammy Bradley gave her time and fuel to bus the smaller children to and from the event.

Thank you to all the teachers, students and Mr. Allshouse for a job well done! We are excited and happy that our school students can share in this activity.

Come All Who Are Thirsty

Come All Who Are Thirsty will be having their monthly meeting on Saturday January 5, 2019 at 9:30am at the Burnside Church of God, located at 3904 Mills Road. Breakfast is provided. Come All Who Are Thirsty is open to ALL veterans and their families. First responders and anyone who has an interest in supporting Veterans are also welcome to attend. For more information, visit their website at www.comeallwhoarethirsty.org or call 240-347-7590.

Sharpsburg Lions Club



The Sharpsburg Lions Club is hosting bi-monthly dinner programs for only \$5.00.

January 10

Local historian, Dr. Thomas Clemens will discuss The Search for McClellan's Headquarters.

While the Pry House is well ingrained in local lore, the true location of his headquarters was not difficult to find, and upon reflection, makes more sense. Dr. Thomas Clemens will focus on his search for the real headquarters of the army, and the evidence which disproves the Pry location and proves the actual location.

The dinner programs will start at 7:00pm and be held at St Paul's Episcopal Church, 209 W. Main Street.

Please **RSVP** by Jan 7th to sharpsburglions@gmail.com.

Antietam Unit 236, Sharpsburg American Legion Auxiliary Presents Double Blue Star Banner



L to R: Thomas Baker, Rosalind Baker and Loretta Milner

At the December 11 meeting of Antietam Unit 236, Sharpsburg American Legion Auxiliary President Ava Gift, on behalf of the Unit, presented Hagerstown resident Loretta Milner with a double blue star banner.

The single Blue Star Banner was presented four years ago when her son Thomas Milner joined the Army. He is currently stationed at Fort Campbell, Tennessee and deployed at the border.

Her second son, Michael Anthony Milner, a 2016 North Hagerstown High School graduate, completed basic training at Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri, in November and is currently stationed at Fort Campbell, Tennessee.

Now that she has two sons serving in the military the single Blue Star Banner has been replaced with a double Blue Star Banner.

Their maternal grandfather Thomas Baker served in the army during the Viet Nam War and their great grandfather Elmer Baker served in the navy during World War II, along with others in the family that served in the military.

Created in 1917, Blue Star Banners were a common sight during World War I and World War II. Resurrected by the Legion in 2001, the banner is displayed to show that a family member is serving in the armed forces.

Happenings at the Sharpsburg Library



1000 Books Before Kindergarten Kick-Off

January 12 stop in anytime from 10-12 noon

Learn more about the Washington County Free Library's newest program, 1000 Books Before Kindergarten. We will have activities encouraging reading for our youngest patrons and their families.

Read With Us! (Homeschooling Program)

Sideways Stories from Wayside School by Louis Sachar

January 12 stop in anytime from 10-12 noon and pick up your free copy of the book (one per family, while supplies last) or call after the 12th to see if we have any copies left. We will post trivia questions weekly and host programs relating to the book throughout the next several months. Call 301-432-8825 for more details.

Books With Baby (Birth – 24 months)

Second Thursdays of each month at 2:30 pm

Lego Club

First Saturday of each month at 10 am

Adult Book Share

February 6 at 10 am

Bring a current favorite book to share.

Learn to Knit with Judy Sopenski

January 15 at 6:30 pm – Learn to “knit” and make a potholder to take home

February 12 at 6:30 pm – Learn to “pearl” and make a washcloth to take home

March 12 at 6:30 pm – Use both stitches and make a hat!

Please register for one class or all three so we have plenty of supplies!

Movie Night at the Library

January 17 at 6 pm

The movie *Crazy Rich Asians* will be shown. Rated PG-13

Town Government

Town Office – 301-432-4428

Hours of Operation: Monday-Thursday 8:30 am – 2:00 pm

Zoning Administrator hours: Tuesdays 9:00 am – 1:00 pm

Additional hours for the Clerk and Zoning Administrator are available by appointment

Mayor and Council

Hal Spielman – Mayor	301-432-6854
Russ Weaver – Vice Mayor (Planning & Zoning)	301-432-5907
Ed Beeler – Councilperson (Town Archives & Historical Planning)	301-800-6877
Darryl Benner – Councilperson (Public Safety)	301-992-2230
Michael Carr – Councilperson (Town Buildings)	301-991-6988
Brandon Smith – Councilperson (Parks & Railroad)	301-491- 4866
Tamara White – Councilperson (Streets)	301-432-7754
Kimberly Fulk – Town Clerk/Treasurer/ Tax Collector	301-432-4428

**The Sharpsburg Town Crier
PO Box 368
Sharpsburg, MD 21782**

