

Town of Sharpsburg



Town Crier

Volume 26

November 2017

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 meeting of the Sharpsburg Mayor and Council was called to order at 7pm by Mayor Hal Spielman. The minutes of the October meeting and the October financial report were both approved s presented.

Terri Shoemaker of Smith Elliott Kerns and Company presented the yearly audit to the Mayor and Council. The Town received a "clean opinion", which is the best that can be obtained.

Public Comment

Meredith Poffenberger, owner of The Marketplace of Sharpsburg, spoke to the council in regards to having a community group put together some community ideas for the holiday season. She was asked to send in a detailed report on the items that she wishes to have and the council would make a decision.

Patty Hammond asked if the Mayor and Council could purchase about 300 flags to be placed on Veteran graves for Memorial Day. This will be taken care of by the Town

Committee Reports

Parks and Railroad Station: Brandon was not in attendance at the meeting but it was suggested that the aerator be unplugged for the winter

Building: Michael had nothing to report

Streets: Tamara had nothing new to report. It was brought to the Council's attention that there is a pothole at Antietam and Potomac Street which will need to be added to the list

Planning & Zoning: Russ stated he had nothing to report, as there was no meeting in October

Battlefield Advisory Committee: Mr. Vincent reported that the next meeting will be January 3rd.

Public Safety: Darryl had nothing to report

Town Archives and Historical Planning: Ed reported that he is still working on locating display cases so that more items can be displayed permanently. He also reported that 48 people attended the Open House for the museum on October 21st.

Mayor's Report: Mayor Spielman had nothing to report

Old Business

there is a professional band practicing in a garage on West Main Street. Letters have been sent to the property with no response/end to the problem. Another letter asking the band to cease and desist will be hand delivered to the owner of the property. They will need to contact the Zoning Administrator for further information to get the band legally able to practice.

New Business

Mayor Spielman introduced an Ordinance establishing school zones and authorizing the use of speed monitoring systems within school zones in Washington County, Maryland. Town Clerk Kimberly Fulk read the ordinance in its entirety. There will be a public comment session on Wednesday November 29, 2017 from 6pm-8pm in Town Hall, for the public to attend and voice their opinion.

The meeting was moved to executive session to discuss personnel matters at 8pm by Tamara and seconded by Ed.

The meeting returned to open session at 8:50pm and was adjourned at 8:50pm by Tamara and seconded by Ed.

Town News

Town Office Closures

The Town Office will be closed Wednesday November 22 and Thursday November 23.

Workshop Session for the Mayor and Council

The Mayor and Council will be having a workshop session on Tuesday November 28, 2017 at 6:30pm in the Town Hall. Agenda items include opening snow plowing bids, crosswalks, water quality, and little league field use agreement.

Employment Opportunity

The Town of Sharpsburg is seeking a Zoning Administrator/Code Enforcement Officer. Duties include:

Review and be familiar with Zoning Ordinances of the Town and County

Accept building permits, review and sign off on/deny permits

Maintain a working, professional relationship with the town clerk, Mayor and Council

Visit properties applying for permits to familiarize self with the area

Once permits are received from the county, review to assure they are correct and no changes were made to said permit after it left the town office

Attend hearings if needed

Attend monthly meetings of the Mayor and Council if needed

Post properties that are having a hearing

Send letters to applicants explaining denial of a permit

Send letters to neighbors in the case of a Special Exception
Review and Research town complaints
Draft documents to non-compliant property owners and copy to tax collector

This position will require approximately 6-10 hours per week, but may require more, depending on certain situations. Wage is based on experience.

If you would like to apply for this position, please send your resume, along with a cover letter to Town of Sharpsburg, PO Box 368 Sharpsburg, MD 21782, or via email at townofsharpsburg@comcast.net.
Deadline for receiving resumes is December 15th.

TOWN OF SHARPSBURG, MD
ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS
SNOW PLOWING, SALT/ICE MELT APPLICATION, SNOW REMOVAL FOR THE 2018 SEASON

Separate sealed bids for snow plowing, salt/ice melt application; snow removal for the 2018 season will be received.

Location: Within the town limits of Sharpsburg, Maryland

Bids: Sealed Bids must be received by the Town of Sharpsburg, either by mail or hand delivery, no later than 12 noon local time on Tuesday, November 28, 2017 in a Sealed Envelope marked "Snow Plowing, Salt/Ice Melt Application and Snow Removal" at the following address:

Town of Sharpsburg
ATTN: Town Clerk
P.O. Box 368, 106 E. Main St.
Sharpsburg, Maryland 21782

Any Bids received after the above time will not be accepted under any circumstances. Any uncertainty regarding the time a Bid is received will be resolved against the Bidder.

Opening and Reading: The Bids will be publicly opened and read aloud at 6:30pm on Tuesday, November 28, 2017 in the Town Hall located at 106 E. Main St, Sharpsburg, Maryland.

Contract Documents: The Contract Documents, including specifications and drawings, can be obtained at Town Hall.

Bid Contents: To be considered, bids must contain: Bid Proposal, required insurance and three (3) references.

Award, Waiver and Rejection of Bids: The contract will be awarded pursuant to the requirements of applicable local, State and Federal laws and regulations. To the extent permitted by such laws and regulations, the Town reserves the right:

- a. To reject any or all Bids.
- b. To waive any informality or irregularity in any Bid received.
- c. To accept the Bid deemed by the Town of Sharpsburg to be the most advantageous to its interests.

By: Town of Sharpsburg
Kimberly L. Fulk, Town Clerk

Notice of Public Hearing Town of Sharpsburg

Notice is hereby given that on Wednesday, November 29, 2017, the Mayor and Council of Sharpsburg will hold a Public Hearing from 6:00pm – 8:00pm, in the council chambers of Town Hall, to receive public input on Ordinance 2017-01, which was introduced on November 6, 2017, by the Mayor and Council of Sharpsburg. A summary of Ordinance 2017-01 is set forth below.

An Ordinance establishing School Zones and Authorizing the Use of Speed Monitoring Systems within School Zones in Washington County, Maryland.

The Ordinance may be read in its entirety during regular business hours at the Sharpsburg Town Hall located at 106 East Main Street in Sharpsburg, MD. A copy of this Ordinance is also located at the Sharpsburg Library.

If approved, the Ordinance will be forwarded to the Washington County Sheriff's Department so that they may move forward on the placement of the Speed Monitoring System.

During the public hearing, the public may sign up to speak and voice their opinion to the Mayor and Council. Each person will have 10 minutes to speak. The public hearing is not a question and answer period. If you have questions, please contact Clerk Kimberly Fulk at 301-432-4428 prior to the hearing.

By Authority of the Mayor and Council of Sharpsburg

Community Events and News

Sharpsburg Holds Veterans Day Wreath Laying Ceremony



Judge of Orphans Court for Washington County, Legionnaire
Joe Eichelberger, laying memorial wreath at War Memorials for
Veterans Day

Antietam 2236 American Legion Auxiliary held a Veterans Day ceremony November 11 in Sharpsburg Town Square.

The Program began with the presentation of colors by the Clopper Michael Post 10 American Legion Honor Guard. Miss Poppies Addy Williams, Brooke and Mackenzie Angle led those gathered in the pledge of allegiance. Soloist Betty Snyder sang the national anthem a capella which was followed by a moment of silence in memory of the dead. Unit Chaplain Debbie Crampton gave the invocation.

Ava Gift, who emceed the ceremony explained that the empty chair, that was in front of the podium, draped with the POW/MIA black chair cover was a reminder of those soldiers who are still prisoners of war and those missing in action. Asking to keep them and their families in prayer and not letting them be forgotten. She gave the whereabouts and updates of nineteen local soldiers and asked that all of our active service men and women be remembered and kept in prayer.

Retired U.S. Army Reserve Lt. Col. and Park Ranger Mike Gamble of the Antietam National Battlefield spoke on the history and meaning of Veterans Day.

Kevin Booth, recording artist and performer, sang a medley of patriotic songs along with Lee Greenwood's "God Bless the USA".

The 60 veterans in attendance lined up during the playing of the Armed Forces Salute and stepped forward to their service song, receiving applause by those in attendance. Each veteran introduced themselves and told what branch of the military they served and during which conflict. Some shared enlightening, heartwarming stories and information. A husband recognized his recently retired military

wife and when asked what she was now going to do she responded with just one word, rest. Her veteran father proudly standing beside her. One veteran was a Vietnam veteran with five sons currently serving in the military. Another veteran remembering Orville Knight and Harry Ecton who were local soldiers killed in Vietnam. Each veteran was given a personal manicure grooming kit as a way of saying thank you for raising their right hand and taking an oath when inducted into the military.

Junior member, 2018 Miss Poppy Addy Williams read the poem "Flanders Field" followed by the presentation of memorial wreaths at the town's war memorials.

Park Ranger Mike Gamble laid a wreath on behalf of Antietam National Battlefield. Judge of the Orphans Court, Joe Eichelberger laid a wreath on behalf of the citizens of Washington County. Councilman Brandon Smith placed a wreath on behalf of the Town of Sharpsburg. Danny Brown and Howard Williams laid a wreath on behalf of the Disabled American Veterans, Ralph Tag Chapter 14. Pat Patterson placed a wreath on behalf of Korean Veterans. Leonard Higdon and grandson Jared Rohr laid a wreath for Antietam Lodge 197. Ed Beeler placed a wreath on behalf of Tolsons Chapel. Gary Shank laid a wreath on behalf of Clopper Michael Post 10 American Legion. Legionnaire Pete Waters, Son of the American Legion Eugene Rowe, Patti Lowery and her two granddaughters 2017 Miss Poppies Brooke and Mackenzie Angle placed wreaths on behalf of Antietam 236 American Legion Family.

The Clopper Michael Post 10 Honor Guard presented the rifle salute followed by the playing of Taps. The Unit chaplain then offered the benediction.

The program concluded with Gift thanking all those who participated and to all who attended. A light luncheon, at the Sharpsburg Bible church, was provided by the auxiliary at the conclusion of the program.

- Ava Gift

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A Message from American Legion Post 236

Post 236 American Legion of Sharpsburg would like to thank one and all who supported their last 50/50 raffle. The winner is Phil McNamee. The money earned by the post will pay for oranges and candy canes for the elementary school children at Christmas again this year, and for the many other things they do during the year for the military, veterans and seniors.

Do you remember the candy/orange give-away when you were a child? We would love to hear stories of past years and if anyone knows when this was started.

Thank you!

- Lawrence Hoffman
301-432-8957



Friends of Tolson's Chapel

P.O. Box 162
Sharpsburg, Maryland 21782
www.tolsonschapel.org
tolsons.chapel@gmail.com

November 14, 2017

Dear Mayor Spielman and Town Council,

The Friends of Tolson's Chapel (FOTC) is excited to announce a capital campaign to purchase the vacant lot adjoining Tolson's Chapel for use as event space and visitor parking.

In August 2017, the FOTC began negotiations with the lot owner, who has expressed interest in selling the lot for community improvement rather than residential development. That said, however, he has a previous offer for the lot at \$65,000, which he has identified as his lowest acceptable offer from the FOTC. The FOTC is applying for a Maryland Heritage Areas Authority (MHAA) Emergency Capital Grant to be considered at the January MHAA meeting. We intend to apply for the maximum allowable grant amount of \$32,500, 50% of the asking price of \$65,000. The grant requires a dollar for dollar cash match. The FOTC must raise a minimum of \$32,500 to match the grant amount, and potentially more, depending on the grant amount actually awarded.

With Tolson's Chapel and its cemetery now restored, the FOTC is developing an educational program designed to reach a national audience. Tolson's Chapel was recently identified as a nationally significant building by the National Park Service, representing the African American experience following emancipation, through Reconstruction and segregation. Through a grant from the Heart of the Civil War Heritage Area's Museum Education Initiative program, the FOTC is developing a web-based lesson plan for schools and an on-site educational experience to expand our reach and to bring students and other groups to visit Tolson's Chapel.

As we develop the on-site tourism potential at Tolson's Chapel, we face a significant problem due to limited space for bus and car parking and a lack of restroom facilities. When the vacant half-acre lot adjoining the chapel was posted for sale, we saw a unique opportunity to expand our tourism potential. We envision the lot as space for parking as well as event space with potential for construction of a pavilion and restrooms. Additionally, we intend to make the space available for community use as the Virginia Cook Memorial Park.

We hope our friends and neighbors will join us in this campaign to improve the tourism and educational potential of Tolson's Chapel with a cash donation. Please share this letter the attached Letter of Commitment (required as part of our grant application). Anyone wishing to contribute should indicate their intended donation amount on the Letter of Commitment, sign and return it to FOTC before November 30, 2017 – either as a scanned document via email to tolsons.chapel@gmail.com or as a hard copy mailed to FOTC, P.O. Box 162, Sharpsburg, MD 21782.

Thank you for your interest in helping the Friends of Tolson's Chapel continue our important mission of preserving and interpreting the significant history of Tolson's Chapel!

Sincerely,
Edie Wallace
President, Friends of Tolson's Chapel
Sharpsburg, Maryland

Letter of Commitment

I/we pledge a contribution to the Tolson's Chapel Event & Parking Lot Purchase Match Fund in the amount indicated below:

Donor/Company Name(s) _____
Contact Name _____
Address _____
Phone _____
Email _____

Pledge Information

I/we pledge a total of: \$ _____
Amount enclosed \$ _____ Remainder pledged \$ _____

Contribution Method

I/we plan to make a contribution in the form of: ☐ Cash/Check ☐ Other

Acknowledgement

Please print name as you would like it to appear in formal recognitions and/or publications:

☐ I would like my gift to be anonymous and do not want my name listed

Donor Signature

Date

Note: Donations are tax deductible to the extent allowed by the law. Tax receipts will be issued as payments are received and recorded. Questions regarding tax contributions should be referred to your tax advisor. Checks can be made payable to "Friends of Tolson's Chapel" and mailed to P.O. Box 162, Sharpsburg, MD 21782.

Maryland Updates Smoke Alarm Law

- Maryland's new smoke alarm law requires the replacement of all BATTERY-ONLY operated smoke alarms with units powered by sealed-in, 10-year long-life batteries.
- All smoke alarms have expiration dates. Both hard-wired and battery-operated smoke alarms need to be replaced every ten years. If your smoke alarm has not been replaced since 2004, it's time!
- Location, location, location – smoke alarms are required to be located outside each sleeping area and on every level of your home including basements (finished or unfinished.)
- For homes constructed since 1994, smoke alarms have been required inside all sleeping rooms. For maximum protection, fire officials recommend installing smoke alarms in sleeping rooms regardless of the year of construction.
- Homeowners have until January 1, 2018 to comply with the new law. Any resident requiring information or assistance can call 3-1-1.
- Smoke alarms can be purchased at Lowes, Home Depot and Wal-Mart stores

Local Events

- Nov 25th** Small Business Saturday
Local Author Book Signing – The Marketplace of Sharpsburg
Breakfast at the Sharpsburg Fire Company – 7am-10:30am at the old station, located at 110 W Chapline Street. Menu includes Sausage Gravy, biscuits, bacon, scrambled eggs, fried potatoes (& onions), orange juice and coffee. Cost is \$7 per person.
- Dec 1st** Tree Lighting and Decorating – Victory Garden Ranch – 5pm-7pm
- Dec 2nd** The Memorial Illumination – Antietam National Battlefield – visit www.nps.gov for further information
Luminaries for Loved Ones – The Marketplace of Sharpsburg
- Dec 3rd** Card Signing Party and Soup Sale and Puzzle & Board Game Swap – place to be determined. Contact The Marketplace of Sharpsburg for information
- Dec 5th** Holocaust Survivor Michael Bornstein and his daughter Debbie, will discuss their book *Survivors Club* at the Sharpsburg Library at 6:30pm. Registration required by calling 301-432-8825. Book signing following presentation with books available for sale
- Dec 7th** Free holiday jazz music in the library 7pm
- Dec 9th** Open House at Victory Garden Ranch – 1pm-4pm
Church Tour & Cookie Walk – 3pm – 6pm.
Come Inn for the Holidays – A self-guided driving tour of the Inns, B&B's and Guest Homes of Washington County, MD. Tickets are \$10 and can be purchased at visithagerstown.com or at the Visitor Welcome Center on N Potomac St in Hagerstown.
Local participating locations: Inn Boonsboro, Antietam Guest House, Antietam Lookout Guest Home, Inn at Antietam, Jacob Rohrbach Inn, Elmwood Farm Bed & Breakfast
Christmas Candlelight service (non-denominational) at Tolson's Chapel - 7pm
- Dec 15th** Caroling for Cans Food Drive – caroling throughout town to collect non-perishable food items for the local school food banks and/or the South County Food Pantry. Contact Meredith at The Marketplace if you would like to attend this event
- Dec 19th** Main Street Luminary Distribution at Captain Bender's Tavern – Contact Meredith at The Marketplace for more information
- Dec 21st** Walking Church and Graveyard Tour – Sharpsburg Ghost Tours. Contact Meredith at 301-991-0265 to book the tour
Santa will be at the Sharpsburg Library at 3:30pm

PARENTS' TIME OUT!

*Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, Sharpsburg
is offering free childcare for community parents
as a Christmastime gift*

Saturday, December 9, 3:00 – 7:00 p.m.



*Entertainment, activities, and a light dinner will be provided
for children by the congregation's teens and adults*

**Holy Trinity Lutheran Church
201 E. Main Street, Sharpsburg, MD
Sunday Morning Worship, 10:00 a.m.**

Please let us know you are coming or inquire by Dec. 6
at AJErnest@aol.com - Subject line: Parents' Time Out!

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**

