

Mayor & Council of Sharpsburg
Meeting Minutes APPROVED
Monday, June 6, 2022
6 PM

- I. Call meeting to order and pledge-Ed led the council and residents in the pledge
- II. Meeting minutes from May 2022 to approve-meeting minutes will be approved via an email vote due to three council members absent.

In attendance: Russ Weaver, Jacob Martz, Tim Lung (via phone), Joe Kudla, Ed Beeler, Carrie Estell, Ellen Silverstein, Tammie Reynolds, Jen Bruni, Valerie Oliver, Lynn Jamison, Michael Arant, Chris Vincent, Tim Muller, Ava Hand, Rita Vanderhuff, Katie Vanderhuff, (Scout Troop 2119), Perry Jamieson, Jim Holsinger and Michelle Canfield.

Public Comments

Jim Holsinger- attended the meeting to introduce himself to the mayor, council and residents of Sharpsburg as he is one of three republicans running for sheriff. He has worked full time in law enforcement for 28 years and has an understanding of all parts of the system, (patrol/law division, detention center, administrative). His plan is to cut waste in spending, he sited the current uniform policy and showed the wasteful spending that occurs and offered solutions. He also highlighted the system's treatment of the opioid crisis as treating the symptoms as opposed to the core problem of drug abuse. He would like to reinstate the DARE program with an updated approach, *Keeping it Real*, with emphasis on working in schools at all levels, (elementary, middle and high), with their current curriculum. He has met with WCPS to lay out program ideas. On another strategy to cut expenses, Mr. Holsinger mentioned reorganizing the sheriff department's fleet program. Another strategy for improvement would be to emphasis hiring practices and retention. There are many police reforms coming out Annapolis and he wants to have law enforcement to be comfortable in their job and feel confident with their training. He also mentioned realigning the promotional standards. Mr. Holsinger's main focus is to keep the community safe and he is committed to serving the public. He reiterated that he works for you, the tax payer, the voter. If elected, he wants to commit to a transparent, weekly YouTube talk to keep the folks in the know. Questions were open to the public: Mr. Jamieson asked about the Detention Center, Mr. Holsinger gave a detailed description of the center and some of its challenges. Joe Kudla asked about the types of gangs in Washington County, Mr. Holsinger said there are many different gangs some formed in the community, some formed in jail and some that are passing through the area. Due to time, Mr. Holsinger will be available after the meeting to answer any other questions or to further speak on specific topics.

Lynn Jamison-spoke of the two trees out front of his sister's house at 211 West Main Street. The trees were trimmed during the Main Street Tree Trim and Removal early spring. However, these trees were slated in a previous council to be removed. The root system of the trees has made it very difficult situation for the home owners. Russ suggested using funds in the mayoral account to take care of this issue. Carrie will get estimates from two-three tree companies. Mr. Jamison provided Carrie with his contact information.

Valerie Oliver-came to the meeting to introduce herself to the mayor, council and residents as she is running for County Commissioner. She is running on service and integrity and she would like to focus on EMS, agriculture, education and health. Her background is in insurance and health. Russ asked her if she was for the Stoney Creek development in Boonsboro, she said she thought it would be a good opportunity for growth. Russ shared with her some literature.

- **Officer Tracey Peyton**-Officer Peyton conducted a speed survey for a week in May. The recorder was placed on Mechanic and Hall Streets and on West Main. The majority of the violators occurred between the hours of 9am to 1pm on Sundays. He concluded that most drivers that violated were

leaving town. A copy of the speed survey is available at town hall for any resident who is interested in a more detailed account of this survey. His report was submitted electronically and is:

- **Security Checks:** parkn6, ball field 2, school 6, Antietam Station 8, **Patrol-** 3 hrs. foot patrol, 3 ½ hrs. traffic 1 warning 1 citation, calls for collision and suspicious person. 8 hr. day for Memorial Day parade. Assisted county with (2) 911 calls, crash on Mondell Rd

Chris Vincent-Donated to the town on the historic park project a very generous amount from the Antietam Institute of \$2,000.00.

Mayor's Report

Tolson's Chapel has become a National Historic Landmark and they will be having an unveiling this Saturday, Russ encourages folks to attend. Russ asked Carrie to write a letter of congratulations.

If you see something, say something (it will take the community to solve our vandalism problem)-

MML Dinner hosting-the church is more than happy to be the host of this dinner that will take place either in January or March of 2023. Russ wants to get an idea of who will assist with set up, clean up and organization. There was enough show of hands to assist that we will go ahead with the hosting the dinner. Carrie reached out to the organizer at the last dinner and has not heard from her yet; she will reach out again at the next dinner which is scheduled for July. Monthly expenses and income were delivered electronically and due to attendance, voting to accept will be done via email. Budget was discussed thoroughly in May's budget meeting.

Zoning-Tim Lung

- Continue to work on obtaining the necessary information to complete the zoning permit application for the Short-Term Rental at 110 S. Mechanic Street, owned by Gideon Properties. Have heard that the parking agreement may have fallen through. Have contacted Mike Fitzgerald for clarification but have not received a reply. If no reply is received by next week, I will issue a cease-and-desist order. Will involve Brian Kane, the town's attorney in this matter.
- Original mylar of the subdivision plat for the Town Spring/Hull property has been signed by the Mayor and Planning Chair. Was delivered to Frederick, Seibert Associates for recordation. Once recordation occurs, the paperwork can be done to convey the property. A deed of conveyance will need to be prepared most likely requiring involvement by the Town Attorney.
- Need clarification regarding Town staff involvement related to the possible annexation of property at 143 East High Street. The owners have approached the Town regarding the possible annexation of their property which is currently split by the municipal boundary. Will wait for discussion of mayor and council vote on this zoning issue.
- Issued 3 violation notices for tall weed and grass on several properties around Town. Will be following up for compliance. Citations and fines will be issued.
- Will be following up on Joe's request to investigate the condition of the house at 121 E. Main Street. Will need to have the County building inspector take another look at the structure.
- Discussed the expired building permit for the Stephen Crampton property with the Town attorney. Will be issuing a letter to Mr. Crampton that he may reapply for a new permit. The permit will need to be reviewed by the Planning Commission per section 406 of the Zoning Ordinance. There were set back mistakes on the original permit and these will need to be rectified prior to permit approval.
- Have been working on a resolution to the complaint regarding the electronic sign at the Fire Department. Will be holding a meeting with the parties involved on Wednesday evening; however, the parties have now tentatively agreed to meet Monday, June 29th at town hall.
- Need to schedule a Planning Commission meeting to discuss and take action on several items. Some of the items needed for the meeting: peddlers

Council comments

- **Robbie Waters**-parks, railroad station, town operations (not present)
 - Robbie asked to have the park closed during mowing. Signage would be “CLOSED DURING MOWING” The sign will be created and Robbie will be asked to look in the spot a pot each week to keep up on any signs of vandalism.
- **Ed Beeler**-Historical Planning, town archives, communications, grants
 - Attended the Small Museum Association Conference in College Park; attending a workshop on museum advocacy and it was very informative-grants and other services were discussed.
 - Attendance for May 2022-331, from last May, 2021-118
 - Total attendance for the year 1,013
 - Fire & EMS Exhibit 42 visitors
 - Grants-CVB for printing the new rack cards
 - Donations-field hospital exhibit from the Angels of the Battlefield Living History Group, Caisson wheel from Bloody Land on loan from William L. Smith, *Black Antietam* book, and a collection of Native American trade beads from the 1600s found in Carroll County
 - Upcoming events-Sharpsburg Rifle Reunion Exhibit-June 11th from 9-4
- **Jacob Martz**-Vice Mayor, communications, Memorial Day Parade, grants
 - Parade
 - 108 units for the parade this year, it took about two hours for the completion
 - Media was invited and Herald Mail did a story
 - Quite a few issues with the electric outside and in the vestibule-Carrie is seeking bids from JS Electric and Schiffler Electric, estimates should be coming in within the week.
 - Vandalism
 - Park-there was a truck in the camera view, looks like they may have dumped tires and children were seen playing with them. The spot a pot was vandalized with fire crackers and Mays came out almost immediately to clean the bathroom.
 - Carrie will ask Robbie to take a look around the park and take a look in the spot a pot, this will allow enough time to look at camera footage.
 - Chalked vandalism in front of the St. Paul’s Church-Officer Peyton reiterated that anyone who sees something amiss should call the sheriff’s department, (loud music, vandalism, or anything that needs attention from the sheriff). The non-emergency number should be used for any of these incidents: 240-311-2878
- **Mia Parsons**-Planning-(Streetscape), grants (not present)
- **Joe Kudla**-streets, roads & culverts
 - Bridge on Antietam will start on June 20th and sidewalks will start after the bridge completion
 - MDOT contractor will line the streets a bit narrower to assist with parking spaces below the walls, this will also assist with speed
 - Church and Antietam paving will be done after the bridge work is completed.
- **John Hammond**-Building and Infrastructure (not present)

Community Partners

- Chris Vincent-advisory board-next meeting is slated for June 22nd and lectures are each Wednesday evenings.
- Mike Arant-Town Crier-always looking for feature stories; Mike would like to really showcase what the council is doing and would be the ideal “cheerleader” for mayor and council. Mike will be interviewing Ms. Vicky Winston for a feature, as she’s a town treasure. There are about 200 electronic subscribers. Mike spoke with the editor of a small newspaper in Shepherdstown and got some ideas. Another feature story will be the restoration of the fire truck and a special story of Woodpecker Davie was the fire chief. Ideas for the next year’s remembrance were also discussed, they are many recipients.

Old Business/ACTIONS:

- Annexation request, Schaffer property 143 E. High Street-Russ gave some background of the possibility of a large number of developments on the property. The council discussed the pros and cons of the annexation. The council members who were present voted No on the annexation: Ed Beeler-NO, Joe Kudla-NO, Jacob Martz-NO. The other council members will need to vote on this via email. When Carrie gets the last votes of the council, she will inform Tim as the family has been calling almost each Friday to check on the status of the annexation.
- Clean Up, (stop sign Mechanic/Chapline, Alley at Bank, LL Alley to Antietam, Trim alleys) Carrie will speak with Robbie to get this taken care of as soon as he can put it on his schedule.
- Cemetery Survey-Russ discussed the cemetery survey that will be done, (graves will be identified, they will provide a full notebook of the findings). The Civil War Trails plaque may be an appropriate way to go as there are a few Civil War soldiers buried in the cemetery.

New Business

Building electric/plumbing upgrades- There will be bids to upgrade and fix electric out front and in the vestibule. An option for the flag lights would be upgraded to solar and be part of the bid. The Mallick Plumbing estimate appears to be reasonable, Carrie will get some input from John.

Park @ LL grant committee-Mike will put out a call for some parental input for the upgrades to the park. There is grant money and

Bathroom Use- Bathrooms will be locked and open only during meetings. Carrie will reach out to a locksmith. This will alleviate any issues as many folks have left the bathrooms very dirty.

Planning Commission (sea containers, alley names, peddlers)-Tim is going to schedule something soon as there are quite a few issues that the commission need to attend to.

8:15 meeting was adjourned, Ed motioned, Joe seconded and all were in favor.

Next meeting will be July 11th