

Mayor & Council of Sharpsburg
Meeting Minutes-APPROVED
Monday, May 2, 2022
6 PM

- I. Call meeting to order and pledge-Pledge led by Joe at 6:04 p.m.
- II. Meeting minutes from April 2022 -approved unanimously

In attendance: Russ Weaver, Jacob Martz, Robbie Waters, Ed Beeler, John Hammond, Mia Parson, Joe Kudla, Carrie Estell, Tim Lung (via speaker phone), Charles Burkett, Greg Alton, Perry Jamieson, Seth Wilson, Jen Bruni, Ava Gift, Darlene Eichelberger and Laura Oates

Darlene Eichelberger-Pinned the Poppy on the Mayor and gave a brief history of the poppy and its symbolism to the veterans who lost their lives serving our county. Russ thanked Ms. Eichelberger and Ava along with Jake on all of their hard work on parade and ceremony preparations.

Greg Alton Sheriff Candidate-introductions to council and residents. Mr. Alton is running for sheriff as a republican and comes from a family of public servants and a life time resident of Washington County. His experiences include 25 years as sheriff, 18 years as detective and supervisor for the last eight years. He did not run in 2018 as he helped care for his parents. His main reasons for running are the lawlessness and rioting, the Annapolis issues that make their way to Washington County that do not apply to the county. He is the only candidate that is endorsed by the Fraternal Order of Police. Russ asked what would be his first two issues he would tackle if elected; improving the detention center and assisting with pay scale, this will help with retaining officers. Starting satellite offices to assist the smaller communities would also be part of his start.

Charles Burkett County Commissioner -introductions to council and residents. Mr. Burkett was born and raised in Washington County. Mr. Burkett was appointed by the governor due to an opening on the county commissioners board and he stated that he's learned a lot from the time he has been involved in local government. He considers himself a fiscal conservative and uses his knowledge as an accomplished businessman to seek solutions to the county finance issues. His major issues are public safety; ensuring that sheriff, Fire and EMT are well-equipped. He was instrumental in increasing funding for the safety organizations. After leaving business, he started a ministry and does this at the detention center. He has seen first-hand the need for clean-up and overhaul of this service. Questions were asked about the large number of warehouses that are being built in the county, which in turn creates traffic and road issues. Mr. Burkett sees a need to diversify. The mayor gave a short history of the water and sewer issues that the town has experienced for over 50 years. The town is seeking solutions to alleviate the high cost of the residents' water/sewer costs.

Seth Wilson Delegate 2A Candidate- introductions to council and residents. He is lifelong resident of Washington County and is running on principles of accountability. He has degrees in economics, cyber security and experience in biotech. He is a volunteer firefighter and EMT. He asked how the town interacts with the state government and Joe Kudla explained the town's partnership with MDOT and Tony Crawford specifically. The partnership has been very positive as they have assisted with roadway issues and historic wall ownership. The 2A district is Allegany, Garret and Washington Counties along with some of Northern Frederick County.

Tim Lung Zoning Administrator

- Town Spring Acquisition-Ordinance was distributed and discussed, all were in favor of the ordinance and signed off. This was discussed at length in a previous meeting.
- April Zoning Report
 - 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. Draft copy of a parking easement plat has been submitted. Waiting for submittal of the recorded parking easement document.

- Have been working with Beatrice Gregg regarding her plans for a coffee shop in the former Kretzer's Market at the corner of Mechanic and Main Street. She is going through the process with obtaining all necessary approvals etc. Only Town approval will be a Zoning Certificate.
- Continue to work on the conveyance of the Town Spring lot owned by the Hull's to the Town. Frederick, Seibert & Associates has revised the subdivision plat per comments and is ready for signature by the Planning Commission chair. I have completed the drafting of a resolution authorizing the acquisition of the property by the Town. The plat will need to be recorded and a deed of conveyance will need to be prepared most likely requiring involvement by the Town Attorney.
- Will be preparing an Annexation Petition, Resolution and Annexation Report as required by State statute for the requested annexation of property at 143 East High St. The property is located at the end of E. High Street past Church Street and is currently split by the Town boundary but is taxed entirely in the Town. Boundary adjustment annexation is not an option; will need to go through the standard process. Town and Property owner to split the cost of a boundary survey and preparation of a new Town boundary plat.
- Processed a building permit application for an above ground swimming pool at 123 W. Antietam Street.
- Mr. Steve Crampton has requested that the County renew his expired 2017 building permit for a single-family dwelling on his property located to the rear of West Antietam St. I notified the County that the Town will not sign off on a new permit due to ongoing issues with the title to the property and access issues. The Town attorney will most likely need to be involved.
- Obtained copies of new/update Town Maps from Bud Gudmundson at the County GIS department.
- Need to schedule a Planning Commission meeting to review and approve the Town's 2021 annual report to be submitted to the Maryland Department of Planning.
- Request that any Council members notify me by email of any outstanding zoning violations/complaints that I may be unaware of that need follow-up.
- Joe asked about 121 E Main and the high bricks that appear to be loose. County inspector came by and did not see an issue. Tim will draft a letter addressing the safety concern to the home owner.

Public Comments

Mr. Jamieson praised the town's quick work on the alley issue that him and his neighbor are having and asked about a more permanent solution. Joe and Jake looked at the area and came up with a possible solution for larger stone to round out the corner and smaller stone for the alley way. The water flow is what is the main issue and to make that flow slower is the ideal solution. Milling that was put down are too smooth and at this time Robbie and Joe will go up to the affected properties to come up with a solution.

Mayor's Report

- Budget/Finances -everyone received an April financial report, Russ reviewed, Ed motioned, Joe seconded and all were in favor of the expenditures/income.
- COVID Cash update-Carrie presented the allocated funding for the Recovery Act funds as a report was due April 30, 2022. Funds need to be spent by the end of the calendar year of 2026; reporting happens on an annual basis. The monies granted should be used

- Washington County Health Department truck visited the town Friday, April 15 vaccinations, 1 test and handed out a variety of healthy information. Hoping to have the WCHD visit and disseminate information twice a year or quarterly.
- Council Room Use, (drafted set of guidelines). A drafted set of guidelines was presented to the mayor and council. All agreed that the list was appropriate

Council comments

- **Joe Kudla**-streets, roads & culverts
 - Taylor's cleaned out Church/Antietam culvert, much improved
 - Bridge and guardrails have been repaired
 - Section of sidewalk off Antietam Street, (107/109) will be used as a test site.
 - Prisoner work crew was good, three inmates were picked up and they worked all day cleaning gutter pans, trash and coms culvert clean out. Ideally, Joe would like to do this program a few more times to get the gutter pans in the entire town cleaned out. Hoping for another crew to concentrate on Main Street before the parade. While the inmates collected trash, there was no evidence of drug use/abuse. However, there were about 400 empty miniature liquor bottles throughout the areas that trash was collected. Joe thinks that usage is from two women who tend to drink in a grove of pine trees on the west side of town near an alley way.
 - MDOT will sweep before the parade
 - 200 W Main no parking signs to go up, Joe will meet with Robbie to get them installed
- **Robbie Waters**-parks, railroad station, town operations
 - Fishing Rodeo was a huge success! About 650kids and 35 adults enjoyed the event along with hotdogs, chips, sodas and prizes.
 - Robbie asked for 8-10 yards of mulch for the playground, especially in the swing area. Mats were discussed but it was the thought that older children would possibly throw them over the fence. Robbie motioned for the mulch expenditure, Joe seconded the motion and all were in favor.
- **John Hammond**-Building and Infrastructure
 - Discussed the issue of Main Street parking during the parade. The outcome of this discussion was that signs would be posted and a citation may be issued. Carrie will call the sheriff department concerning the signs, ticket writing and assigned hours of the sheriffs.
 - Discussed the poor conditions of the Mt. View Cemetery and what the town can do. The cemetery is not in town or a town owned property. Carrie stated that since she's been here there have been quite a few calls concerning the conditions. Russ suggested that the people who have loved ones buried speak with the cemetery's board and/or Hal Spielman as he's the person in charge of the cemetery.
- **Ed Beeler**-Historical Planning, town archives, communications, grants
 - Attendance April 207, YTD 682
 - Monthly Exhibit: Native American Artifacts & Arrowhead – 32 in attendance.
 - May 14, will be our History of the Sharpsburg Fire and E.M.S. Exhibit from 9-4
 - June 11th is our Sharpsburg Rifle Reunion Exhibit, which I already meet with one formal member. As far as we know there is only four left?
 - Donations for the month of March:
 - Various files on town properties from Edie Wallace-*The Rural African American Experience*, 1865-2900, in the National Capital Area.
 - CVB for three display cases
- **Jacob Martz**-Vice Mayor, communications, Memorial Day Parade, grants
 - Applied for additional \$2,000 grant from Washington County Convention and Visitors Bureau
 - Received new traffic control devices
 - Received approval for Special Event permit from MDOT
 - Reserved law enforcement
 - Reserved catering
 - Parade book format to be completed this week
 - Response from request for World War II photos: received 23 submissions, including pictures and biographies

- Received 66 Memorial/Sponsorship submissions
 - Have already sold 47 books, 12 more reserved
 - Application process for parade participation is complete-90 units confirmed for parade
 - Next Memorial Day Committee meeting is tomorrow, May 3, 2022 at 6:00 p.m.
- Mia Parsons-Planning-(Streetscape), grants
 - Tree replacement species and estimates are being gathered. Planting will be in the fall. Trying to get a short list of species that residents can chose from.
 - Will generate a veterans' banner request form. The cost would be \$150.00, banners will be from Mosco Banners.
 - Creating a Christmas committee would be helpful for the holiday. Possibly have a request/interest in the Town Crier closer to the season.

Community Partners

- Laura Oates, Laura Oates Design-show casing new website for mayor and council input-some items were left out and she will include
- Mike Arant-Town Crier (not in attendance)
- Chris Vincent-Antietam Institute (not in attendance)
- Officer Peyton-April report, electronically submitted
 - Checks
 - Antietam Station-8, School-4, Park-10, Ballfield-6, Checks
 - 5 hours traffic-2 citations, 5 warnings and 3 parking violations
 - 3 hours foot patrol, 2 hours court, 1 hour training.
 - Assisted county with 4 calls, right outside of town: 2 intoxicated tests, and participated in parade for Rhett

Old Business/ACTIONS

Town Wells-this will be discussed at the budget meeting that is scheduled for Monday, May 16th from 6-8 p.m.

New Business

Meeting was adjourned at 9:20, next meeting is scheduled for June 6th