Mayor & Council of Sharpsburg

Meeting Minutes

Monday, September 12, 2022

6 PM

1. Call meeting to order and pledge Joe led the council, visitors and residents in the pledge, Russ asked for a moment of silence for those killed in 9/11 and for the passing of Queen Elizbeth.
2. Meeting minutes from August 2022 were emailed to all council members, some adjustments were made. Ed motioned for the meeting minutes to be accepted and Robbie seconded; all were in favor of accepting the meeting minutes from August to be approved.
3. In attendance: Russ Weaver, Robbie Waters, Ed Beeler, John Hammond, Jacob Martz, Mia Parsons, Joe Kudla, Carrie Estell, Brain Lynch, Tom Williams, Ed Brinkley, Perry Jamieson, Jen Bruni and Chris Vincent.

**Public Comments**

* Perry Jamieson-thanked Robbie Waters and his company for their work on the alley situation at his house. Since the improvement, it has rained and no gravel has moved. The trenches, gravel and stone appear to be working. The rain tonight will be another test to the improvement. Mr. Jamieson thanked the town’s quick response.

**Brian Lynch, Tom Williams & Ed Brinkley-Antietam Broadband Cable**

* Presented their company for competition for cable for the town’s residents. Their commitment to a local company and giving back to the communities they serve was highlighted. Many programs are local high school games. They’ve been in the community for over 55 years
* Pride themselves in customer service and as good communicators; a highlight was customer service issues resolved over their new chat feature.
* 300/300 and 600/600 service; 1.3 gig starting service, pricing is simplistic. There will be about 5.3 miles of areal wiring and 1.5 miles of underground. All monies for this project are from private funds, no grants or federal monies.
* Time line of construction is pole surveys, attachment rights and walk out and design. This will start within 30 days after signage is complete. This will be a quick build as the aerial work has been completed. Pre and post construction pictures will be done to make sure any ground disturbed will be put in their pre-construction appearance
* Hot spots will be available in and around the town’s square/town center.
* Mayor and council will discuss towards the end of the meeting and vote on Antietam internet services for the town. Carrie will call Brian tomorrow with their decision.

**Mayor’s Report**

* **Budget/Finances-**August expenses and income was distributed and briefly discussed, Robbie motioned to accept, Ed seconded the motion and all were in favor.
* **Thrifty-Grants-**Russ reviewed the grants money received and was happy with the work.
* **Banners for Vets (5 needed for production)** As of today, we have seven banners paid for with five in production. The banner company will do in a group of five. We need to have three more for the next production phase. Discussion was held on vets who served in the military as a recipient of the banners, this will allow for more banner recipients.
* **Library parking sign-**discussion was held on library specific sign for hours, the current sign is outdated and with their limited hours council discussed to have library, only for handicapped drivers. Best scenario is no signs, Robbie will take down, parking will be done as a first come first served basis.

**Tim Lung, Zoning**

* Investigated and forwarded a complaint to the County Building Inspector regarding a potential unsecured/unsafe structure at 316 W. Main Street. Waiting for a follow-up report from the County. County stated that the property needs to be put in order.
* Received a complaint from a citizen that the street lights are out at the corner of Church and E. Main (Rt 65 and Rt 34). Carrie to follow up with the power company.
* Investigating a complaint regarding poultry at 135 W. Main St.
* Been working with a person who wishes to purchase the vacant lot along South Hall Street behind 120 W. Antietam Street, for the purpose of locating a single-family dwelling regarding setbacks, access to the alley, permitting process and planning commission review of the permit, etc.
* Talked to a person regarding the possibility of establishing a retail business at the corner of E. Main and S. Mechanic Street in front of Nutters. Requested that they send me more info regarding the nature of the business before making a zoning determination.
* Reviewed and signed off on a building permit application for repairs to a garage located at 223 E. main Street. Will need County review.
* Received a request for review of some proposed small “shingle” type signs for businesses at 101 W. Main St. The proposed signs meet the requirements. Zoning Ordinance does not require permits for signs.
* Need to inspect the property at 125 W. Main for compliance with weeds/tall grass notice.
* Need to inspect the property at 205 W. High Street for compliance with weeds/tall grass notice.
* Property at 121 E. Main Street was supposed to be cleaned up by the property owner's representative. Need to inspect.
* Need to schedule a field meeting with the Wash Co Public Schools and the County regarding an on-going drainage issue related to the Stormwater Management facility at the Elementary school.
* Need to finalize the minutes of the last Planning Commission meeting and submit for the Chairpersons signature. Also need to research several items of concern requested by the Planning Commission for follow up and discussion at a future meeting.
* After listening to the Antietam Cable presentation, a Utility Permit will be required by the Town prior to any work being done in any Town Right of Way.

**Council comments**

* Robbie Waters-parks, railroad station, town operations
  + Cemetery Spray was done, the Johnson Grass is very invasive and difficult to kill.
  + Pond is very low; Robbie will reach out to the fire department and see if they can clear any clogging. Russ mentioned previously Rotor Rooter was called to assist with clogging.
    - Picnic tables all but the larger handicapped ones (2) are installed
    - The larger tables need to have a cement slab and will be taken care of
    - Floating docks will be priced out to build vs already built and shipping
  + Mulched playground park and cleared brush and hanging trees around the outer fence area. Looks like it could be a good walking path. Council to think about that
  + Story Walk was discussed with Carrie and Robbie will be able to install and maintenance should not be an issue.
  + Brush Pick UP date(s)-will be the week of October 23rd (Carrie will post information on Facebook and in the Post Office)
  + The sidewalk at the Lutheran Cemetery will be cleaned up and cleared in November.
* John Hammond-Building and Infrastructure
  + JS Electric estimate update-company was nonresponsive for discussion on estimate
  + A different company, (RS Electric), will come by Wednesday, September 21st to review the issues for the electrical work needed for Town Hall and outside at Town Center. Jake will be at Town Hall to discuss issues for the new company.
* Ed Beeler-Historical Planning, town archives, communications, grants
  + Monthly Attendence: 199, bringing a total year todate 1674 – last year: 1639
  + Acquired many artifacts from the froBoyer estate: ledgers from the Boyer Store, Red Men`s Club,invoices from various Sharpsburg Stores,photos, two church related books from the German Reformed Church both in German and date were 1776 and 1784, wills, deeds and other local documents of Sharpsburg .
  + Sharpsburg Days is only three weeks away, as of right now there is food Vendors: 7, Crafts: 6, Nonprofit: 5 and demos: 6 plus the museum information table along with the Sharpsburg Brick Club which brings a total of 26
* Jacob Martz-Vice Mayor, communications, Memorial Day Parade, grants
  + Worked with Tim and Fred Frederick on the survey for the Big Spring purchase
  + Assisted with the Battle of Antietam Banners
  + Purchased a new TV for meetings
  + Working with the landscape architect on concept review for Historic Pocket Park, meeting to take place Sept. 27th at 11:00 am
  + Completed a 10K grant Hotel Grant for Pocket Park
  + September parade meeting was postponed, next meeting will be in October.
  + Working with Tim on drafting a property maintenance ordinance.
  + Jake reviewed with the council the latest with the historic walls; MDOT would repair but wants to put up railing. Tony Crawford’s opinion is the same as the town’s that no railing is needed or warranted.
* Mia Parsons-Planning-(Streetscape), grants
  + Fall tree replacement-working on a draft for fall replacement, there are small, medium and large suggestions from the arborist. Mia will gather a list of species based on their recommendations. The replacements will be decided with input from homomers’ via Town Crier and/or Facebook.
  + Alleys walk update-will be scheduled soon and invites will come via text/email
* Joe Kudla-streets, roads & culverts
  + Sidewalks, bus stop areas were photographed and emailed to council
    - Pictures of bus stops were reviewed
    - John stated that the WCPS and their transportation department moves the bus stops almost all the time
    - Sidewalk work will not be done for school bus stops at this time
  + Requested a survey by FSA for the water issues on the corner of Antietam and Church. Issues were discussed, Carrie will respond to FSA’s email and have them try to assist the town with this issue.
  + Still waiting on historic wall report from Cecil Kincaid, the inspection was done late August. Carrie will call to get an idea on completion.
  + Joe will reach out to Cody of No Mow Worries about concrete left at park.
  + ZOOM meeting with Senator Corderman scheduled for Thursday, September 22nd at 10 am, majority of this meeting will be funding for the walls, streetscape in regards to sidewalks will also be part of the discussion.
  + Joe will share with council the curbs that need to be fixed throughout town; with the price of $115/linear foot, this could be a pricey project, but much needed. Curbs that are in dire need of repair will be slated for fixing.
  + This year MDOT will do the lines on Main Street near the walls; they will also do parking lines to help with the traffic issues on the corner of Main and Church, the parking lines will be Ls or Ts an they will give us a few different options to choose from. They were running behind schedule and Joe hopes this will be taken care of this year.

**Community Partners**

* Chris Vincent-advisory board
  + Next meeting is this week, Wednesday, September 14th
  + Many events are scheduled for the Antietam Battlefield, Russ commented on the landscaping of the park.
  + Banners for businesses (same style of the Tolson’s banners)-Chris brought this up as an option for banners to be hung on “off seasonal” times and to promote local business. Russ thought it would be a good idea to have this to promote local businesses. Banners would be purchased by the business and hung and stored by the town. Carrie was tasked with writing up a short banner for business policy.
* Mike Arant-Town Crier-not present
* Officer Peyton-March report, electronically submitted
  + Checks-Antietam Station-9, School-11, Park-10, ball field-2,
  + 3 hrs. foot patrol
  + 8 hrs. traffic-3 citations /4 warnings
  + crash investigation, domestic dispute, family dispute, and assist with mental disturbance
  + 2 hrs. court

**Old Business/ACTIONS**

**Apple Valley Waste contract (expires 12/31/2022) copy was emailed to council**

**B&B Auto snow removal (expires 12/31/2022) copy was emailed to council-**both contracts will be sent out for bidding. Carrie to place ad in newspaper.

**Wells-**proposal was emailed to Mark Bradshaw, Russ to reach out.At the time of meeting, Mr. Bradshaw has not responded to the emailed proposal and has not returned calls

**Community Park/Playground Committee-**will meet in the next couple of weeks; there is money to purchase trees for shade and equipment for smaller/younger kids. Robbie worked on brush that surrounded the fenced in park and thinks it could be a good walking trail.

**Streetscape-**planning commission to address streetscape idea

**Big Spring (tree issue and fix)-**Robbie to look at the trees and plants that are behind the wall, he feels the best way to rid that area of the unwanted trees is to cut down and squirt with some type of deterrent for growth. Russ is in contact with a local company that will repair/restore the wall of the Big Spring.

**New Business**

**RSVP for MML September Dinner-**Carrie will get head count for payment this Wednesday.

**Antietam Cable-**Mia motioned to have Antietam to provide internet services to the town’s residents, Ed seconded the motion and all were in favor.

Motion to adjourn by Joe, Jake seconded, all were in favor, meeting ended 8:08 pm, next meeting scheduled for October 3rd most of this meeting will be set aside for contract prep work.