

**SHARPSBURG MAYOR AND COUNCIL
MEETING MINUTES
NOVEMBER 6, 2023**

The Mayor and Council of Sharpsburg, MD held their monthly meeting on Monday, November 6, 2023 in the Council meeting room of Town Hall located at 106 E. Main Street in Sharpsburg. In attendance were Mayor Russell Weaver, Councilmembers Ed Beeler, Joseph Kudla and Robbie Waters. Absent were Vice Mayor Jacob Martz and Councilmembers John Hammond and Mia Parsons. Town Clerk Debra Smith was also in attendance and Zoning Administrator Tim Lung was in attendance via Zoom.

CALL TO ORDER AND PLEDGE: Mayor Weaver called the meeting of the Mayor and Council to order at 6:00 PM with the Pledge of Allegiance and a moment of silence.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – the approval of the October 2, 2023 meeting minutes were tabled until the December meeting due to lack of quorum for a vote.

APPROVAL OF OCTOBER FINANCIAL REPORT - the approval of the October 2023 financial report was tabled until the December meeting due to lack of quorum for a vote.

ZONING ADMINISTRATORS REPORT:

- The Board of Zoning Appeals will be holding a public hearing on Wednesday, Nov 8 to consider the re-application for a Special Exception to establish a short-term rental use at 201 W. Main Street, zoned TR. The Planning Commission met and will be forwarding a recommendation.
- Reviewed and Issued a Zoning permit for a privacy fence to be located at the Fire Company site on E. Chaplin St.
- Reviewed and signed off on a Building Permit application for County approval at 225 W. Chaplin Street. 32' x 36' storage garage for private use.
- Reviewed and signed off on a Building permit application for Washington County approval at 207 W. Chaplin St. for a rooftop deck.
- Waiting for a response from State Highway Administration regarding the sight distance issue at the corner on Church St (MD 65) and E. Main St. (MD34).
- Attended the Public Information meeting regarding the Draft County Comprehensive Plan meeting at Williamsport on Oct 25.
- Mayor Weaver inquired about the signage issue at the SEMS and if it is permissible to have it moved to Rt.65.

GUEST: Paul Kenney of Radar Signs attended via Zoom to discuss battery and solar powered radar speed signs. Quotes and spec sheets were provided to the Mayor and Council prior to the meeting.

The TC 400 battery powered radar speed sign is mobile, lightweight, has an 11" LED display and attaches to a post or pole in a few minutes at a cost of \$3,085.00. Optional items include strobes, extra brackets, extra batteries and Streetsmart data collection software. The sign comes with two rechargeable batteries. Those batteries last 2-3 weeks, depending on the volume of traffic.

Quote for the TC600 solar sign is maintenance free, more of a permanent solution, has a 13" LED display and comes with the message alerts SLOW DOWN/TOO FAST at a cost of \$3,848.00. This also has additional options: lock, strobes, different message alerts and Streetsmart.

Spec sheets on both signs and Streetsmart, which allows you to collect all the traffic data and process it into 35 charts and tables. Streetsmart is a one-time fee of \$275/sign.

Councilmember Kudla proposed the purchase of two-(2) TC 400 battery powered radar speed signs (one for Main Street and one for a side street) and the purchase of optional items; two-(2) batteries, two-(2) universal mount “GO” brackets, Streetsmart software and the strobe lighting (if legal in MD).

CORRESPONDENCE:

Pre-Legislative Forum – Monday, Nov. 6th @ 1:30 @ HCC

MML Town Site Visit – Monday, November 27th @1:00 @ Town Hall

MML Meeting/Dinner – Monday, November 27th @6PM in Clear Spring

Town Tree Lighting – Friday, December 1st@ 7:00 PM

Tri County Council Business Meeting/Dinner – Dec. 13th @ Nicks Airport Inn

MAYORS REPORT:

Wells – Surveyor’s report is finished. We now have a project manager assigned. Stakes will be in place this week showing where well will be. Will be meeting with well drillers over the next several weeks.

Town Hall – Executed recommendations from PlumberWurx. We may now need a new hot water heater.

Community Park – New equipment being installed. See Robbie’s report.

Historic Park - Team met to identify wayside exhibits topics, themes, locations base style, direction of view, and preliminary list of proposed graphics, images, artwork, or maps. More work needed.

Big Spring - We were not selected for a grant and have this project on hold.

Boyer House – Negotiation on terms of sale have hit snag.

Streets & General Maintenance – Moving forward on parking signs. Moving electronic sign from fire hall to route 65 will be discussed in executive session. Speed awareness monitor will be revisited in light of recent traffic issues. Looking at street scape issues with MDOT.

Planning – Comprehensive plan being completed for submission to count planning.

Public Safety – Dakota active in community and working well so far.

Audit – Will be completed in November. (*)

FY25 Program Open Space Funding Round has opened.

2024 Water Rebates – May not be able to offer 100% rebates in January. Will discuss further in December. (*)

COUNCIL REPORTS:

Councilmember Kudla

- The first phase of the Wall repair on E. Main Street is complete
- Greeley wall repair to be started imminently.
- Frederick Siebert assessment copies provided
- Ownership of Chapline Street bridge has been determined to be the Town
- Traffic calmed down over last 4 weeks
- Copies of speed signs presented.
- No results on cityscape yet.

Councilmember Waters

- The installation of the playground equipment is 90% complete.
- Tractor Trailer No Parking signage is up on Church Street and Antietam Street. Two more signs are available to be placed in needed areas.
- The 2nd round of Hometown Hero Banners were hung.
- Brush pick up will take place the week of November 13th.

Councilmember Beeler

Sharpsburgh Museum of History/ Town Archives Report for November 5, 2023

- Attendance: 123 - YTD: 1435
- Sharpsburg Days ran an information table and made lots of contacts. One of the best
- SMH held their Annual Volunteer Award Night at St. Paul's:
- Volunteer of the Year for 2023 was Max Gregg which won last year too.
- 1st runner up was Beatrix Gregg and 2nd runner up was Jesse Rogers, with Jeff Cline given all three an award for volunteerism and Max received a framed letter from a couple from Wales that here gave a tour in the museum and Star Volunteer for 2023 was Daniel Gregg
- November 18th at SMH from 10-2 will be our second Native American Artifacts Expo
- December 1st at 7pm will be our Annual Christmas Tree Lighting and 2024 Miss Sharpsburg

Councilmember Parsons *(submitted prior to the meeting)*

The planning commission met on Wednesday, October 25 at 6pm. We reviewed the application for a special exception from Ms. Virginia Schrivener and are drafting recommendations for Tim prior to the next BZA hearing. We discussed the town of Sharpsburg Comprehensive Plan review and update and will be meeting next on Thursday November 30 to start that process. That will be our focus for the next few months.

Vice Mayor Martz *(submitted prior to the meeting)*

- Attended interpretive park planning meeting with David Guiney, Dennis Frye and Chris Vincent. Location and types of signage for the park was discussed, as well as topics to be interpreted.
- Submitted grant application for Hotel Rental Tax Funding for Memorial Day expenses.
- Submitted request for funding from Washington County Convention and Visitors Bureau for additional funding for Memorial Day.
- Investigated source of water leak in mop sink located in the library and informed Robbie of the issue. He contacted a plumber, who determined that a malfunctioning water heater located above the drop ceiling in the closet was the problem.
- Next meeting of Memorial Day committee scheduled for November 7, 2023 at 6:00 p.m.

DEPUTY WATKINS END OF MONTH REPORT FOR OCTOBER: *(submitted prior to the meeting)*

Elementary School - 4 checks.

Antietam Station - 4 checks.

Park - 3 checks.

Little League Field - 3 checks.

Traffic Enforcement - 2 hours.

Calls For Service - 9

Court - 1

Training - 2 days.

Special Events - 2 (Sharpsburg Days, Trick or Treat).

Total calls for service in Sharpsburg: 81

Burglary - 0

Theft - 0

TFMV - 0

Disorderly - 1

MDOP - 1

Vehicle Theft - 1 (recovered)

OLD BUSINESS

Council Review of Town Safety Priorities- an email will be sent to Council members requesting a list of safety concerns that will be prioritized and given to Deputy Watkins. (*)

E. Antietam Street Drainage Project Update: tabled until December. (*)

Town Office Security Review- the Town Clerk has met with two-(2) security companies and proposals will be presented to the Mayor and Council when received. (*)

The meeting adjourned at 7:00 PM.

December 4, 2023 Meeting Action/Agenda Items: (*)

- Obtain/Review of Town safety priorities
- Town Office Security Proposals
- Proposal/Recommendation to purchase 2 Radar Signs
- Water Rebate Discussion
- Town Audit
- October Minutes and Financial Report Approval
- Possible executive session to discuss recent concerns regarding the large signage at the SEMS.

Respectfully submitted,

Debra Smith
Town Clerk