

**SHARPSBURG MAYOR AND COUNCIL
MEETING MINUTES
OCTOBER 2, 2023**

The Mayor and Council of Sharpsburg, MD held their monthly meeting on Monday, October 2, 2023 in the Council meeting room of Town Hall located at 106 E. Main Street in Sharpsburg. In attendance were Mayor Russell Weaver, Vice-Mayor Jacob Martz, Councilmembers Ed Beeler, John Hammond, Joseph Kudla, Mia Parsons and Robbie Waters. Town Clerk Debra Smith was also in attendance.

CALL TO ORDER AND PLEDGE: Mayor Weaver called the meeting of the Mayor and Council to order at 6:00 PM with Girl Scout Lucy Shaffer leading the Pledge of Allegiance.

GUESTS/PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Lucy Shaffer of Girl Scout Troop 15134 is working on a Bronze Award project which was presented to the Mayor and Council. The “Boo-Boo Box” is filled with basic first aid supplies such as band aids and is requested to be initially placed in the Sharpsburg Park. (girl scouts will be responsible for maintaining the supplies) It is Lucy’s hope that the concept will grow to include hiking trails, etc.

Presentation of Citation and Donation to the Sharpsburg Fire Department in honor of the departments 80th Anniversary of the Fire Department.

MD Congressional 6 Candidate Heath Barnes (Mayor of Woodsboro) introduced himself as a candidate stating that his #1 priority is inflation.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES -Motion by Councilmember Beeler, second by Vice Mayor Martz to approve the September 11, 2023 meeting minutes as written. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF SEPTEMBER FINANCIAL REPORT - Motion by Councilmember Waters, second by Councilmember Kudla to Approve the September Financial Reports as presented. Motion carried.

ZONING ADMINISTATORS REPORT – Tim Lung was absent due to vacation.

MAYORS REPORT – Mayor Weaver presented updates on current projects:

Wells: 10/2/2023 – Received MDE requirements and surveyed area where pump and treatment facility will be located. Awaiting surveyor’s report. Will be meeting with well drillers over the next several weeks.

Town Hall:10/2/2023 – Executed recommendations from John to proceed with PlumbingWurx. Repairs will be done on Wednesday 10/4/2023 (TOWN HALL WILL BE CLOSED AND REOPEN THURSDAY)

Community Park:10/2/2023 – New equipment being installed. See Robbie’s report.

Historic Park:10/2/2023 –FSA was here on 9/18/2023 and went over detailed designs. Will discuss under old business at 10/2/council meeting. Once detailed design is complete, we will create bid packages and go out for bids.

Develop a “Wayside Exhibit Proposal” which identifies for each wayside display the topic, theme, location, base style, direction of view, and preliminary list of proposed graphics, images, artwork, or maps.

Big Spring: 10/2/2023 – We were not selected for a grant and have this project on hold.

Boyer House:10/2/2023 – We will complete sales agreement on 10/6 and then go to settlement.

Streets & General Maintenance:10/2/2023 – Moving forward on parking sign and moving electronic sign from fire hall to route 65. Speed awareness monitor will be revisited in light of recent traffic issues. Looking at street scape issues with MDOT.

Planning:10/2/2023 – Comprehensive plan review starts September. County has released theirs. Looking for a resource to help. Be actively integrated into and critiquing the County comprehensive plan. Hold session late August early September to improve working knowledge of County GIS tools. Roulette sale details available upon request.

Public Safety:10/2/2023 – Happy to report we made some progress in parking lot last Wednesday.

COUNCIL MEMBERS REPORTS

Councilmember Beeler: **SHARPSBURGH Museum of History/Town Archives Report for October 2023**

- Attendance: 136 - YTD: 1277
- No donations as of yet but we have a possibility of three different people donating
- Sharpsburg Days is this Saturday anyone who would like to volunteer, we need some help with setting up and tearing down. Please see me.
- The town's collection will soon be inventoried with accession and catalog numbers.
- The museum will soon be finished.
- Sharpsburg Days Vendors:
Food: 6, Crafts: 22, NP: 4, Demos: 3, Speaker Program: 4 & Music: 3
- Scare Crow Contest is on and winners will be picked this Saturday afternoon and given prizes.
- Miss Sharpsburg 2024 will begin soon

Councilmember Hammond: questioned why the Council did not receive notice on 2- recent events and requested that all future invitations to any of the Mayor and Council come through Town Hall to be emailed to all of the Mayor and Council. **Motion** by Councilmember Hammond, second by Councilmember Waters that all future invitations to any of the Mayor and Council come through Town Hall to be emailed to all of the Mayor and Council. Motion carried.

Councilmember Kudla:

- The wall remediation by MDOT is to start in October. Send out Facebook reminder.
- The damaged wall in front of Greeley home is now at the repair stage.
- Looking for the Frederick Siebert assessment of the Spring Alley and corner of Antietam and Church.
- The ownership of the bridge at Chapline is still ongoing. MDOT says they have no issues with cantilevering the sign.
- Still looking for traffic solutions at corner of 65 and 34.
- Cityscape is being reviewed again to fix brick and cement sidewalks.

Councilmember Parsons/Patty Hammond for Planning Commission: Presented highlights from the Planning Commission on the Washington County Comprehensive Plan 2040.

Councilmember Waters:

- Playground report – equipment installation is continuing. Waiting on the canopy which is back ordered until November 11th.
- Fishing rodeo – DNR has scheduled the event for April 27, 2024.
- Brush pick-up – will be discussed under Old Business.

Vice Mayor Martz:

- Attended trip with KWVA to Korean War Memorial in DC organized by Ron Twentey, Grand Marshal of the 156th Memorial Day Parade and current Commander of Korean War Veterans Association

Memorial Day:

- Contacted the County Veterans Affairs Office for information regarding the number of veterans residing in Washington County. They report that there are over 10,000 veterans in Washington County, of which 3,455 are veterans of the Vietnam War.
- Located and obtained estimate from aviation group willing to perform special flyover for next year's Memorial Day parade.
- Spoke with Hagerstown Aviation Museum management about the possibility of acquiring a trailer to pull their recently acquired helicopter through parade.
- Purchased 3 Flagger Ahead signs for Memorial Day parade per the advice of Fire Police
- Completed School Use Request form and submitted to Washington County Schools for approval.
- Next Memorial Day Committee meeting is tomorrow evening, Tuesday, October 3rd at 6:00 pm.

Boyer House

- Gave tour of Boyer House to Keedysville Historical Society, attended by 20+ visitors. It was a very successful tour, and all in attendance stated that they had a positive and educational experience.
- Gave an impromptu mini-informational presentation and Q&A session about the Boyer House with Tom Clemens at the Boonsboro Public Library. The house has generated a lot of interest and excitement in the community, and the town is receiving abundant praise for its preservation efforts.
- Conducted research regarding the history of ownership of the Boyer House for SHAF to help facilitate its transfer.

- **Boyer House Sales Agreement meeting on Friday, October 13th @ 6PM.**

COMMUNITY PARTNERS

Officer Watkins – Resident Deputy

Antietam Station - 10 checks; Sharpsburg Elementary - 5 checks; Little League Field - 9 checks; Park - 10 checks; Bank Lot - 12 checks; Traffic Enforcement - 2.5 hours; Calls for Service - 16 (inside and outside of town); Town Meeting - Attended.

Total Sheriff's Office events inside town limits – 212. Common event types that effect communities:

Burglaries – 0; Disorderly – 1; Malicious Destruction of Property – 1; Accident – 3; Theft – 0; Theft from motor vehicle - 0

Chris Vincent – Park Advisory Board- discussed the Canal Towns Partnership which places sponsoring towns along the C&O Canal in the Towpath to Town brochure providing visitors with history and attraction details for \$500 per year and requires a representative to attend one meeting per year. Motion by Councilmember Waters, second by Councilmember Parsons to approve the membership and appoint Councilmember Beeler as the town representative. Motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS

Council Review of Town Safety Priorities- tabled until November.

Brush collection cost and collection date- Councilmember Waters stated that he could stay within the current budget of \$6,500.00 as long as the rules are adhered to which is no trees, brush only; amounts to be equivalent to the size of a small pick up bed and limbs no larger than 4” in diameter. Robbie will determine the date prior to Thanksgiving and make a Facebook post.

Further discussion on Roulette Farm Survey – nothing more to add on the matter.

Town Office Security Review- tabled until November.

NEW BUSINESS

2024 Trash Contract Extension- Apple Valley Waste has agreed to extend their contract by 1-year without any increases with approval and a letter from the Mayor and Council for calendar year 2024. Motion by Vice Mayor Martz, second by Councilmember Kudla to approve the contract extension for 1-year. Motion carried.

Parks Security Service Agreements- Atlantic Security has provided system security agreements for Security Only and CCTV Only for both the Water Tower Park and the Mark A. Smith Park. Each plan provides the option of Plan A (full service annual clean, test, inspection and warranty) or Plan B (annual clean, test & inspection). To cover all four-(4) plans under Plan A is \$2,277.00 and Plan B is \$1,075.00. (-1,202.00). Council requested that a representative from Atlantic Security attend the November meeting to further explain the contracts.

Motion by Councilmember Waters, second by Councilmember Beeler to adjourn the meeting at 7:58 PM. Motion carried.

November 6, 2023 Meeting Action Items:

- Council to report at the November meeting a list of safety priorities that they would like to see Deputy Watkins address in town.
- Town Office Security
- Park Security Agreements

Respectfully submitted,

Debra Smith
Town Clerk