

**SHARPSBURG MAYOR AND COUNCIL  
MEETING MINUTES  
SEPTEMBER 11, 2023**

The Mayor and Council of Sharpsburg, MD held their monthly meeting on Monday, September 11, 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 and Mia Parsons. Councilmember Robbie Waters was absent. Town Clerk Debra Smith was also in attendance and Zoning Administrator Tim Lung attended via Zoom.

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

**GUESTS/PUBLIC COMMENTS** - Robert Grogan of 105 W. Main Street addressed ongoing safety concerns regarding activity that takes place on the JSB Bank lot which is connected to his property. Deputy Watkins verified that the Sheriff's Dept. has received several calls for this property. Mayor Weaver stated that he recently met with Sheriff Albert regarding the matter and Deputy Watkins schedule can be adjusted to cover Wednesday nights which is when most of the activity occurs. Deputy Watkins added that he can only address matters that are criminal in nature and because the lot is privately owned, he cannot do anything about the congregating or loitering. This will have to be addressed civilly with the property owner. Mayor Weaver encouraged citizens to file a police report when they see something which will in turn prioritize the officers time and schedule. He also asked Council to report at the October meeting a list of priorities that they would like to see Deputy Watkins address in town. (ACTION ITEM)

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES** – The July minutes were approved by email vote and there was no meeting held in August.

**APPROVAL OF AUGUST FINANCIAL REPORT** – The June and July Financials were approved by email vote. **Motion** by Councilmember Beeler second by Vice Mayor Martz to approve the financial report for the month of August 2023. Motion carried.

**ZONING ADMINISTRATORS REPORT** – Zoning Administrator Tim Lung submitted the following report:

- Work on the MDE Waterway Construction Permit application for the Big Spring wall restoration project is on hold pending funding.
- The Board of Zoning Appeals held a public hearing on Aug 22<sup>nd</sup> for a Special Exception to establish a short-term rental use at 204 E. Main Street, zoned TR. The Planning Commission met and recommended approval. BZA approved the request with conditions.
- Reviewed and signed off on 2 Building Permit applications for County approval at 207 W. Chaplin Street. Interior renovations and a rooftop deck on the existing dwelling.
- Reviewed and issued a zoning permit for a small storage shed to be located on the Fire Department property on E. Chaplin Street.
- Working with State Highway Administration on a sight distance issue at the corner on Church St (MD 65) and E. Main St. (MD34).
- Deadline for review comments on the County's Draft Comprehensive Plan update are due by October 31<sup>st</sup>. Several public input meetings are being held throughout the County. 9/21/23 in Boonsboro.

**MAYORS REPORT** – Mayor Weaver submitted the following update on town projects:

**Wells** - Received MDE requirements and surveyed area where pump and treatment facility will be located. Will be meeting with well drillers over the next several weeks.

**Town Hall** – Still have serious plumbing issues. Solution on hold pending recommendations from Councilmember Kudla.

**Community Park** - New equipment being installed. See Councilmember Waters report.

**Historic Park** –FSA will be here on 9/18/2023 to go over detailed designs. Council is welcome to attend. 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** – We were not selected for a grant and have this project on hold.

**Boyer House** – We have received County funding. We are in process of negotiating easements with SHAF, should be completed this week.

**Streets & General Maintenance** – Moving forward on parking sign and moving electronic sign from fire hall to route 65. Speed awareness monitor is on hold until after we understand how much the wells will cost. Looking at street scape issues with MDOT.

**Planning** – Comprehensive plan review starts in 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** – Met with Sherriff Albert and we started measure to improve focusing police activity on areas of concern. Initial steps will be to encourage people to file a police report and make funds available for overtime.

## COUNCIL MEMBERS REPORTS

**Vice Mayor Jacob Martz** – (*Communications/Memorial Day Parade*):

- Secured funding from the County for Memorial Day.
- The Memorial Day Committee will be meeting on October 3<sup>rd</sup> at 6PM.

**Councilmember Beeler** – (*Historical Planning/Town Archives/Town Museum*):

August 2023 Archives and Museum Report:

- Attendance: 118 and year to date is 1141.
- Still working on our new look of the museum.
- All the artifacts that have come from the Boyer house has been recorded and giving an accession and catalog number and once any other items are found in the Boyer house, they will be added to the Boyer collection list and a total list of all artifacts found within the Boyer property will be made and given to the mayor by the staff of the Sharpsburgh Museum of History. As of right now we have gathered over 400 artifacts for the Boyer house.
- We were given a 1910 Antietam Quadrangle map and three copper plates from a donor from Ashburn, Virginia. These were also offered to Antietam but refused by the park.
- Sharpsburg Days is only a month away and we have as of right now 23 vendors which include three food vendors, crafts, nonprofits and demos, History tours and a ghost tour in the evening, talks sponsored by Antietam Institute at St, Paul’s, music and other activities.

**Councilmember Hammond** – (*Infrastructure/Water/Sewer/Town owned buildings*):

- Inquired if there have been any updates on the flow issue. Councilmember Kudla said that he is waiting on the report from FSA.
- Inquired if the town had any plans on how to handle the amount of traffic that will coming through town due to the 340 Rockslide repair project that begins this week and is due to last at least 3-months. Councilmember Kudla stated that he has placed a call to MDOT but has not received a call back and will also try SHA.

**Councilmember Kudla** – (*Streets/Culverts/Historic Walls*):

- Call out to MDOT (Linda Puffenberger)-
- On City Scape-gave message about sidewalk in front of 132 East Main.
- On repair of historic walls- gave message to ask for timeline. Last update was that it was to happen in Sept or Oct.
- On bridge ownership for Chapline Rd.- no input gotten yet

- Looking for survey and recommendation from Frederick Siebert for intersection of Antietam and Church
- Calls to USAA for wall in front of Greeley home. Still waiting to talk to appropriate customer representative from USAA.

**Councilmember Parsons-** (*Grants/Streetscape/Planning Comm Rep*):

- Nothing to report.

**Councilmember Waters-** (*Town Maintenance/Parks&RR Station/Public Safety*):

- the playground has been delayed because of missing equipment parts.
- Inquired if the town planning to schedule brush pick-up for the first week of October. Will be added to the October agenda for further discussion. (ACTION ITEM)

## COMMUNITY PARTNER REPORTS

**Officer Dakota Watkins** reported the following for the month of August;

Antietam Station - 15 checks.

Elementary School - 15 checks.

Park - 16 checks.

Little League Field - 16 checks.

Foot Patrol - 3 hours.

Calls For Service (in and outside town) - 19

Training - 1

Court - 3

**Chris Vincent; Park Advisory Board Representative** – not in attendance. Next Battlefield Advisory Meeting will be held on Wednesday.

**Mike Arant; Sharpsburg Town Crier** – not in attendance.

## OLD BUSINESS

**Plumbing Repairs at Town Hall** – Mayor Weaver stated that a decision has not been made to resolve the sewer backup issues in town hall. Councilmember Hammond stated that he would pay someone to replace it all.

Mayor Weaver stated that all but a 14ft section of cast iron pipe has been replaced with PVC by Plumbingwurx because the unreplaced section is inside of a crawl space. After some discussion a **Motion** was made by Vice Mayor Martz, second by Councilmember Hammond to have the Town Clerk contact Plumbingwurx to complete the repair in the amount of \$8,500. Motion carried.

**Roulette Farm Activities** – discussion on whether the town is at risk to being exposed to development by the Bowman North, LLC purchase of the Roulette farm located on Snyders Landing Rd and borders the towns Chapline Street alley. Discussion on whether to invest an estimated \$3,000 to conduct a survey. Further discussed at the October meeting. (ACTION ITEM)

## NEW BUSINESS

**Building Security** -Mayor Weaver stated that the cameras located inside of town hall do not record and for safety purposed, they should. Recommendation to contact the company that installed the park security cameras for a quote. Measures to better secure the town office were also discussed. Ideas will be further discussed at the October meeting. (ACTION ITEM)

**Board of Elections Ballot Box Request/Agreement** – Washington County Board of Elections has approached the municipalities to request the installment of a Ballot Drop Box through the November election. **Motion** was made by Councilmember Hammond, second by Councilmember Kudla against the placement of the ballot box being placed in front of town hall. Motion carried 4-0 with Councilmember Parsons abstaining.

**Parking in Front of Town Hall** – discussion on limiting the parking time on the spaces in front of the town hall and library. **Motion** by Councilmember Beeler, second by Councilmember Kudla to limit the parking in front of the town hall and library to 2 hrs. Motion carried.

**Trick or Treat** – consensus to hold Trick or Treat on Tues. October 31<sup>st</sup> from 6 – 8PM.

**Motion** by Councilmember Beeler, second by Vice Mayor Martz to adjourn the meeting at 7:50 PM. Motion carried.

**October 2, 2023 Meeting Action Items:**

- Council to report at the October meeting a list of priorities that they would like to see Deputy Watkins address in town.
- Brush collection cost and collection date
- Further discussion on Roulette Farm Survey
- Town Office Security

Respectfully submitted,

Debra Smith  
Town Clerk