

Mayor & Council of Sharpsburg
Meeting Minutes-Approved, 07/10/2023
Monday, June 5, 2023
6 PM

- I. Call meeting to order and pledge-John led the pledge
- II. In attendance: Russ Weaver, Jacob Martz, Robbie Waters, Ed Beeler, Tim Lung (via ZOOM), John Hammond, Mia Parsons, Joseph Kudla, Chris Vincent, Perry Jamieson, Heather Waters, Will Estell and Carrie Estell.
- III. Russ awarded Robbie Waters the Community Service Award
- IV. **Public Hearing for Zoning Ordinance Text amendments:** temporary storage facilities, walls/fences, "block" definition for Short Term Rental uses. No one reached out to the town with opposition to the storage container and text amendments that were published and discussed. Residents in attendance had no opposition to the ordinance. There were some questions pertaining the sea container. Robbie posed the question if a resident/business owner currently has a sea container, will they be "grandfathered in"? The answer is yes. Another question posed by John was if a sea container is moved from say the front of a property to the back of the property, what would be the status of the moved container? The answer would be that the container is now moved and would be subjected to the new ordinance. Mia motioned to adopt the amendments and Robbie seconded the motion. All were in favor of the amendments. Formal resolution of adoption of the ordinance will be in effect starting on today's date, June 5, 2023.
- V. Minutes and May expenses approval-meeting minutes were emailed to all council members; Mia motioned to approve meeting minutes from May, Robbie seconded and all were in favor. Russ explained some of the higher expenses. Joe motioned the expense report from May, Jake seconded and all were in favor.

Public Comments

Tim Lung, Zoning Administrator (only critical items)

1. Owner of property at 204 E. Main Street has filed for a Special Exception to establish an owner-occupied short-term rental. Property is Zoned TR. BZA public hearing will be June 27th. Planning Commission to hold a meeting prior to the hearing to make a recommendation.
2. Received no comments or questions regarding the proposed Zoning Ordinance text amendments for storage containers, walls/fences and STR block definition since the first ready at the May meeting. Public Hearing followed by consideration of adoption at the June meeting. Resolution of adoption to be drafted and signed following vote for adoption.
3. Have been in contact with State and County agencies regarding any permitting requirements for the Big Spring wall restoration project. Have filed a request for a pre-application meeting with MDE. Have been corresponding with MDE regarding a meeting date within the next few weeks. Meeting may be held virtually.
4. Have been following up on several tall grass/weed complaints.
5. Issued a notice to trim trees to correct an intersection sight distance problem on property at 120 Church St. 30 days to comply or trees will be trimmed by the Town and charged to the Property owner. No compliance as of June 5. Town should proceed with trimming. Also issued a tall grass notice on the same property.
6. The Planning Commission should meet to discuss and approve the annual report required by the Md. Dept of Planning.
7. Tim will attend a county outreach workshop concerning permitting. The county will be going paperless. This is scheduled for June 15th

Budget for Fiscal Year 2024 (July 1,2023-June 2024) Russ reviewed the proposed budget that was done in the budget session on Thursday, May 18th Income and projects were discussed. The budget motioned by Robbie, seconded by Jake and all were in favor, budget approved.

Bathroom estimates, (Larry and Sons, PlumbingWurx & Willard Plumbing) Two contractors were called and both estimates were reviewed, each with a different plan to address the bathroom issue of the toilet clogging. After much discussion, the two companies will be asked to come back and show two councilmembers the scope of their work. Carrie will call to schedule.

Council reports (written reports, need for: financial approval, council input or for council to know)

John Hammond-nothing to report

Mia Parsons-a resident reached out to see if the town would maintain the area in front of the house next to Jefferson Security Bank. After some discussion it was reiterated that that area in front of the resident's home if the owner's responsibility. The look of weeds, dry patches and the square area were discussed and new grass seed will be planted in the fall, in the square area. This could also help with the tree area near the bank. The trees were planted and was given one watering from the company. There is one tree that may not make it, Mia is monitoring this and will reach out to Sunny Meadows if we need to replace, as they have a one-year guarantee on their trees. Mia noted that the planning commission will be meeting soon, some members had questions for Tim. Russ expressed concern for the county's comprehensive plan, discussion was focused on development, rural villages, zoning and the need know what is in the county plan and to keep Sharpsburg's vision in place. Russ has allotted funding for the planning commission to get assistance with rewriting/editing the comprehensive plan. Russ also urged the planning commission to be knowledgeable with zoning types and the zoning areas surrounding Sharpsburg.

Joe Kudla-Joe worked closely with Deputy Peyton for correct wordage for the signs for no tractor trailer signs. There will be seven posted. The wall/culvert at 104 Church Street was inspected by MDOT; they are looking into property lines as the culvert's wall has fallen over and causes water to rush through the area adjacent to the house, causing lots of soil to erode. The tree off of 120 Chapline, the owners received a letter as the Fire Department has complained due to the sight lines. Carrie to reach out to the fire department to see how much of the tree to trim. Culvert near the Big Spring needs Frederick Siebert to survey and give us some ideas for an analysis, it appears the bridge, culvert and surrounding area have sunk. Joe motioned for the cost, John seconded and all were in favor.

Ed Beeler-Attendance in May-165 Four members of the museum laid a wreath and 7 were on the float for the town's Memorial Day ceremony and parade The Williamsport DAR donated four framed 1862 newspapers, other papers along with a diary.

Saturday will be our special display on Women of Sharpsburg 10-4.

Robbie Waters-Nothing to report except a BIG thank you to Jake and the parade committee on the parade it was well received and Robbie has heard nothing but praise for its length and content.

Jacob Martz- We had a very successful parade this year, I've had nothing but positive feedback. We implemented a lot of new changes with regard to the staging which worked out great and were very successful. I think we're finally on track to solving the traffic congestion issue at the school that has been a persistent problem, and all of our new traffic patterns worked out extremely well according to the sheriff. The warm food catering provided by Captain Benders was a huge improvement in quality over the box lunches, and we only paid for what was actually eaten. As far as flags, since switching to a different type of fabric, I only had two ripped flags this year as opposed to having only two that weren't ripped, which is what happened last year, and the system that we used to hang the 4 large flags over Main Street near the cemetery worked perfectly. We had a total of 88 units registered as of the production of the book, and 86 that actually participated, so we had a good turnout as far as participation. We generated \$433 in book and sponsorship sales this year, and my final budget ended up \$81.38 under budget.

For anyone who would like to offer feedback or suggestions about how we can make the parade better, our post-parade meeting is tomorrow night, January 6th at 6 pm.

Community Partners

- Officer Tracey Peyton- checks: Antietam Station-14, Park-14, ballfield-11, school-8. Foot patrol-4 hrs., Traffic-4 hrs., (1 citation 3 warnings), served letter for town, animal abuse complaint, a death investigation and assisted county with domestic assault
- Chris Vincent-Antietam Advisory board-next meeting is Wednesday, June 14th. The visitor center is installing curbs, sidewalks and replanting trees and grass seed. Russ mentioned Wreaths Across America being needy, Chris Vincent and Jake noted that many volunteers have been turned away due to so many showing up to serve. Wreaths can be purchased online and Marine Corp League are locally funded.

Old Business/ACTIONS:

Adoption of Zoning Ordinance Text Amendments (done at the beginning of the meeting with the public hearing)

Rail in front of building, (\$3,500 was approved to spend) Robbie to get some estimates by the next meeting.

Undeliverable addresses-(resolved) Carrie explained the process, residents need to contact the Post Office. This process is stated below and in the office for any calls.

If a resident has an issue with their address being "undeliverable" they need to contact Amanda at the Post Office. She will check the specific address management database in Baltimore to check if the address is active. If active, the person/company requesting the information may need to refresh their system. If their address is not active, Amanda will make it active.

Status of Wells, Status of Pocket Park, Status of Boyer House No updated information as there was a resignation of a key figure at the county. Russ was hoping that the town would be drilling wells by now.

New Business

Feral Cats (county animal ordinance) Carrie has exhausted the government agencies and the last plea to the community was a good Samaritan is willing to help trap cats, bring them to Tip Me Frederick and nurse them back after they have been vaccinated and fixed. This assistance was published in the Town Crier and no one reached out. The health of the cats and the community are the reason to have this done. It is noted that residents who feed the cats are considered their owners. Russ is going to work with a resident who may help and start this program.

Awards/celebrations-Jack Myers 100-year birthday & Jeff Cline honorary citizenship-Russ put forth the idea of making Jeff Cline an honorary mayor and council thought this a great idea as Commissioner Cline is very supportive of the town's projects and events. Russ tasked Jake with finding more information about Jack Myers and his birthday, hoping the town can commemorate his 100th birthday. Carrie will reach out to Williamsport to see if they have anything planned.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:33, next meeting will be July 10th at 6:00 p.m.

There was a closed executive meeting that focused on work schedules and pay for the town's employees.