

Mayor & Council of Sharpsburg
Meeting Minutes
Monday, May 1, 2023 6 PM
Approved June 5, 2023

- I. Call meeting to order and pledge-Adeline Wagner, Miss Poppy 2023 led the group in pledge
- II. Minutes from April meeting and April expenses approval-Russ explained the security expense, (camera install in park), Ed motioned, Jake seconded all in favor of April finances. Ed motioned and Joe seconded for April meeting minutes that were emailed for review.
- III. In attendance: Russ Weaver, Jacob Martz, Mia Parsons, John Hammond, Ed Beeler, Tim Lung (via Zoom), Adeline Wagner, Sarah Wagner, Donald Wagner, Darlene Eichelberger, Ginny Wagner, Perry Jamieson, Ava Gift, Chris Vincent, and Carrie Estell

Public Comments-none

Miss Poppy Adeline Wagner gave poppy lapel flowers to all council member and pinned a poppy on the mayor. Ms. D. Eichelberger spoke of the importance of the program.

Zoning-Tim Lung (critical items)

- 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. Need to contact BZA members to schedule a public hearing. Also, will need Planning Commission review prior to hearing
- Proposed Zoning ordinance text amendments first reading on storage containers, fences/walls and the definition of a block as it pertains to the number of short-term rental places. A few months ago, mayor and council put a temporary moratorium on storage containers; this will expire in July. We are on schedule as the first reading is tonight. The Planning Commission met and approved of the amendments that were provided to council. The second reading will take place at June's meeting. Mid-May we will publish, (Facebook, Town Crier and Post Office flyer), to get residents the information. John asked about a survey of property before putting up a fence. The price to research this would make town building permits not very financially friendly. The town building permit is 35\$ and Tim discusses where a fence can go and could make site visits if necessary. There is a disclaimer on our permit application. The council should thoroughly read through the amendments and get back to Tim by May 15th so these can be published for public review.
- Prepared draft Zoning Ordinance text amendments for regulation of portable storage containers as requested by the Mayor & Council. Also drafted text amendments to re-insert language regarding fences and walls, and established a definition of a "block" for use in the Short-Term rental section of the Ordinance. Planning Commission met and has forwarded a recommendation of approval with minor grammatical corrections. First reading of the amendments tonight with final hearing at the June Council meeting.
- Received a Zoning certificate and sign permit application for a soap and candle business at 100 E. Main Street. Holding application for verification of change of use from the County and payment of the 35\$ permit fee.
- Received a response from Wash Co Public Schools regarding the drainage issues affecting adjoining property in the Town: "Our solution for this includes constructing a rain garden and planting trees in the affected area. The selected trees will be of varieties that do well in wet conditions and/or soak up as much water as possible - river birch, willow oak specifically. I have other work onsite that I'm going to package with this as it's similar in nature. I am aiming to have this out for a quote by the first week of May and awarded shortly after. We may have to wait until the fall to plant trees, depending on the weather." Washington County school board took the issue seriously and are trying to fix it in a timely fashion.
- Have been in contact with State and County agencies regarding any permitting requirements for the Big Spring wall restoration project. Will be scheduling a pre-application field meeting with an MDE representative to discuss the project and any applicable permits.
- Received a building permit application from T-Mobile for a cell antenna on the County Water Tanks. Also received an inquiry regarding the process for removing an existing antenna from the water tank.
- Received and reviewed building permit applications for an above ground pool at W. Chapline St. and rooftop solar panels at W. Main St.
- Have been following up on several tall grass/weed complaints. Suggest placing a reminder in the Crier, the Town Website and FB page about keeping property maintained.
- 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.
- The Planning Commission should meet to discuss and approve the annual report required by the Md. Dept of Planning.

Mayor's Message

Quote of the day: President Reagan: Surround yourself with the best people you can find, delegate authority, and don't interfere as long as the policy you've decided upon is being carried out.

Active communities are healthy communities – *Community Development Commission* Strong communities, the two programs that the town sponsored in April were well received and well attended, (Story Walk ribbon cutting and Fishing Rodeo).

Hydrant testing and homeowner's insurance-there was testing of all town's fire hydrants and some were inoperable and will be fixed. If your house is close to a hydrant, your homeowner's insurance could be discounted.

Mayor's Report

Wells-received County response to our submission. After council approval we will sign agreement and well bids may start as soon as this week.

Town Hall-Still having serious plumbing issues. Flowers planted today. John suggested reaching out to a different plumbing company and will setup a meeting with Willard Plumbing.

Community Park- Great book walk session Saturday April 22. Still have not heard from POS about \$ awards.

Historic Park-waiting for word from POS on funding. FSA is on hold for engineering work and the Wayside exhibit workshop is pending as well. 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-Signed contract for stone work. Waiting funding announcement. Have approach for rerouting water.

Boyer House-Hosting May 3 meeting with key county executives, SHAF and State historic preservation representatives.

Streets & General Maintenance-List of projects for rest of FY2022 provided by Joe to be worked off and looking at asphalt options

Planning-Time to kick off comprehensive. Looking for a resource to help. Be actively integrated into and critiquing the County comprehensive plan

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

John Hammond-nothing to report, would like to discuss well agreement

Mia Parsons-Trees ordered from Sunny Meadows, planting will be this month

Jacob Martz-

- Reviewed security incident, identified culprit
- Portable Restroom moved to be viewed by security cameras
- Memorial Day ceremony and parade-82 units in parade, presold 39 parade books, received permission from FAA for flyover of military aircraft, requesting a flight of C17s from Martinsburg, received permit from MDOT for road closures, assembled and prepared new flags and flag poles for Main Street, new barricades ordered and received. This year committee will create a remembrance table. Next committee meeting will be tomorrow night @ 6 p.m.
- Jake discussed a small sign noting public parking lot. He also brought up bike racks and signage for; Mia and Russ do not want more signs. Suggestion of Facebook post and website bike rack information was suggested. Russ suggested Jake to get an idea together for the next meeting.

Ed Beeler-Attendance: 131 for April. Donation: one wooden box belonging to M.E. Snavely, Sharpsburg Livery and also had Antietam Station on the box given by Don Cable. The town's collection is being cataloged, accessioned with numbers assigned. Youth Day, April 22nd 9 youth and 9 volunteers. In May the museum will have a float in the town's parade and June will be Women of Sharpsburg with exhibits, demos, talks throughout the day

Robbie Waters-*not present submitted electronically*-fishing rodeo was a great town event, about 160 folks came out and 78 kids registered, an increase from last year. Mowing season off to a good start. Story Walk is fully installed and operating. RW Properties will be donating mulch for left side of the walk. Planted flowers in front of Town Hall.

Joe Kudla-

- Signage for tractor trailers-signage will reflect HB 1194 so the no parking can be enforceable
- 30 minutes at June's meeting for disaster preparedness discussion, will invite Fire Chief & representatives from the county and MEA
- FSA will have drafted proposal for Antietam & Church roadway fix by the end of the week.
- Spoke with MDOT, their research yielded: five accidents at the corner of 65 & Main r in 4 years, (three-rear ends for car turning into town from S or N Church, one a car swinging to wide from 34 (Sharpsburg side) to 65 and hitting the curb & one car rear ending another at the South side of Church at the stop sign). MDOT feels this is significant and indicated that we have enough signage and the presence of the fire hydrant to have 70 feet of visibility. On the 200 E Main Street side we have a no parking sign at 25 feet up. Ms. Bea Gregg has her drain spout attached to it with a hydrant just above. On the Lutheran Church side, we have 70 feet visibility now; one issue in that there is a handicap parking sign on the church. MDOT will research to get this changed to rescind the right as it is not used as a church. Once we get this letter, we can attach it to a town letterhead letter to the owner to have the sign removed. This will ensure that we have 70 feet of visibility. In the near future, painting the curbs. I am willing to knock on the doors within the no parking area and explain why there can be no parking there.

Community Partners

- Officer Tracey Peyton (submitted electronically) Checks-Antietam Station-10, Park-11, Ballfield-4, School-10. Four hours of foot patrol, two hours of traffic-issued 2 warnings, lost 2.5 hrs. for court, assisted units with calls outside of town for a firearms assault and hostile driver
- Chris Vincent-Antietam Advisory board-next meeting is June 14th and the Visitor Center should open late July.

Old Business/ACTIONS:

- Well agreement-the county well agreement was discussed among council members. Verbiage on the termination phase/clause was discussed in detail. Limiting water was also discussed in detail. Based on discussion, the following additions will be included and sent back to the county:
 - Because the Town has no resources to procure and manage this type of contract, we would like the county to lead the process of finding a well drilling company.
 - We would like the agreement to remain in place for 20 years.
After 20 years, the parties, by mutual agreement, may terminate or extend the agreement for an agreed to period of time.
Should no agreement be reached, the agreement automatically extends for 10 years.
The town reserves the right to limit sales outside the Sharpsburg Water System.

New Business

- 2024 Budget submittal-Russ discussed budget packet that was sent out electronically to all council members. He highlighted areas and suggested all council members to read over. Carrie stated that if anyone had any questions, she would answer when she's in the office. Russ will send out excel sheets to everyone, one report was saved in landscape and would be better viewed in portrait. Council will meet to draft a FY 24 budget on May 18th and dinner will be ordered.

Mia motioned for adjournment, Joe seconded all were in favor, meeting adjourned at 8:12

Next meeting will be Monday, June 5th