



The SHARPSBURG TOWN CRIER

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COUNCIL NEWS

These minutes are not the official minutes, nor are they a complete review of the business conducted. Requests for a copy of the complete minutes may be requested from the town clerk.

The meeting of the Sharpsburg Mayor and Council was called to order at 7:03pm by Mayor Hal Spielman. Those present included: Councilpersons Brandon Smith, Cathy Hull, Jennifer Silbert and Darryl Benner. Kimberly Fulk, Town Clerk/Treasurer was also present.

The minutes of the November meeting were moved to be approved by Darryl and seconded by Brandon. The motion passed. The treasurer's report was moved to be approved after the correction of a typo, by Darryl and seconded by Brandon. The motion passed.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Parks and Railroad: Brandon noticed that the double gate at the pond is not locked. It was decided to lock the gate with a combination lock, the same as the locks at the park. Brandon will take care of

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getting the lock and placing it on the gate.

Building: Nothing to report
Streets: Bridge Project – Building Systems, Inc. has submitted all the proper paperwork, bonds, contracts and proof of insurance. Kimberly is awaiting a call from Frederick Seibert in regards to scheduling the site meeting with the engineer, the town and Building Systems, Inc. After this takes place, Building Systems will be given the "Notice to Proceed."

Planning and Zoning: We continue to receive information from Jill Baker in regards to the Water Resource Element. Jennifer asked if we could possibly set a deadline as to when our Planning and Zoning will have this completed. Kimberly will get in touch with Patti to discuss a "due date."

Battlefield Advisory Committee: There was no meeting in December. The next meeting will be January 4th.

Archives: Nothing to report.

Public Safety: It has been noticed that there is more of a police presence within the town, both on the County and State level, which is great.

Town Attorney: Brian was told he did not need to attend the meeting. It was discussed that there is probably not a need for him at every meeting. We will inform Brian that he does not need to attend the monthly meetings, unless Kimberly asks him

to. If there is an issue that arises, or questions for him, Kimberly will send him an email.

Mayor's Report: After phone calls with John Wolford of the State Highway Administration between the Mayor and the Clerk, the town will be receiving Pedestrian Crosswalk signs at the crosswalk in the town square. The state does not allow the placement of signs in the middle of the crosswalk, but they are willing to place signs on the corners of the crosswalk, alerting drivers that it is in fact a crosswalk and that they are required to stop for pedestrian's in the crosswalk. Jennifer thought that maybe since this will be new and drivers may not be paying attention, that it would be a good idea to have police at the intersection to slow people down and pay more attention. With the winter setting in, it was felt that there probably would not be enough pedestrian traffic to warrant an officer being here. We will have the signs placed and observe the area and then in the spring mention to law enforcement to pay special attention to this area.

Mayor Spielman also read a resignation letter from Councilman Barnhart, who is resigning from his position due to unforeseen work circumstances. The council will receive letters of interest from citizens that would like to fill his vacant seat. The seat is up for re-election in November, 2012. Kimberly will place this in the crier.

OLD BUSINESS

Elevator Contract: This needs to be decided on. Mayor Spielman asked that this be discussed at the workshop meeting on the 12th and a decision to be made at that time. The council was in agreement.

Workshop: The Mayor and Council will be having a workshop on Monday, December 12th at 7pm to discuss and develop new job descriptions for the town employees.

Christmas Decorating: Children from the Sharpsburg Elementary School were supposed to be here on December 6th to decorate the trees, however; with the weather forecast being rain all day, they have postponed it until Tuesday, December 13th.

NEW BUSINESS

Comcast Contract: The Comcast Franchise Agreement is due for renewal. The town has the option to increase its franchise fees from 3% to 5% with the renewal of the contract. Mayor Spielman stated that he would rather keep the fee at 3% to save the townspeople money. The council was in agreement with this recommendation. Mayor Spielman signed off on the agreement and it will be forwarded to Comcast.

The meeting was moved to be adjourned at 8:02pm by Jennifer and seconded by Cathy. The motion passed.

The next meeting will be held on Monday, January 9, 2012 at 7pm in the council chambers.

TOWN HALL ANNOUNCEMENTS

Town Office Closures

The town office will be closed on the following days:

Thursday, December 22nd
Monday, December 26th
Monday, January 2, 2012

Have a wonderful holiday season!

Planning Commission Vacancies

The Mayor and Council are seeking interested persons to serve on the Planning Commission.

According to the Maryland Department of Planning,

members of the planning commission have accepted the civic responsibility of helping residents and business and property owners articulate and achieve a vision for how they want their community to look and function in the future. The planning commission is the primary entity responsible for long term, comprehensive planning, having the ability to put some foresight into planning and development decisions.

For more information, or to volunteer for the planning commission, contact the town clerk.

Open Council Seat

With the resignation of Councilperson Barnhart, there is an open seat on the council. The Mayor and Council are accepting letters of interest for this position. The letter should include your name, address, phone number and a statement as to why you wish to fill this position and what you feel that you can bring to the council. **Letters are due to the town clerk by Thursday, January 5, 2012 at 2pm.**

Letters can be mailed to PO Box 368, Sharpsburg, MD 21782, faxed to the town office at 301-432-8990, emailed to the town office at townofsharpsburg@comcast.net, or hand delivered to the clerk during business hours.

Interested parties shall be a citizen of the United States, a resident of the town for at least one year immediately preceding taking office, at least 25 years of age and a registered voter of the town.

For further information, contact the town clerk.

CITIZEN CORNER

The citizen corner is a place where townspeople can express their thanks, share special news, give praise and share information with fellow town residents. If you are interested in participating, please notify Kimberly at town hall, or email her at townofsharpsburg@comcast.net.

For fellow townspeople currently on a Medicare Supplement, or seeking a Medicare supplement: The following link is very useful for people to "comparison shop" the insurance companies offering Medicare Supplements, otherwise known as Medigap, for the state of Maryland. If you take a look at the companies and the rates, you will see that they vary by quite a bit. Internet Link: <http://www.medicarehelp.org/MedicareSupplementRateGuide01-11.pdf>

-Richard Smith

Alley Closure

Beginning Tuesday, January 3, 2012, Big Spring Alley (the alley directly behind East Main Street) will be closed to through traffic, so that work on the bridge may commence. The alley will be closed until further notice.

COMMUNITY NEWS

Sharpsburg Elementary Students help beautify square for the holidays

On Tuesday, December 13th, students from the Sharpsburg Elementary School made the long hike from the school to town hall to place homemade ornaments on the trees. The students made the ornaments in their art classes to be placed on the trees. All their hard work was rewarded with cookies, juice and a visit from the big man himself.. Santa Claus.

The Mayor and Council would like to thank the Sharpsburg Elementary School staff, faculty and secretary for making the arrangements for the children to enjoy this event again this year. A special "thank you" to all the students for their beautiful ornaments.

I would like to express a personal "thank you" to the many contributors to the town crier in 2011. Your time, talents and energy has helped pass along many events, town news and tidbits to the town citizens. These contributors include: Carolyn Shaw, Lilly Grayson, Vernell Doyle, Ava Gift, Perry Jamieson, Darlene Albritton, Darlene Hoffman, Richard Smith, Pam Rutherford, Jeff Stouffer, Melissa Reiff, Debbie Jamison and Meredith Poffenberger. I am looking forward to working together again in 2012!

Wishing you and yours a wonderful holiday season and a safe, happy and healthy 2012!!

Town Office Hours: Monday-Thursday 8:30am-2:00pm (Additional hours by appointment)	
Hal Spielman, Mayor	432-6854
Bryan Gabriel, Vice Mayor	432-2478
COUNCIL	
Darryl Benner	991-2230
Cathy Hull	304-279-8440
Jennifer Silbert	432-7984
Brandon Smith	432-1941
TOWN OFFICIALS	
Kimberly Fulk, Town Clerk	240-675-7466
Debra Jamison, Tax Collector	432-6572
Patti Hammond, Planning Com.	432-5965
Anna Jamison, Election Board	432-6572

TOWN ORGANIZATIONS		
Am. Legion	Lawrence Hoffman	432-8957
Am Leg. Aux.	Ava Gift	432-6658
Boy Scouts	John Stewart	432-0564
Cub Scouts	Michael Miles	432-0275
Hist. Society	Vernell Doyle	992-9767
Mt. View Cemetery	Jeff Saylor	432-4428
CHURCHES		
Brethren	Lilly Grayson	432-6174
Bible	Rev. Gene Renner	739-1882
Episcopal	Carolyn Shaw	791-3357
Lutheran	Rev. Karen Valentine	304-676-9974
UCC	Melissa Reiff	465-9411

The Sharpsburg Town Crier
P.O. Box 368
Sharpsburg, MD 21782

SHARPSBURG
Oldest Town in Washington
County
Founded July 9, 1763



