

Town of Sharpsburg

Town Crier



Volume 24 December 2015 Number 12

The minutes of the Council meeting are an overview of business conducted and are not the official minutes of the meeting. The official minutes are available at the Clerk's office.

The meeting of the Sharpsburg Mayor and Council was held on Monday, December 7th at 7pm. The minutes of the October meeting were approved as submitted. The Treasurer's reports from October and November were both approved as submitted.

Public Comment

Erin Clark of Smith, Elliott, Kerns & Co presented the 2015 fiscal year audit to the Mayor and Council. The town received a "clean opinion", which is the best that you can receive.

Ernie Wetterer was concerned that he did not get notice about the floodplain meeting that was held at Town Hall with affected homeowners. Mayor Spielman stated that he was not aware that his property was included in this, but that the information would get to him.

Meredith Poffenberger stated she is concerned about the retaining wall near her business on North Church Street. Mayor Spielman informed her that is the State Highway's responsibility and Kimberly will contact them in regards to this issue.

Meredith also stated that there are community members that would like to help the town with committees. Mayor Spielman told her that when the meetings are announced, that all she has to do is show up.

Committee Reports

Parks and Railroad: The mulch has arrived at the park and will be distributed by the inmates tomorrow. The Hagerstown Model Railroad Museum at Antietam Station would like to arrange a meeting and discuss their lease of the property. Currently they are paying \$1.00/year for the building. Russ suggested keeping the lease as long as the model railroad would be there; and also including in the lease that either group can terminate the lease with a 90 day notice. Russ motioned for this and Ed seconded. Darryl stated that he would rather look at the lease before agreeing to anything. Kimberly will email the current lease to the council members and this will be placed on January's agenda.

Streets: Chapline St. Extended project – Kimberly needs to call Keith at Frederick Seibert & Associates to see if he can bring a final drawing and an estimate to the January meeting so that this is ready to begin in the spring.

Antietam and Church Streets – water is still laying at the intersection, despite Antietam Paving stating

this would be fixed when they paved last spring. We will put this out to bid so that work can begin in the spring to have this graded, possibly have a drain placed, and blacktopped. There are several potholes in the alleys that are in need of patching. Mayor Spielman will call Jeter Paving to see if they have any material that they can patch these with before the blacktopping plants shut down completely. If not, they will be taken care of in the spring.

Planning & Zoning: Patty, Brady and Russ have been working on the areas of the Comp Plan that need to be completed. They have found and have been using mapping software to help with some of the requirements of the state. They are hoping to have a rough draft of the Comp Plan in January/February, with the help of Brady.

Battlefield Advisory Committee: No meeting in December. Mr. Jamieson was able to update that the barn on the Wilson property has been torn down and that there are plans to remove the house and outbuildings as well. As far as the Jamison house, out along Route 65, he is unaware of what will come of this property.

Mayor's Report: Comcast will be raising rates again. Customers will be notified in their next bill.

Old Business:

Chair rail in the council chambers – this is in the process of being made and should be installed after the first of the year.

New Business:

County Floodplain – the County is in the process of updating the floodplain. This has changed and according to their calculations, some properties along East Main Street will be affected. If they are correct, this could force mortgage companies to force property owners to take out flood insurance, or to raise their current flood insurance rate. Property owners discussed these findings with Mark Stransky of the County. The property owners would like for the Town to pay Frederick Seibert & Associates to come out and survey these areas to assure that the County is correct. This would be one lump sum of \$800, if the properties are measured together. It would cost each property owner \$600-\$800 each if they were to have this done on their own. This would also be an important piece of information for the town to have, especially when residents apply for building permits/zoning permits. If property owners wish to have an elevation certificate of the findings, it would be their responsibility to pay to have this certificate. Russ moved to have the Town go forward with having these areas surveyed and paid for and Darryl seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Meeting with State Delegation – Mayor Spielman has been invited to meet with the State Delegation on December 15th in regards to items that they may be able to assist the town with. He states that he would like to discuss the speeding in town/speed cameras and traffic control in the square. It was also suggested to discuss Highway User Revenues and getting them back to where they were in 2008 and also repairing some of the culverts in town.

Speeding on side streets/W.Chapline Street – Rebecca Riffle asked if anything could be done in regards to speeding on Chapline Street. The Mayor and Council are going to look at options to place a "Slow" and/or "Children at Play" sign along the street, as well as asking the police department if they could swing by there and/or sit there from time to time so that a police presence would be there.

The meeting was adjourned by Brandon and seconded by Ed at 8:20pm.

Town News

The 'Snow people of Sharpsburg' make their way to Main Street



B&B Automotive
Nutter's

The Marketplace of Sharpsburg
Kathy's Hair Care

Jefferson Security Bank
Battlevue Market



Sharpsburg Pharmacy

Sharpsburg Library

Jacob Rohrbach Inn

This year, the Town Christmas committee welcomed the 'Snowpeople of Sharpsburg.' Snowpeople were created by local businesses for a donation of \$20, with all of the proceeds going to the Marine Corps Reserve Toys for Tots campaign. Participants include B&B Automotive, Nutter's, The Marketplace of Sharpsburg, Kathy's Hair Care, Jefferson Security Bank, Battlevue Market, Sharpsburg Pharmacy, Sharpsburg Library and Jacob Rohrbach Inn. Studio E gave a donation to the cause as well.

If the temperature would cooperate, they would be right at home! The committee is hoping to continue and expand upon this event next year.

Thank you to everyone that donated and participated. The snowpeople all look wonderful and many positive comments have come into the town office and on the town Facebook page.

Annual Christmas tree lighting held



The fourth annual Christmas tree lighting was held on Friday, December 4th in front of Town Hall. Residents enjoyed music by the Girl Scouts and an old fashioned sing-a-long, led by resident Jennifer Silbert. Santa arrived via fire truck to listen to the wishes of the children that were present. The Grinch came by to say hello and managed to be on his best behavior, as the tree is still standing. The evening was ended with hot chocolate, light refreshments and fellowship with friends and neighbors in the council chambers.

This would be impossible without the help of many behind the scenes participants. Many thanks to the Mayor and Town Council, Santa, the Grinch, Joe and Sue Nalley, Sharpsburg Volunteer Fire Department, the local Girl Scouts, Jennifer Silbert, Brenda Gabriel, Ed Beeler, Cindy Beeler, Echoes Recording Studio, Jeff Shumaker and most importantly, YOU! Without the attendance and support of the community, this event would not take place.

Community News

Free Christmas tree Recycling



The Washington County Solid Waste Department is offering free Christmas tree recycling to Washington County residents. All lights, ornaments and nails must be removed from the tree. Trees will be accepted daily through January 30, 2016, but is limited to two (2) trees per person. Nearby tree recycling locations are:

Forty West Landfill, one mile west of Huyett's Crossroads off Route 40 on Earth Care Road. Hours of operation are Monday-Saturday from 8am-3pm.

Dargan Convenience Center, 2201 Dargan School Road. Hours of operation are Tuesday – Saturday from 7:30am-3:30pm.

Many thanks to everyone that has contributed news and stories to the Crier in 2015.



Town Government

Town Office – 301-432-4428

Hours of Operation: Monday-Thursday 8:00 am – 1:30 pm

Zoning Administrator hours: Tuesdays 10:00 am – 6:00 pm

Additional hours for the Clerk and Zoning Administrator are available by appointment

Mayor and Council

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| Hal Spielman – Mayor | 301-432-6854 |
| Bryan Gabriel – Vice Mayor | 301-432-2478 |
| Ed Beeler – Councilperson | 301-800-6877 |
| Darryl Benner – Councilperson | 301-991-2230 |
| Brenda Gabriel – Councilperson | 301-432-2478 |
| Brandon Smith – Councilperson | 301-491-4866 |
| Russ Weaver – Councilperson | 301-432-5907 |
| Kimberly Fulk – Town Clerk/Treasurer/ Tax Collector | 301-432-4428 |

**The Sharpsburg Town Crier
PO Box 368
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