



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 Mayor and Council was called to order at 7:30pm by Mayor Hal Spielman. Those members present included: Mayor Spielman, Councilpersons Bryan Gabriel, Brandon Smith, Mat Barnhart; Town Attorney Brian Kane and Town Clerk Kimberly Fulk.

First on the agenda was the swearing in of new Vice Mayor Bryan Gabriel and new Councilpersons Brandon Smith, Cathy Hull and Darryl Benner by Dennis Weaver, Clerk of the Circuit Court. Once sworn in, the new members took their places at their new posts.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

GE Ingram of the Sharpsburg Little League and Vice President Troy Taylor were present to discuss placing field lighting at the ball field. The little league presented a power point presentation to the council regarding Musco lighting. The project will be completely funded by the little league, with no cost to the town. GE has spoken with the residents around the ball field regarding the lights. He states

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that the residents are fine with the lights, but are concerned about parking issues. He states that the little league would also like to place stones in the area where the water tower is located and create a parking lot that would park about 20-25 cars. GE states that the little league would also be willing to place "No Parking" signs at alleys and driveways and have a director or parent monitor the parking problems.

James Albritton from High Street stated that he is upset with the trash that is left up and down the street after ballgames and also with the parking issues. He states that many times people have parked across his drive and even in the middle of the road. He is concerned with the fact that if an emergency vehicle would need to get through, that it could not.

Mat moved to have the council meet in a working session to discuss the lights and how to possibly rectify the parking issues that would work for everyone. Brandon seconded the motion, with all ayes for approval. The council will have a working session on January 5, 2011 at 7:30pm.

Natoma Vargason approached the council regarding purchasing "Bike Route" signs as part of the Canal Town Project. Three of the signs would be on town property, but two would be on state property or personal

property. She is not sure if these signs need to be free-standing, or if they can be placed on existing poles of road signs. She will check into these issues, as well as the cost, and will get the information to the Mayor and Council before their working session.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Parks and Railroad—Hal ordered the "No Dumping" and "No Parking" signs, as well as a new sign for the Mark A. Smith Park. He will check on their progress.

Streets— Hal checked with SHA regarding the painting of the curbs red at intersections. They would prefer that the curbs are not painted. Mat moved that the town needs to paint the curbs 30ft on all corners to avoid parking and stopping where it is becoming a traffic hazard. Brandon seconded the motion. Possible work release individuals were mentioned to perhaps do the job, since the inmates are not allowed to return until the spring.

Planning Commission— There are still open seats on the planning commission. Notice will be placed in the crier. Mayor and Council are still awaiting a Comprehensive Plan draft. Brian will be in touch with Patti again about this.

Battlefield Advisory Committee— The meeting will be on Wednesday January 5th. Mr. Jamieson will

email these notes to Kimberly to be included in the crier.

Archives—With Jeff's departure, Mat has volunteered to take over the archives.

Safety— Nothing to report

Town Attorney—The County has adopted a new animal control ordinance. This will be introduced for discussion at the February meeting. A copy was distributed to each councilmember and a copy is on file in the Clerk's office for review from citizens.

The Bussard annexation can not move forward until the Comprehensive Plan is received.

The bridge project behind 130 East Main Street is awaiting final approval from the homeowner's mortgage company. Once received, bid packets can be sent out for companies to do the work. Since the waterway travels to the Antietam Creek, the project can not officially begin until May 31st.

Mayor's Report—The County Commissioners will be at town hall on February 22, 2011 at 7pm to have a town hall meeting with the Mayor, Council and townspeople. Everyone from the community is welcome to attend.

OLD BUSINESS

Open Council Seat—with Councilperson Bryan Gabriel becoming Vice Mayor, this creates an open seat on the council. It was suggested that Bill McCullough fill this seat, since he ran in the November election and had the next highest number of votes. Bryan stated that this has been done in the past and it cuts down on the cost of having a special election, especially to fill only one seat. Mat argued the fact that other individuals wanted to run in the election, but did not because of other people that were already running. Bryan and Mayor Spielman stated that if this was the case, then they should have ran when the election was held, regardless of others running. After much discussion, it was moved by Brandon to put a notice in the crier and have citizens submit their names if they are interested in filling the seat. Interested parties must have lived in town limits for one year and need to submit their information to town hall prior to the February meeting. Mat seconded the motion; motion passed. All information needs to be in by February 7, 2011 and official notice will be placed in the town crier.

NEW BUSINESS

Locking the council chambers—it was moved by Mat and seconded by Cathy to lock the council chambers. This is not only a safety issue, but with all of the archived materials that are being entrusted to the town, it was decided that this was best. It can not be stressed enough that if groups/organizations wish to use the town hall, prior arrangements must be made. Even organizations that have a key will not be able to get into the council room without Kimberly letting them in, or without prior arrangements being made. The next meeting of the Mayor and Council will be held on Monday, February 7, 2011 at 7:30pm.

Mat moved to adjourn the meeting at 10:10pm and Bryan seconded the motion.

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND EVENTS

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT

There is an open seat on the town council. The council has voted to accept letters from interested parties who wish to fill this vacancy. Interested parties must have been a town resident for at least one (1) year. If you would like to be considered to fill this vacancy, please send your name, address, telephone number and what you feel you can bring to the council to:

Mayor and Council
PO Box 368
Sharpsburg, Maryland 21782

This information can also be emailed to townofsharpsburg@comcast.net, or dropped off to the Town Clerk during regular business hours. **LETTERS OF INTEREST MUST BE RECEIVED ON OR BEFORE FEBRUARY 7, 2010 BEFORE 5PM.**

ANIMAL CONTROL ORDINANCE

The Mayor and Council will be discussing the possibility of adopting the County's new Ordinance in regards to animal control. A copy of this ordinance is available for review at town hall. Interested townspeople should review the ordinance and address the Mayor and Council at the February 7, 2011 meeting with any comments or concerns.

MEMORIAL DAY PARADE MEETING

There will be a parade meeting on Tuesday, February 15, 2011 at 7:30pm at town hall. If you are interested in helping with the planning and preparation of the 2011 Memorial Day celebration, you are invited to attend.

SHARPSBURG HERITAGE FESTIVAL

The planning for the 2011 Sharpsburg Heritage Festival is set to begin on Thursday, January 27, 2011 from 7-9pm at town hall. Everyone is invited to come and meet the Festival Officers, offer suggestions for the 2011 festivities and help with planning the celebration. This years festival is scheduled for Saturday, September 17th. Light refreshments will be served.

SHARPSBURG LITTLE LEAGUE REGISTRATION

Sign ups for the Sharpsburg Little League Baseball and Softball will be held at the Sharpsburg Bible Church, located at the corner of Antietam and Potomac Streets on the following dates:

February 10 6-8pm
February 11 6-8pm
February 12 10-2pm
February 19 12-4pm

For more information, visit www.sharpsburgll.net.

TOWN HALL ANNOUNCEMENTS

New Website Near Completion

The new website is near completion and will be up and running by late January/early February. The new website will include important phone numbers, emergency information, events, local business information, and information for townspeople regarding building permits, town ordinances, etc. We understand that several people have had problems accessing the site in the past, however it is now on a new server and with a new host, so problems like that should not occur. You are encouraged to visit the site at www.sharpsburg-md.com to check it out.

Town Crier To Return To Website

The January issue of the Sharpsburg Town Crier will be the last crier that is sent out in a mass mailing. Beginning with the February issue, the crier will

return to being placed on the website for review. If you have already made arrangements to receive the crier by mail, you will continue to receive it. If you would like to begin receiving the crier by mail, contact Kimberly Fulk at town hall during normal business hours.

PLANNING COMMISSION POSITIONS STILL AVAILABLE

Positions for the Planning Commission are still available. These individuals are responsible for enforcing the zoning ordinances of the town.

For more information, or to express your interest in serving on this committee, contact Kimberly at town hall.

SHARPSBURG HISTORICAL SOCIETY

The headquarters of the Sharpsburg District Historical Society will be open regularly on Wednesdays from 12 to 5 pm. The headquarters are on the second floor of the Armory, 101 West Main Street. Please stop by to see our collection or to inquire about people and places in the Sharpsburg District. The headquarters are also open by appointment.

Ed Beeler has begun a register and genealogy of Sharpsburg families. We are hoping that residents will share family histories with the historical society. We are not asking that families give us records or pictures; we would like only to copy them for inclusion in the register. If you have information you are willing to share, please call Ed at 240-625-5552.

Please call 301-992-9767 if you have questions or to arrange visits other than during regular hours.

- Vernell Doyle

Luminaries shine bright on Christmas Eve

Bethany Marshall, a seventh grader at Boonsboro Middle School, sold 50 luminaries to help raise money for her trip to England, London, Ireland and Wales as part of the People to People Ambassador Program. Bethany, along with her supportive family, sold luminaries at town hall the entire week leading up to Christmas. Bethany stated that she wanted to sell luminaries so that loved ones could feel close to the friends and family members that had passed away or were serving in the military.

Bethany was nominated for the People to People program by a teacher. Students are nominated because of their leadership abilities. There were 3,000 students nominated in Maryland, West Virginia and Pennsylvania and only 24 accepted into the program; Bethany being one of them.

Bethany's trip will take place in June and comes with a \$7,000 price tag. While traveling to England, London, Ireland and Wales, she will be staying with local host families and living life as they do from day to day. She states that she is most excited about visiting Ireland because that is where her family heritage originates.

Aside from selling the Christmas Eve luminaries, she has wrapped Christmas gifts, and is planning a bake sale in early spring. Local organizations have asked her to speak about the program and her trip and have offered contributions towards her travel expenses.

We would like to wish Bethany best of luck as she embarks on an outstanding learning experience.

Battlefield Advisory Committee

Many thanks to Perry Jamieson for sharing the committee report with us.

- * Superintendent John Howard retired on December 17, 2010, after thirty-seven years with the National Park Service, including 17 years of leadership at Antietam National Battlefield. His legacy of preservation, stewardship and educational experiences will be long remembered.
- * A vacancy announcement for an acting superintendent has been posted within the National Park Service. Until the acting superintendent is selected, Chief Ranger Ed Wenschhof will be the point of contact for the battlefield.

- * At least 2,050 vehicles drove the park during the December 4, 2010 22nd Annual Memorial Illumination.
- * Projects for Fiscal Year 2011 include: archeological survey; ongoing development of the Visitor Center museum exhibits; historic fencing; continuing work on the foundation of the Newcomer barn; exterior of the D.R. Miller house; and exotic vegetation projects.

Mayor Spielman On The Mend

We would like to wish Mayor Spielman a speedy recovery as he recovers from hip replacement surgery. He should be back at his post by February 7, 2011. In the mean time, contact Bryan Gabriel for any questions or emergencies.

Town Hall Hours: Tuesdays 1:00pm-6:00pm,
 Wednesdays 9am-12noon and Thursdays
 1:00pm-6:00pm
 301-432-4428

Hal Spielman, Mayor 432-6854
 Bryan Gabriel, Vice Mayor 432-2478

COUNCIL

Mathew Barnhart 992-4335
 Darryl Benner 432-8331
 Cathy Hull 304-279-8440
 Brandon Smith 432-1941

TOWN OFFICIALS

Kimberly Fulk, Town Clerk 432-7466
 Debra Jamison, Tax Collector 432-6572
 Patti Hammond, Planning Com. 432-5965
 Anna Jamison, Election Board 432-6572
 Kimberly Fulk, Crier Editor 432-7466

TOWN ORGANIZATIONS

Am Leg. Aux. Ava Gift 432-6658
 Hist. Society Vernell Doyle 992-9767
 Mt. View Cemetery Jeff Saylor 432-2255
 Cub Scouts Michael Miles 432-0275
 Boy Scouts John Stewart 432-0564

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
 Church of Christ Ed Beeler 240-625-5552

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

Return Service Requested

SHARPSBURG
 Oldest Town in Washington County
 Founded July 9, 1763



Sharpsburg Town Hall

