

SHARPSBURG MAYOR AND COUNCIL
***AMENDED MEETING MINUTES**
MAY 6, 2024

The Mayor and Council of Sharpsburg, MD held their monthly meeting on Monday, May 6, 2024 in the Council meeting room of Town Hall located at 106 E. Main Street in Sharpsburg. In attendance were Mayor Russell Weaver, Vice Mayor Jacob Martz, Councilmembers Ed Beeler, Joseph Kudla, John Hammond and Mia Parsons. Council Member Robbie Waters was absent. Also in attendance was Town Clerk Debra Smith and Zoning Administrator Tim Lung was present via zoom.

INTRODUCTION OF MISS POPPY Kimber Eichelberger; daughter of T.J. and Kelly Eichelberger is Miss Poppy 2024. Mayor Weaver asked Kimber to lead the Pledge which was followed by a moment of silence for the passing of both longtime resident Ernie Wetterer and Boonsboro Police Chief Kevin Morgan.

GUEST Jenny Bakos; Executive Director of the W.C. Free Library attended the meeting to introduce herself to the Mayor and Council and to say that they have begun working on the next 5-year strategic plan and requested any input about the town's needs on how the library can best serve the community.

CITIZEN COMMENTS *Mr. Ron Vertrees stated that he would like to see Jake braking banned in town. Also asked when the junk car situation on E. Main Street was going to be cleaned up. Mayor Weaver and Zoning Administrator Tim Lung stated that the matter (B&B Auto) has been formally notified and some movement has occurred with removal of equipment first and then the cars.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES (*There was not a meeting held in April*) Mayor Weaver stated that after the March meeting regarding the denial for alley access, Mr. Lee Downey has contacted an attorney. Because this matter may end up in litigation, the March minutes may be requested, therefore Mayor Weaver asked the Council to take the time to read the minutes prior to approval. Councilmember Hammond proposed that the statement regarding the Sharpsburg Fire Department being opposed due to inadequate access be further clarified by incorporating the letter of opinion from the fire department. Vice Mayor Martz stated that his statement regarding the town's ordinance be amended to include "if it was to occur in town." **Motion** by Council Member Beeler, second by Council Member Parsons to approve the March meeting minutes as amended. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF FINANCIAL REPORTS – March/April 2024 Financial Report –. **Motion** by Vice-Mayor Martz, second by Council Member Beeler to approve the financial statements for March and April 2024. Motion carried.

ZONING ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT – Tim Lung

- Working with the owner of property along the south side of E. Antietam St. to gain Zoning compliance regarding removal of unlicensed/expired vehicles (junk).
- Zoning compliance matter regarding a violation (unpermitted business) on property along the south side of W. Main Street placed on hold per Council direction at the March meeting with direction to develop Zoning Ordinance text amendments to address home occupation businesses.
- Drafted Zoning Ordinance text amendment to address home occupation businesses and forwarded draft to the Planning Commission for review and comment.
- Followed up with the State Highway Administration for a status report regarding the sight distance issue at the corner on Church St (MD 65) and E. Main St. (MD34). SHA to investigate this week and report finding back to the Town.
- Continue reviewing information regarding adoption of a yard sale ordinance.
- Continue developing a citizen Zoning/Code violation complaint form.
- Received and reviewed information from the Chesapeake Bay Trust regarding grant funding opportunities for tree planting. Forwarded information to the Planning Commission and Town Clerk.

- Received and reviewed information from the County Planning Department regarding proposed revisions to the Washington County Historic Properties Tax Credit Ordinance which includes provisions for tax credits in the Towns. Forwarded to the Planning Commission.

MAYOR WEAVER - Mayor Weaver stated that an agreement could not be reached with SHAFF regarding the purchase of the Boyer House and the allocated funding will be reverted back to the County. The well drilling project was scheduled to begin in March and has 90 days to complete. Council Member Hammond proposed that if the project has not begun on the 91st day, it be cancelled. **Motion** by Council Member Hammond, second by Council Member Kudla to cancel the contract for the well drilling project if not started on the 91st day of the contract. Motion carried

COUNCIL MEMBER KUDLA-

- The radar sign has been placed at the end of Harpers Ferry Rd. We need additional poles put up on S Mechanic just before Harpers Ferry Rd. Same pole needed for Chapline and eventually on 34.
- The street sweeper has been scheduled the Thursday afternoon before the Memorial Day Parade.

COUNCIL MEMBER PARSONS- the town was not selected for the cemetery project. Will apply again next year.

VICE-MAYOR JACOB MARTZ

Continuing parade preparation:

- 26 Viet Nam Veteran participants
- 77 total units in the parade
- All permits have been approved and received
- Next Memorial Day Committee meeting is Tuesday, May 7 at 6:00 pm.

Security cameras at park:

- Working to get the issue with 3 security cameras at town park resolved. Met with a tech up there last month who identified the problem. It was determined that a network bridge failed due to moisture, causing 3 cameras to malfunction. Requested replacement parts, including a new bridge and moisture packets to soak up excess moisture, which were to be installed last week, however the bridge arrived defective. Will reschedule when parts are available.

COUNCIL MEMBER ED BEELER

Museum Report - Attendance: April 190 YTD 636

Monthly Exhibit: SMH Re-opening - attendance: 184 for three days

Next month, June 22th is our Women of Sharpsburg Exhibit

The SMH staff will be making a float for the parade.

Donations for the month of March:

1. A table made in Sharpsburg by Eugene Marker.
2. A deacon`s bench from 1830

Both items were donated by Joanne Roulette Happ Wolford

COUNCIL MEMBER HAMMOND- nothing additional to add to previous comments.

COMMUNITY PARTNERS:

M. Deputy Watkins – Resident Deputy

April End of Month report:

Sharpsburg Elementary - 12 checks.

Sharpsburg Park - 8 checks.

Little League Field - 2 checks.

Antietam Station - 2 checks.

Bank Lot - 1 evening.

Traffic Enforcement - 5 hours.

Calls For Service - 8.

Burglaries - 0

Disorderly / disturbance - 1

Malicious Destruction of Property - 1

Theft - 1

Theft From Motor Vehicle - 0

Undesirable - 0

Suspicious Person - 0

Court - 1.

Total Sheriff's Office events in Sharpsburg for April - 83.

CORRESPONDENCE/EVENTS

M&C FY25 Budget Work Session – May 13

Spring Curbside Bulk Collection – May 16

John Frye Historic Preservation Awards – May 16

MML – Hancock – May 20 (**3 will be attending**)

Sharpsburg Memorial Day Parade – May 25th

Boonsboro Memorial Day Parade – May 26th

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Alley Naming – will be tabled until the June meeting pending recommendations from the Planning Commission this month. (ACTION ITEM)

Review of On-hold Projects; Town Hall Hand Rail Replacement- Council Member Hammond proposed a full demolition and replacement of the ADA ramp in front of the town hall/library. Because this will be an expensive project, the County will be contacted for financial assistance.

NEW BUSINESS:

2024 (FY25) Tax Rate Approval- the 2024 constant yield tax rate is 0.3249 and will provide the potential revenue of \$167,400 or the same revenue amount as in 2023. If the same tax rate of 0.3500 is maintained, it will provide a potential revenue of \$180,328 or an additional revenue of \$12,928.00. **Motion** by Council Member Hammond, second by Vice-Mayor Martz to maintain the tax rate of 0.3500 for the 2024-2025 tax year. Motion carried.

Amendment to MOU for W.C. Community Deputy Program- the MOU proposed for FY25 will increase in cost from \$20,271.80 to \$23,622.20 for each of the five-(5) participating municipalities, based on an increase in salary, benefits and personal equipment. All other terms of the MOU will not change. Council requested that a meeting be held with Sheriff Albert to further review and discuss the terms of the MOU before approval. (ACTION ITEM)

Motion by Council Member Kudla, second by Councilmember Beeler to close the meeting at 8:25 PM. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Debra Smith
Town Clerk

May 13, 2024: FY25 Proposed Budget Work session

June 3, 2024 Meeting Action/Agenda Items:

- FY25 Budget Hearing and Budget Approval
- Alley Naming
- Amendment to MOU for W.C. Community Deputy Program