

SHARPSBURG MAYOR AND COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
September 9, 2024

The Mayor and Council of Sharpsburg, MD held their monthly meeting on Monday, September 9, 2024 at 6:26 PM 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 and Joseph Kudla. Councilmembers John Hammond, Mia Parsons and Robbie Waters were absent. Town Administrator Debra Smith was also present and Zoning Administrator Tim Lung was present via zoom.

CALL TO ORDER AND PLEDGE led by Girl Scout Ellie Johnkin with a moment of silence held for former Councilman Don Kable.

GUESTS/CITIZENS COMMENTS

- Ellie Johnkin – Presentation of Proposed Girl Scout Silver Award Project
Ellie earned the Bronze award as part of the team who installed the pollinator garden at the Sharpsburg park and would like to add on to that project to earn her silver award. Ellie is proposing install a rain barrel with a flower planter on top to help water the pollinator garden. The project needs to be completed by September 30th. Mayor Weaver stated that he would like to see either 2 containers or 1 larger one and consensus to donate up to \$500 towards the project and request that Robbie Waters assist.
- Brianna Candelaria of 124 E. Main Street stated that the tree in front of her property is dead and the historic wall in the rear of her property that adjoins with the neighbor is deteriorating. Mayor Weaver stated that the town can remove and replace the dead tree with a Maple tree, but technically the wall is on private property but suggested that there may be funding available to assist in its repair.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

August 5, 2024 Regular Minutes. Consensus to approve.

APPROVAL OF FINANCIAL REPORTS

August 2024 Financial Report. Consensus to approve.

CORRESPONDENCE

1. MML – Town of Keedysville – Monday, September 23rd
2. Sharpsburg Day – Saturday, October 5th – 1 event meeting held. Will be meeting each Saturday until the event. Advertised for volunteers. Mayor stated that he would like this event to be a day of celebration and a day of giving back.
3. County Commissioners Meeting in Sharpsburg – Tuesday, September 24th
Proposed topic for discussion with the County Commissioner's:
 - Water and Sewer Rates
 - Assistance with spraying the weeds on the stone wall along E. Main Street
 - Elementary School Maintenance
 - HB 538 Housing Affordability Act

ZONING ADMINISTRATORS REPORT – Tim Lung

- Issued notice of violation to the owner of property along the south side of E. Antietam St. regarding removal of unlicensed/expired vehicles (junk). Compliance date is Sept 12. Will conduct an inspection following the compliance date.
- Met with MDE representative along with Council persons Martz and Waters for a MDE Waterway Construction Permit pre-application meeting for the Big Spring wall restoration project. Continue to gather information and preparation of the permit application.
- Reviewed Town Zoning regulations and definitions regarding mobile/manufactured homes in response to Council questions associated with HB 538 Housing Expansion and Affordability Act. Applicable sections of the Town Zoning Ordinance are attached.
- Received an application from Robert Campbell to establish a museum at his property at 137 East Main Street. This requires a Special Exception in the TR Zoning District. The Board of Zoning Appeals will hold a Public Hearing on Tuesday October 1 at 7pm. The Public Hearing Notice will be posted on the property, published in

The Town Crier and the Town's Social Media. Notice will be mailed to adjoining confronting property owners and posted at the Post Office. Application sent to the Planning Commission for a recommendation.

- There have been two resignations from the Board of Zoning Appeals and one inactive member. The Board requires three primary members and two alternates. Council should appoint 3 new members.
- Work on the proposed draft Zoning Ordinance text amendments and violation notice regarding Home Occupation businesses on hold pending scheduling of a workshop meeting with the Planning Commission and Council.
- Reviewing Maryland Department of Planning Annual Report filing form. When complete, will forward to the Planning Commission for approval.
- Responded to several inquiries regarding zoning and permitting requirement questions
- Pending scheduling of a meeting with Town officials and Staff and Greg Cartrette, Director of the County Permitting and Inspections Department to introduce new County staff that will be working with the Town and review building code changes

MAYORS REPORT – Mayor Weaver

- Wells - RFP response due 9/11 @ 2pm
- Historic Park - RFP response due 9/13 @ 11am
- Boyer House - We are seeking to use the money allocated for purchase to develop interpretation
- Lutheran Cemetery - Need to make this a focus item for this fiscal year
- Big Spring - Recommending to proceed with our and county money without MHT grant.
- Sharpsburg Days - Asking for volunteers and position day as a celebration of Sharpsburg
- Sign at Elementary School - We have preliminary permission to place a sign in front of school for Sharpsburg
- Water and Sewer rates - Discuss with commissioners and feedback for community

COUNCIL MEMBERS REPORTS

Vice Mayor Martz:

- Attended a meeting with Tim, Robbie and MDE Representative at Big Spring to discuss restoration project scope and details.
- Along with Russ and Debbie, attended a meeting with FSA Representative Tony Taylor to discuss the bidding phase of the Interpretive Park project.
- Visited Boyer House twice to assess and collect any remaining and potentially significant items that were left which could be of value to the Museum.
- Initiated trademark legal process for town motto.
- Attended 100th Anniversary of Marine Corps march from Quantico event at Antietam Battlefield. Had an opportunity to engage with the Marine Corps Band, Marine Corps Historical Company, and active-duty Marines from a Reconnaissance Battalion stationed Ft. Detrick to solicit their participation in next year's Memorial Day Parade.

Councilmember Beeler – Sharpsburgh Museum of History Report for August 2024

Attendance: July - 193 August - 166 YTD – 1246

- Donations: June – We received a big donation from SHAF, I told a team of 12 people in to the Boyer House and we were allowed to take anything that we wanted for the museum.
- The first part of restoring a section of the Antietam Diorama is slowly being work on due to Max going back to school. This section will cover Bloody Lane, Roulette, Mumma, Piper and the Clipp House and it will show what the different fields around that area had in 1862, please we can continue showing our visitors what each family went through before, during and after the Battle of Antietam.
- We will be starting to sell chances for a Sharpsburg Basket for a fundraiser for SMH
- Our Rack Card are updated and the new ones are in. Thanks to Laura Oates Design and the CVB are to sponsor them.
- SMH will be running the Information table this year at Sharpsburg Day on Saturday October 5th and also selling items plus our Sharpsburg Basket Chances which will be drawing the ticket that day.
- September weekend of the 17th Battle of Antietam Anniversary Weekend, we will be open that Saturday with a table and some volunteers outside and inside.

- Our new schedules for 2025 & 2026 which will be the year of Celebration since our country and County turns 250 Years. If anyone has any ideas you would like to see let me know but in order to have these events, we need volunteers.

Councilmember Kudla – stated that the stone wall repairs on E. Main Street are almost complete.

Councilmember Waters: absent but proposed brush collection date is the week of October 14th

COMMUNITY PARTNERS

Community Partners Reports:

M. Deputy Watkins - August 2024:

Antietam Station - 10 checks.	Total WCSO events in Sharpsburg in August - 195
Little League - 10 checks.	Burglary - 0
Park - 12 checks.	Theft - 1
Elementary School - 22 checks.	Theft from Motor Vehicle - 0
Traffic Enforcement - 8.5 hours.	Disorderly - 0
Calls for Service - 14.	Suspicious - 0
Court - 1	MDOP - 0
	Undesirable - 1

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Revised Alley Naming Proposal Approval – Consensus to approve the Alley names as previously proposed.

- Alley 1 – Biggs Alley
- Alley 4 – Tolsons Alley
- Alley 5 – Garrison Spring Alley
- Alley 10 – Clipp Alley
- Trading Post Alley
- McNally Alley

Alley 9 One-Way to Snyders Landing Rd Proposal - Tabled

Town Hall/Library ADA Ramp Replacement Update - Tabled

Board of Supervisors of Elections Appointment - Mayor Weaver appointed Cathy Mauck.

2025 Trash Collection Bid Review – the RFP for trash collection is being prepared by Town Administrator Debra Smith with the following proposed changes;

1. Change the initial contract period from 1 year to 18 months with a 1-year renewal option to place the contract on a fiscal year period.
2. Because the town only has small businesses, all will be eligible for collection under the contract with the only exclusion being no collection of dumpster units.
3. The RFP is requesting Additional Proposals in the SCOPE OF WORK;
 - A. Spring Curbside Bulk Collection
 - B. Company Provided Trash
 - C. Landfill Tipping Fees quote for collection with third party billing to be paid by the Town directly to the W. C. Landfill.

Consensus to prepare the RFP as proposed.

Trick or Treat Date – Thursday, October 31st from 6 – 8 PM.

Meeting adjourned at 8:25 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Debra A. Smith
Town Administrator/Clerk