

SHARPSBURG MAYOR AND COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
MARCH 3, 2025
6:00 PM

The Mayor and Council of Sharpsburg, MD held their monthly meeting on Monday, March 3, 2025 at 6:00 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, Joseph Kudla, Heather Waters and Robbie Waters. Town Administrator Debra Smith was also present. Councilmember Randy Short was absent due to illness and due to internet difficulties, Zoning Administrator Tim Lung could not be zoomed in.

CALL TO ORDER AND PLEDGE led by Councilmember Kudla. Mayor Weaver asked for a moment of silence for Richard Haynes.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA – Motion by Vice-Mayor Martz and second by Councilmember R. Waters to approve amending the order of the agenda. Motion carried.

GUESTS/PUBLIC COMMENTS

Chris Vincent – presented the Mayor and Council with a 3rd installment for the Historic Park in the amount of \$3,000.00 from the Antietam Institute.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Regular Meeting Minutes - February 3, 2025 - **Motion** by Councilmember R. Waters and second by Vice-Mayor Martz to approve the February regular meeting minutes. Motion carried.

Work Session Minutes – February 25, 2025 - **Motion** by Councilmember R. Waters and second by Councilmember Kudla to approve the February work session meeting minutes. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF FINANCIAL REPORT

Motion by Councilmember R. Waters and second by Vice-Mayor Martz to approve the February 2025 Financial report. Motion carried.

MAYORS COMMENT(S) – Mayor Weaver

- **Historic Park** – Construction continuing. Change orders on the retaining wall and landscaping in process. Wayside exhibits and main park sign being designed.
- **Lutheran Cemetery** – Focal item for this fiscal year.
- **Big Spring** – Repair to start as soon as permits received.
- **Community Development/Sharpsburg Day**– Councilmember H. Waters leading formation of community development committee. Asking for volunteers and position Sharpsburg Day as a celebration of Sharpsburg. Looking at other community activities to facilitate connecting Sharpsburg.
- **Sign at Elementary School** – We have preliminary permission to place a sign in front of school for Sharpsburg.
- **Main Street beautification campaign kickoff** - Discuss with council and get feedback from community

CORRESPONDENCE - Letter of Support submitted in favor of HB1327 supporting of Program Open Space and Heritage Grant funding.

COMMUNITY PARTNERS

Officer Watkins – Resident Deputy - February End of Month Report:

Antietam Station - 8 checks. Total WCSO events in February - 77.

Elementary School - 8 checks. Burglary - 0.

Park - 8 checks.	Theft - 1.
Little League - 7 checks.	Disorderly - 1.
120 E Main St - 7 checks.	Malicious Destruction of Property - 0.
Traffic Enforcement - 4 hours.	Theft from Motor Vehicle - 0.
Calls for Service - 6.	Undesirable - 1.
Training - 2 days.	Suspicious person - 0.
Admin - 1 day.	

Parks Advisory – Chris Vincent stated that Lions Club will be turning in their Charter due to lack of membership.

COUNCIL MEMBER MONTHLY REPORTS FOR FEBRUARY 2025

Councilmember Kudla: *(Street/MDOT/SHA)*

- Signs made for Trading Post Alley. Mick putting in frames now.
- Update on MOU requested. Linda gave plat maps to review. Indicates ownership. Joe to review. We will need to review this with the council.
- Request to have remaining wall at cemetery hill assessed. Linda indicated she would have to review.
- Called MDOT to clean out culvert on cemetery hill and place reflector post at driveway entry. Linda indicated they could do when they flex post at 65&34. We should not deploy flex posts until approved by council
- Huntzberry culvert cleanout walkthrough Antietam pending. NEED HUNTZBERRY MEETING SET. You may mean Chapline street here

Church & Main Street Safety Meeting Update: Councilmember Kudla provided an update from the February 25th meeting with MDOT stating that they had provided a speed study from December on both MD34 showing average speeds range from 30.93 to 40.11 MPH and on MD65 showing average speeds range from 30.93 to 40.11 MPH. Various issues were addressed with speeding and visibility/sight distance being the main reasons cited for the cause of incidents at the intersection. Proposed for consideration to MDOT is the possibility of implement parking restrictions on Main Street (MD34) 185' headed east towards the cemetery from the intersection, install temporary traffic calming vertical markers, and the relocation of the flags on the house at the corner of E. Main and Church Streets. Other suggestions from residents included rumble strips, moving the speed sign further up the hill, extending the white lines, a cross walk and removing the grass area in front of 200 E. Main Street to provide safer on-street parking. **Motion** by Councilmember R. Waters, second by Councilmember H. Waters to send notifications to the affected property owners once MDOT has determined a course of action. Motion carried.

Vice-Mayor Martz: *(Memorial Day Parade/Historic Park)*

Continued Memorial Day planning:

- submitted request for sheriff presence at parade
- mailed out invitations to dignitaries for wreath laying
- distributed parade RSVP form via email to past participants
- created an online fillable form and posted to website
- 10 participants confirmed so far
- designed 2025 event poster
 - Attended 2 meetings with interpretive planner to discuss sign placement at interpretive park.
 - Attended meeting with horticulturalist to discuss landscaping options for interpretive park.
 - Attended meeting with MDOT to discuss safety concerns expressed by the public.

Councilmember Short: *(Planning Liaison, Streetscape and Communications)*

- No Report

Councilmember H. Waters: (*Community Development/Town Hall Maintenance*)

- Held events committee meeting 2/27 to discuss Sharpsburg Days and future events. Will be holding another meeting for the ones who couldn't come to this meeting.
- I will get with Terry Porter about the hand rails as soon as the weather breaks.
- I'd like the phone number Brian Poffenberger about the keystones.

Councilmember R. Waters: (*Parks/Gen Town Maintenance*)

- Need to discuss the signs needing replaced throughout town and what poles need straightened and painted. The signs can be done as soon as the hardware and new signs comes in
- Spring and summer projects: Please keep in mind all these projects will start in April so that the weather is warmer
 - Jake's monument landscaping
 - curb painting
 - pond fountain replacement
 - fix Randall's and Perry's alley
 - Playground Spring clean- up and mulching
 - (25) yards of playground mulch @my cost
 - new landscaping and the playground sign

Councilmember Beeler – (*SMH Director/Town Archivist*)

Attendance: 26

1. Upcoming Events:

March 15– Relic Expo @ St. Paul`s,

March 1 & 8 - Volunteer Training (all volunteers, Docents, Interns, Board)

April 26 – Women of Sharpsburg (Families of Sharpsburg)

May 24– Memorial Day Parade

June 21 – Genealogy Class

July 12– Founder`s Day 9th – open house Saturday close to the ninth

August – Talk

September 20TH – Antietam Battlefield Anniversary weekend

SEPTEMBER 20TH Sharpsburg Day Information Table.

2. Intern Jamie – Organized our reference books, cleaning and storing our rare books.
3. Possibility of getting a summer worker from the job consortium.
4. History Camp – organizing this year and having the club in 2026
5. Ideas for this year`s float
6. Organizing of the Annex. We will be taking a day to go to the annex
7. Possibility of more visitors because of Lay-offs

NEW BUSINESS

FY26 CY Tax Rate – Town Administrator Smith stated that the proposed Constant Yield Tax Rate (CYTR) for 2025 (FY26) is 0.3242 for a net assessable real property base of 56,437,507 and will provide a potential revenue of \$182,971.00. It is being recommended to maintain the town current tax rate of 0.3500 which will provide a potential revenue of \$197,531.00 or an increase of \$14,560.00 from the current years revenue. **Motion** by Councilmember R. Waters and second by Councilmember Kudla to approve maintaining the towns current tax rate of 0.3500. Motion carried.

RFP for 2025 Mowing Bid - Town Administrator Smith prepared the proposal for mowing services for 2025 for Mayor and Council review to be placed out for bid with bids due on Thursday, March 20 at 11 AM. **Motion** by Vice-Mayor Martz and second by Councilmember H. Waters to approve the advertisement of mowing services for 2025. Motion carried. (ACTION ITEM)

FY25 Pothole Repairs – A proposal for asphalt repairs was provided by Huntzberry Brothers in September 2024. Mayor Weaver requested that any other repairs be submitted for inclusion/consideration before a decision is made on the proposal. (ACTION ITEM)

Spring Bulk Collection - Town Administrator Smith stated that a quote for a May Bulk collection was provided with the Apple Valley Waste bid in the amount of \$1,250.00. Councilmember R. Waters offered to perform the collection the week of May 12-16 for \$1,000.00. **Motion** by Councilmember Kudla and second by Vice-Mayor Martz to approve the spring bulk collection to be done by R.W. Waters Services for \$1,000.00 the week of May 12-16. Motion carried.

Proposed Spring Brush Collection – Mayor Weaver stated that he would like to offer a spring brush collection in addition to the fall collection. **Motion** by Councilmember Kudla and second by Vice-Mayor Martz to approve the spring brush collection to be done by R.W. Waters Services the week of April 14-18. Motion carried.

ADJOURNMENT- Motion by Councilmember R. Waters and second by Councilmember H. Waters to adjourn the meeting at 7:45 P.M. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Debra A. Smith
Town Administrator/Clerk

March 31, 2025 Work Session proposed agenda items:

- Review of 2025 Mowing Bids
- Review of Sidewalk Closure Request for Roof Repair
- Review of business grand-opening/event request