

**SHARPSBURG MAYOR AND COUNCIL
WORK SESSION MEETING MINUTES
APRIL 28, 2025**

The Mayor and Council of Sharpsburg, MD held a work session on Monday, April 28, 2025 at 6:00 P.M. 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 Heather Waters. Councilmember Randy Short arrived late. Town Administrator Debra Smith was also present. Councilmember Joe Kudla was absent.

1. Town Hall/Library/Museum Parking – Community M. Deputy Dakota Watkins attended the work session to offer some insight on parking options that may better serve the patrons of the town hall, library and the museum. The two-(2) spaces in front of the building were previously posted with a 2-hr limit but was not able to be enforced and thereby was occupied the majority of time by neighboring residents rather than patrons. A neighboring business requested handicapped parking which can be enforced, but after posting both spaces as handicapped parking, a neighboring resident moved 2 of his handicapped vehicles from his house to the front of the building. One written and a few verbal complaints have been received regarding the same individuals dominating the patron parking. Various scenarios were discussed vs what can be enforced in order to make the 2-spaces available to patrons of the building citing enforcement being the result falling under the responsibility of an assigned code enforcement officer designated by the town. Councilmember Short stated that he felt the matter was more so about targeting a resident than it was about patron parking. Consensus from remaining Council disagreed and a heated exchange occurred between Mayor Weaver and Councilmember Short resulting in Councilmember Short tendering his resignation and he left the meeting. Final consensus was to remove all signage from in front of the town hall/library because nothing can be enforced at this time.

2. FY25 Pothole Repair Proposal – Huntzberry Brothers presented a street repair analysis and estimate in September 2024. Council was asked to review the repair proposal and make any additions at the regular meeting. None being added, Council prioritized repairs that could be done within a \$30,000 budget. **Consensus** was to complete Alley 10 @ \$14,749.00, the Chapline Street Box Culvert @ \$7,200 and repair the alley behind the 200 block of E. Main Street.

3. FY26 1st Draft Budget Review – Town Administrator Valentine-Smith reviewed the 1st draft of the proposed budget for both for FY26 highlighting the following categories;

Income:

Real Property Taxes (maintain the current tax rate of .35/\$100 of assessed value)	197,531
State Highway User Revenue	91,796
County Hotel/Motel	20,000
Local Income Taxes	86,000
Memorial Day Parade Grant/Funds	10,000
Interest/Dividends	16,500
Cable Franchise Fees	5,000

Expenses:

Memorial Day Parade	25,000
Accounting and Legal	20,000
County Police Protection	25,984
Municipal Building Utilities/Repairs	29,500
Street lighting	18,000
Street Maintenance	30,000
Snow Removal (<i>Current contract expires 12/31/25</i>)	30,000
Mowing	15,000
Waste Collection	60,000
Park Operating	30,000

Special Events	7,000
Town Museum	9,000
Employee Payroll/Taxes	48,240
Commercial Insurances/Bonds	4,750
Total proposed income: \$434,827	
Total proposed expense: \$397,374	
Net Income (37,453)	

Discussion and proposed changes included; increasing Special Events from 7-10,000, adding 5,000 for the Lutheran Cemetery, placing a hold on the Hometown Hero Banner program until FY27 so that a full analysis of the available poles, locations and brackets can be assessed, and of the 9,000 for the museum, they will be given 7k and 2k will be earmarked in the audit annually as a reserve. In addition, it was noted that money will need to be added to the budget to upgrade the meeting room audio system.

The proposed changes will be made and a second draft will be reviewed at the May work session.

4. Proposed Charter Amendments – various amendments to the Charter have been prepared by the Town Attorney and further revisions will be submitted to the Town Attorney for review prior to being reviewed by the Council at the May work session. If all proposed amendments are given consensus, they will be scheduled for public hearing in June.

Meeting adjourned at 7:30 P.M.

Respectfully submitted;

Debra Valentine-Smith
Town Administrator