

SHARPSBURG MAYOR AND COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
JUNE 2, 2025

The Mayor and Council of Sharpsburg, MD held their regular monthly meeting on Monday, June 2, 2025 at 6:08 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, and Councilmember Ed Beeler. Councilmembers Joseph Kudla and Heather Waters attended via Zoom. Town Administrator Debra Smith was also present.

Regular meeting and call to order by Mayor Weaver with the pledge led by Councilmember Beeler.

CITIZEN COMMENTS - none.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA – **Motion** by Councilmember Beeler, second by Councilmember Waters to approve the agenda. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- April 7, 2025 Public Hearing and Regular Minutes **Motion** by Councilmember Beeler, second by Vice-Mayor Martz to approve the minutes as written. Motion carried.
- April 28, 2025 Work Session Minutes **Motion** by Vice-Mayor Martz, second by Councilmember Waters to approve the work session minutes as written. Motion carried.
- May 27, 2025 Work Session Minutes **Motion** by Councilmember Beeler, second by Councilmember Waters to approve the work session minutes as written. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF FINANCIAL REPORTS

April/May 2025 Financial Report - **Motion** by Councilmember Beeler, second by Councilmember Waters to approve the financial report as presented. Motion carried.

ZONING ADMINISTRATORS REPORT – Tim Lung was on vacation but submitted the following report.

- Reviewed and responded to various inquiries and questions regarding zoning and permitting requirements.
- Completed and submitted MDE Waterway Construction Permit application for Big Spring wall restoration project.
- Received and reviewed MDE “Acknowledgment letter” and forwarded application to Corps. of Engineers for review per letter.
- Contacted MDE representative for follow-up and timetable for approval. Waiting for response.
- Signed off on building/zoning permit application from AT&T for an antenna and equipment cabinet swap at the water tank site.
- Finalized permit for an application to occupy a portion of the street (sidewalk) for the purpose of placement of scaffolding for a roofing project at 107 E. Main Street. Approved by Mayor & Council at April meeting following public hearing.
- Corresponded with MD Dept of Planning regarding completion of 2024 annual report.
- Investigated and issued notifications for tall weed/grass at several properties.
- Reviewed summary of recent MDP meeting with Western Maryland planners.

MAYORS COMMENTS – Mayor Weaver offered the following comments:

- **Historic Park** - A few last-minute details remain – installing flag pole, identification sign in front, placards, asphalt parking area.
- **Lutheran Cemetery** – Focal item for upcoming fiscal year.
- **Big Spring** – Permits wrapping up and begin date to be established.
- **Community Development/Sharpsburg Day** –Need follow up meeting after initial organization meeting.
- **Sign at Elementary School** – No progress. We have preliminary permission to place a sign in front of school for Sharpsburg
- **Main Street beautification campaign kickoff (street scape)** - No progress. Discuss with council and get feedback from community
- **Apple Valley Waste** - Issues resolved and we have been given new contacts

Well Drilling Project Closeout and Citizen Water Rebates– In 2020, then Councilman John Hammond recommended that the town pursue developing a water source that could be sold to the county to permanently offset our water costs. The basic idea was that we had the location where an existing well was producing nearly enough water to supply Sharpsburg and would require minimal treatment. We partnered with the county to share the well drilling costs with the county to then provide treatment. It was generally believed we could save quite a bit by reducing the man power needed to operate treatment. After drilling 300 feet and not obtaining potable water, we were told by Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) because of the (karst) rock formations where the well is located, the water it produced would be considered under the influence of surface water. We validated this by gathering information from the recent well brought online in Boonsboro. The Boonsboro well was over 800 feet deep and tested to be under the influence. Being under the influence requires treatment similar to surface water which is what we currently use. These plants are expensive, costing several million, labor intensive and require more space than we have at the park. We also have reason to believe MDE would not consider funding another surface water treatment plant since we already have one. It is a great disappointment to announce the suspension of activities related to developing a Sharpsburg water source. COVID Relief funds were utilized for the project with the towns share originally estimated to cost \$53,148.00 and closing out at \$22,697.57. The balance of \$30,450.43 and \$6,015.73 unable to be utilized for a proposed pond dock under the Covid project funding was voted by the Mayor and Council to be given to the residents of Sharpsburg as a second water rebate in the amount of \$130 each. An initial rebate was provided to residents under the same Covid Relief Funding totaling \$60,830.00 for a total of \$97,296.16 issues to the residents as rebates.

CORRESPONDENCE:

- Letter of resignation received from former Councilmember Randy Short.
- Various PIA request being addressed.

COUNCIL MEMBERS REPORTS

Councilmember Kudla-

Met with MDOT on May 22. Summary in 5/27/25 work session minutes.

Vice-Mayor Martz - April 2025 Report

Interpretive Park:

- Attended meeting to discuss interpretive signage
- Attended meeting with Civil War Trails Representative tactics to discuss signage installation

Library:

- Attended meeting with library representatives to discuss funding and location options for library

Memorial Day:

- Continued Memorial Day preparations
- Held planning session to discuss communication strategies
- Planned and attended meeting with Fire Police and Potomac Ridge Brewing to discuss resolution of traffic issue at Canal Road during the Memorial Day parade.

May 2025 Report

- Attended Council work session

Interpretive Park:

- Site meeting with general contractor to establish location for concrete footer of park sign
- Site meeting with stone mason and sign contractor to discuss design and location of sign at park
- Site meeting with electrician to discuss location of electrical and lighting for flag pole
- Meeting with Chris to discuss topics for interpretive signage at park

Memorial Day:

- Continued Memorial Day preparations
- Meeting with citizen to discuss concerns regarding parade participant
- Meeting with Sheriff Albert to discuss traffic control and enforcement during parade
- Washed monuments in town square
- Post-parade meeting with fire police to debrief and discuss observations and recommendations for improvement
- Next Committee meeting is Tuesday, 6/3/25 at 6:00 pm

Councilmember Waters – Nothing to report.

Councilmember Ed Beeler-Town Archives/Museum Report for April/May 2025

- Attendance has been picking up, since a lot of the National Parks are either closing or layoffs.

- We had 237 visitors
- Museum was closed on Saturday, May 24th for our Memorial Day Activities and had a float in the parade.
- We are invited to attend Shepherdstown's 250th Anniversary of the Bee Line March on Saturday, June 14th from 10-4 at the Morgan Grove Park. We will have a booth set up with items telling the colonial part of Sharpsburg.
- Since the last month, I've answered 2 inquiries of family names, identified a native spear head. And started a program, Family Tree Maker that will hold all the names of Sharpsburg families and their history.
- We received three civil war pictures, and some items of the Sharpsburg Lions Club along with a donation of \$500 from the Sharpsburg Lions Club which at the end of May will be no more.
- A local man is going to take some courses in Museum Studies and ask if he could do his internship here and wants to volunteer in the museum.
- We had two youths graduate: one was Adam Oates, whom use to intern here and Daniel Gregg, who is still an intern. Plus, our college intern Jamie Senft.

COMMUNITY PARTNERS

M. Deputy Watkins – Resident Deputy

Antietam Station - 5 checks. Total WCSO events for May - 95
 120 E Main St. - 5 checks. Disorderly - 2
 Park - 6 checks. Vehicle theft - 1 (occurred somewhere else).
 Little League - 4 checks.
 School - 2 checks.
 Traffic Enforcement - 2 hours.
 Calls for Service - 6.
 Special Event - 1 (Wreath and Parade).

Battlefield Advisory Board - Chris Vincent – next meeting of the Battlefield Advisory Board will be Wed., June 11th. Notice from Battlefield Superintendent Andrew Banasik stating that the park will be lowering the speed limit on Dunker Church Road from 35mph to 25mph.

Town Crier - Mike Arant – Stepping down in December. Still looking for someone to take over the Town Crier.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

FY25 Pothole Repair List Approval – consensus at the April 28th work session was to have Huntzberry Brothers repair Alley 10 @\$14,749.00 and the Chapline Street box culvert @ \$7,200.00. **Motion** by Vice-Mayor Martz, second by Councilmember Beeler to approve. Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS

Introduction/Passage of Ordinance 25-01; Adoption of the FY26 Budget and Tax Rates - **Motion** by Councilmember Waters, second by Vice-Mayor Martz to approve the introduction and passage of Ordinance 25-01; Adopting the FY26 Budget and Tax rates. Motion carried.

Sharpsburg Library Project(s) Funding – the Sharpsburg Library has received funding and has been approved to purchase the following item for the town; a handicapped swing for the Sharpsburg Park, sponsor an interpretive marker in the Historic Park and a bench for the pond (with a little library). If these projects are approved by the Mayor and Council, product information would have to be provided to the Hagerstown Main Library to do the purchasing with the Town would do the installation. They would like to do a program once the swing, bench and Little Library are installed. **Motion** by Vice-Mayor Martz, second by Councilmember Beeler to approve. Motion carried.

Motion by Vice-Mayor Martz, second by Councilmember Beeler to adjourn the meeting at 6:35 P.M. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Debra A. Valentine-Smith
 Town Administrator