

**SHARPSBURG MAYOR AND COUNCIL
WORK SESSION MEETING MINUTES
MAY 27, 2025**

The Mayor and Council of Sharpsburg, MD held a work session on Monday, May 27, 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, Joe Kudla and Heather Waters. Town Administrator Debra Valentine-Smith was also present.

1. FY26 2nd Draft Budget Review – Town Administrator Valentine-Smith stated that the first draft of the FY26 proposed budget was reviewed in detail at the April 28th work session. The second draft has been revised to include proposed revisions discussed at that work session and include 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. Further additions proposed at this meeting included; salary increases, increasing the income and expense by \$10,000 for the Memorial Parade in light of the 250th celebration, increasing the mowing expense by \$5,000 and the purchase of 2-laptops. The final proposed budget will be presented in a public hearing prior to the regular meeting on Monday, June 2nd.

2. Proposed Charter Amendments – The Mayor and Council met with the Town Attorney in March to inquire about the liability to elected officials if the town were to be in violation of the Code of Ethics Ordinance and the Town Charter. ARTICLE 12; General Provisions. Section 1203. Conflict of Interest due to a sitting elected official performing contractual and “handy-man” projects for the town. Attorney Kane stated that public officials are typically not held liable and he was not aware of any such cases, especially when it comes to small towns such as Sharpsburg that have limited resources. While the Town does have an Ethics Ordinance, they are exempt by the State because they realize that small towns do not get the response from bids that larger municipalities do. Attorney Kane recommended that all elected officials become familiar with their Charter and change what needs to be changed to include the option of either keeping the current Ethics Ordinance as written, adopting the County’s, re-writing the towns, or repeal the entire Ordinance since they are exempted by the State. In addition, the Charter can be amended to allow the Council to provide a waiver for good cause when considering an issue that may be considered a conflict of interest. Council and the Town Administrator were asked to review the Charter for additional amendments that may be needed. Also recommended was to amend Section 622. Purchasing and Contracts to increase the contract bid amount from \$10,000.00 to \$20,000.00 to accommodate for inflation. While updating the Charter, the inclusion of the position of Town Administrator is also to be incorporated. A public hearing on the proposed revisions is planned for the July 7, 2025 meeting of the Mayor and Council.

3. MDOT MD 34/65 Update – Councilmember Kudla stated that MDOT has proposed a quick solution that may be able to be implemented within 2-months with coordinated approvals. They include signs, speed cushions and paint.

- They propose marking off with 10’ white line all corners to a safe viewing distance that they proposed earlier
- Speed cushions 100-200 feet from intersection that stay in place in non-snow months. The cushions will disrupt the drivers travel hopefully making them aware and also serving to slow traffic. The cushions would be used from March to October.
- Creating a turn marking change. It will set up all traffic to get over a couple feet to right to prevent missed turn radius and cars from behind passing on the right. It also serves to disrupt the drivers travel hopefully to a new traffic pattern.

Updated information, the Complete Streets Academy start date and proposed project plans from the MDOT consultant engineer are expected to be ready for sharing with the public by the July meeting of the Mayor and Council.

Meeting adjourned at 7:18 P.M.

Respectfully submitted;

Debra Valentine-Smith
Town Administrator