

**SHARPSBURG MAYOR AND COUNCIL
PUBLIC HEARING
PROPOSED CHARTER AND CODE AMENDMENTS
JULY 14, 2025
6:00 PM**

The Mayor and Council of Sharpsburg, MD held a Public Hearing on Monday, July 14, 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, Joseph Kudla, and Heather Waters. Town Administrator Debra Smith was also present and Zoning Administrator Tim Lung was present via zoom.

The purpose of the public hearing is to obtain public comments on two-(2) proposed Charter Amendments and one-(1) proposed Code Amendment. A Notice of Public Hearing and a fair summary of the proposed Charter Amendments was duly advertised in the Herald Mail on June 23, 2025, placed on the town's website, Facebook page and posted in the town hall and post office.

A fair summary of the proposed Charter Amendments include:

Charter Amendment Resolution 25-001; A Resolution to Amend Article 6 Entitled "Finance", Section 622 Entitled "Purchasing and Contracts" of the Charter of the Town of Sharpsburg for the Purpose of Increasing the Minimum Expenditure Amount Requiring Submission of a written contract and sealed bids to expenditures involving more than \$20,000 which amends the Charter of the Town of Sharpsburg by increasing the threshold amount of purchases and contracts which must be made in writing and upon competitive bidding **from \$10,000 to \$20,000.**

Charter Amendment Resolution 25-002; A Resolution to Amend Article 12 Entitled "General Provisions", Section 1203 Entitled "Conflicts of Interests" of the Charter of the Town of Sharpsburg for the Purpose of Providing for Exemption from the Conflict-of-Interest Provisions of the Charter is amended to read as follows; Section 1203. Conflict of interest. No person elected and qualified as mayor, vice-mayor or councilmember, or any other person holding any office by election, appointment or otherwise, under the provisions of this charter shall during the term of his office, be interested, directly or indirectly, in any contract in which the town is a party or is interested, **except as permitted by a resolution of disinterested members of the council granting exemption from the provisions of this Section upon a finding that such exemption would not be contrary to the purposes of this section, would not be detrimental to the impartial conduct of the business of the town, and that application of this Section would significantly reduce the availability of qualified persons for public service. This section does not prohibit participation by an official or employee that is limited to the exercise of an administrative or ministerial duty that does not affect the decision or disposition with respect to the matter.**

The Mayor and Council propose to adopt the Charter amendments at the regular meeting with a fair summary of the amendments to be placed in the newspaper for 4 weekly intervals within 40 days after the adoption. Unless a petition is received on or before the 40th day, (8/22/25), the amendments shall become effective on the 50th day. (9/2/25)

Ordinance 25-002 repeals Section 1. Chapter 9 – Code of Ethics/Financial Disclosure in its entirety without reenactment. The Town is exempt from the ethics law as determined by the MD State Ethics Commission and the Council has determined that there is no need for a local ethics ordinance which would significantly reduce the availability of qualified persons for public service, particularly in light of Charter Amendment Resolution 25-002.

The floor was opened for citizen comments. None were received and the meeting was closed at 6:07 p.m.

Respectfully submitted;

Debra A. Valentine-Smith
Town Administrator