

**SHARPSBURG MAYOR AND COUNCIL**  
**REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**  
**April 6, 2026**

The Mayor and Council of Sharpsburg, MD held their monthly meeting on Monday, April 6, 2026 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 Anne Marie McCullough, Heather Waters and Robbie Waters. Town Administrator Debra Valentine-Smith was also present and Zoning Administrator Tim Lung and Councilmember Joe Kudla were present via zoom.

**CALL TO ORDER AND PLEDGE** by Mayor Weaver and pledge offered by Councilmember McCullough and a moment of silence was offered for Dorothy Lowe who passed away in March and served the town as one of two Miss Sharpsburg's in 2023.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA - MOTION** by Councilmember R. Waters to approve the agenda, second by Councilmember McCullough. Motion carried.

**GUESTS** – Planning Commission Community Survey Presentation – *Brianna Candelaria*

Planning Commission member Brianna Candelaria shared a power point presentation of the community survey results for input on the towns comprehensive plan. 116 responses were received out of 560 residents. A few of the highlights included;

- What matters most to residents? Top 3 were roads and essential services, protect farmland and open spaces and quiet/small town character.
- What should be preserved? Historic buildings and landmarks, farmland, woods and open spaces.
- How satisfied are residents? Roads and sidewalks were noted the lowest at a 3 on a scale of 5.

The public hearing will be schedule in the near future on the draft plan with draft goals to the Mayor and Council for feedback and direction.

**CITIZEN COMMENTS** – None were received.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**Regular Meeting Minutes – March 9, 2026 and Public Hearing Minutes – March 9, 2026 -MOTION** by Councilmember H. Waters to approve both the Regular Meeting Minutes and the Public Hearing Minutes of March 9, 2026, second by Councilmember McCullough. Motion carried.

**APPROVAL OF FINANCIAL REPORT - MOTION** by Councilmember McCullough to approve the March 2026 Financial Report, second by Councilmember R. Waters. Motion carried.

**ZONING ADMINISTATORS REPORT** – Tim Lung

- Responded to inquiries and questions regarding zoning and permitting requirements.
- Reviewed an application and issued a Zoning Permit for a 6' high, 16' long, vinyl privacy fence on residential property along W. Main St.
- Corresponded with Dee Price at the County Soil Conservation District regarding scheduling a field visit in April to consider a stream restoration project and possible grant funding.
- Continued to monitor HB 239/SB 36 regarding the State overriding local zoning related to residential housing density.
- Coordinated with the Mayor and Vice Mayor and drafted amendments regarding a proposed Bill (HB1236) sponsored by Delegate Wivell to exempt the Town from the State's ADU zoning requirements.
- Submitted a modification request to MDE for the Town's Waterway Construction Permit associated with the Big Spring wall restoration project. The modification would allow dewatering to occur during the restricted period of March 1 to May 31 due to the stream's classification. The request is currently under review by MDE.

## **MAYORS COMMENT(S) – Mayor Weaver**

- **Memorial Day**- All hands-on deck.
- **250<sup>th</sup> celebration** – Fireworks procured for 7/11/2026. Day needs to be planned and scheduled.
- **Historic Park** - Just waiting for identification sign in. Should arrive anytime.
- **Lutheran Cemetery** - Need to get moving on this.
- **Big Spring**– On hold because of a permitting issue.
- **Sign at Elementary School**–No progress. We have preliminary permission to place a sign in front of school for Sharpsburg. This item will be rolled into Main Street beautification.
- **Sharpsburg beautification campaign in progress**- Anne Marie McCullough moving forward. Starting with Monarch Butterfly waystations.
- **Water meter upgrade** - Nearing completion.
- **Financial Status**-2026 continues as another excellent shape. And Work with state delegation to get Sharpsburg exempted from state accessory housing requirements and zoning changes failed.

## **COUNCIL MEMBERS REPORTS**

**Council Member McCullough** – will be replacing the monkey grass at the Historic Park with MD native plants and will place a Monarch butterfly waystation at the Community Park playground.

**Council Member Kudla** – Has coordinated a ride-a-long with Washington County Water Quality when the water meter vault project is closed out.

### **Vice Mayor Martz**

- Coordinated with Audio Video Group to have upgrades to the audio system installed
- Drafted testimony on behalf of the Town to the MD General Assembly in opposition to HB 1466 (2025) which regulates the placement of Accessory Dwelling Units
- Continued Memorial Day planning
- Next meeting of Memorial Day Committee is April 7 at 6:00 pm

**Council Member H. Waters** – Continues to prepare for Sharpsburg Day scheduled for Saturday, September 19<sup>th</sup>.

**Council Member R. Waters** – The spring brush collection will be held next week (13<sup>th</sup>-17<sup>th</sup>). The fishing rodeo is scheduled for Saturday, April 25<sup>th</sup> from 7-10AM. DNR will be holding another fishing event at the town pond on June 20<sup>th</sup> from 9-12.

## **COMMUNITY PARTNERS**

### **Community Deputy - M. Deputy Watkins**

March end of month report:

Antietam Station - 1 check	Total WCSO events - 34
Park - 1 check	Suspicious - 1
Little League - 1 check	Undesirable - 1
120 E Main St. - 1 check	
Traffic Enf. - 2 hrs.	
Calls for Service - 2	
Training - 2 days.	
Accidents - 2 (1 at church/main).	
Disorderly - 2	

### **Battlefield Advisory Committee/Antietam Institute - Chris Vincent**

The park expects the work on the Visitor Center to be completed by the May / June time frame. Once it is done, the artifacts will go back into the exhibit area, and the observation room will open.

**Sharpsburgh Museum of History** – Mayor Weaver stated that the committee is making great progress each week in restructuring the museum and is planning on a soft opening on July 4<sup>th</sup>.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

**FY27 Community Deputy Agreement Renewal** - The Community Deputy Agreement for FY27 is proposed with no changes in cost and will remain at \$126,655.00 for the year with Sharpsburg's annual cost of \$25,331.00. **MOTION** by Councilmember R. Waters to approve the FY27 Community Deputy Agreement proposal, second by Vice-Mayor Martz. Motion carried.

**Amendment to the FY26 Municipal/Corporate Monthly Interest/Penalty Tax Rate Policy**– Town Administrator Valentine-Smith stated that currently a 1% interest penalty is assessed to delinquent taxes from January through April and parcels with unpaid taxes in May are sent to the County for collection through a tax sale.

Per an email dated 2/2/2026 and policy letter dated 1/5/2026 from County Treasurer Matt Breeding, municipalities that do not transfer billing and collection authority to the County will remain responsible for identifying, certifying and enforcing delinquent municipal real property taxes through their own tax sale processes beginning with the 2026 tax year.

It is being proposed that the Town implement a 2% interest penalty on delinquent town taxes effective April of the current tax year and monthly through the second tax year. If the taxes remain unpaid by April of the second tax year, the town has the right to privately auction the property to collect the unpaid taxes.

If a property has both unpaid County and town taxes, the town will submit the property to the County for collection of the towns portion of unpaid taxes.

**MOTION** by Councilmember R. Waters to amend the tax interest and penalty tax rate and policy as proposed, second by Councilmember H. Waters. Motion carried.

**Sharpsburg Elementary School Destination Imagination Donation Request** – A request to support the Sharpsburg Elementary School Destination Imagination Team in a tournament which takes place in Kansas City, Missouri. **MOTION** by Councilmember R. Waters to approve a donation of \$500.00, second by Councilmember H. Waters. Motion carried.

## **CORRESPONDENCE/ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- Spring Brush Collection – April 13<sup>th</sup>-17<sup>th</sup>
- Fishing Rodeo – April 25<sup>th</sup> (7-10AM)

**ADJOURNMENT - MOTION** by Councilmember H. Waters to adjourn the meeting at 7:28 P.M., second by Councilmember McCullough. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Debra A. Valentine-Smith  
Town Administrator