

SHARPSBURG MAYOR AND COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING AGENDA
September 14, 2026

The Mayor and Council of Sharpsburg, MD held their monthly meeting on Monday, September 14, 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, and Councilmembers Anne Marie McCullough and Joe Kudla. Councilmembers Heather Waters and Robbie Waters were absent. Town Administrator Debra Valentine-Smith was in attendance and Zoning Administrator Tim Lung as in attendance via Zoom.

CALL TO ORDER by Mayor Weaver and pledge offered by Councilmember Kudla followed by a moment of silence for the victims of 9-11.

GUESTS –

Recognition for Ralph Hammond- Ralph Hammond was recognized by the town and County Commissioners Randy Leatherman and Jeff Cline for serving our community for 80 years as both a Council Member and a business leader.

Rev. Rick Bishop; Christ Reformed Church- Rev. Rick Bishop provided information to the Mayor and Council about this years South Washington County CROP Walk for Church World Service. The event will be held on Sunday, October 11th @ 2PM at Taylor Park in Keedysville. 25% of the money raised will be returned to S. Washington County Ministerium for Emergency Relief or Micah's Backpacks. Request for a donation will be done under New Business.

Antietam Watershed Afforestation Program Planting Proposal - Anna Twigg, MD DNR, Forestry Program presented PowerPoint information/recommendations about tree planting opportunities as a follow-up to onsite meetings with staff and Council, focusing on 3-areas in town; the Historic Park, the Big Spring and the Town pond.

- The Historic Park is proposed for 12 trees (Liberty and Tulip Poplar) within a 15x15 staggered grid with four trees proposed to border the adjoining neighbor's fence.
- The Big Spring (alley 10 springhead) is proposed for 2 non-aggressive tall shade trees at each end of the spring to provide shade for better water quality.
- The Town Fishing Pond is proposed for a multi phased restoration to include Forest restoration, Trail clearing and larger landscape shade trees.

Also discussed was the private property tree program known as AnTREEtam.

Wildlife Habitat Enhancement Program- Mark Kendle, Wash Co Soil Conservation District presented information regarding the Wildlife Habitat Enhancement Program and how the program focuses on the strategic installation of habitat structures, such as, nesting boxes, pollinator hotels, and specialized shelters to provide essential resources for local wildlife and pollinators. The Soil Conservation District is offering municipalities a no-cost habitat installation and educational sign for a local park or school. This initiative enhances local ecosystem health and provides residents with immersive environmental education. While the first site is fully funded, the sponsorship of additional habitats to maximize local impact is encouraged. Site assessments will help determine the most effective placement for various habitat types.

CITIZEN COMMENTS – *(citizens comments are limited to 3 minutes per person)*

Brandon Thompson of 205 S. Church Street thanked the Town Administrator for addressing his additional questions in an email regarding the town's security camera located at the Mark Smith Memorial Park.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES - Regular Meeting Minutes – August 3, 2026. **MOTION** by Councilmember McCullough to approve, second by Councilmember Kudla. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF FINANCIAL REPORT - August 2026. **MOTION** by Councilmember Kudla to approve, second by Councilmember McCullough. Motion carried.

ZONING ADMINISTRATORS REPORT – Tim Lung

- Researched and responded to multiple inquiries and questions regarding zoning, permitting, and code requirements.
- Continued to review and process information regarding the Antietam Watershed Afforestation Program with DNR and SCD.
- Attended and coordinated Board of Zoning Appeals Hearing for a Special Exception to establish a Short Term Rental at 215 W. High St. (BZA26-001). Application was approved.
- Prepared draft Order/Opinion for BZA Hearing (BZA26-001).
- Reviewed and issued Zoning Permit for Short Term Rental at 215 W. High St.
- Reviewed and issued a Zoning Permit for a shed on property at N. Mechanic St.
- Investigated and issued Code violation notices for tall grass/weed on two properties.
- Corresponded with MDE and Corps of Engineers regarding pre-notification requirements for start of work on the Big Spring wall restoration project.
- Continue to monitor Board of County Commissioners meeting agendas for matters relevant to the Town.

MAYORS COMMENT(S) – Mayor Weaver

Stated that the storm at the end of August brought over 3-inches of rain. Thanked Robbie Waters for clearing the Chapline Street culvert prior to the storm which helped divert the water.

COUNCIL MEMBERS REPORTS

Council Member Kudla- Trying to schedule the street sweeper prior to Sharpsburg Day on Saturday.

Vice Mayor Martz- Coordinating the new security cameras at the Historic Park. Wiring is expected to be completed this week.

Council Member McCullough- attended the DNR Tree Planting meeting and discussed proposal shared by Anna Twigg earlier in the meeting.

COMMUNITY PARTNERS

Community Deputy - M. Deputy Watkins

Antietam Station - 6 checks.	Total WCSO events - 104.
Park - 8 checks.	Accidents - 2 (none at intersection of E Main / Church St.)
Little League - 7 checks.	Disorderly - 1.
120 E Main St. - 4 checks.	Training - 1 day.
Traffic Enf. - 3 hours.	Calls for Service - 5.

Battlefield Advisory Committee/Antietam Institute - Chris Vincent

The quarterly meeting had was canceled due to a power outage and will be rescheduled.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Road Repair Tier 1 Proposal- of the 25 areas proposed for patch repairs in the 2026 proposal from Huntzberry Brothers, 3 are deemed as priority repairs. Patch #12 at the intersection of N. Church and E. Chapline Streets, patch #18 at the intersection of E. Antietam and S Church Streets, and patch #19 at Alley #10 behind 234 W. Main Street. **MOTION** by Councilmember Kudla to place an RFP to repair the priority areas now, second by Vice Mayor Martz. Motion carried.

- Town Administrator Valentine-Smith stated that the town was approved for a \$71,500.00 POS grant to expand and resurface the Community Park parking lot. Because this is also an asphalt related project, the RFP for the road repairs could be amended to include the parking lot project. **MOTION** by Councilmember Kudla to amend the vote to place an RFP to repair the priority areas and include the park parking lot project, second by Vice Mayor Martz. Motion carried.

Chapline Street Culvert and Retaining Wall Repair - Invitation for Bid-Frederick Seibert and Associates (FSA) prepared bid documents for the drainage improvements at the culvert near 112 W. Chapline Street. **MOTION** by Vice-Mayor Martz to approve the project bid documents as prepared and to have FSA proceed to advertise, second by Councilmember Kudla. Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS

FY27 Community Parks & Playgrounds and Program Open Space Grant Projects- Town Administrator Valentine-Smith updated the Mayor and Council on the two-(2) grant applications stating that both have been awarded and the POS Community Park parking lot project was previously discussed. The CP&P Grant in the amount of \$156,781.00 will be discussed at an upcoming meeting.

Main Street Tree Trimming Proposal- Mayor Weaver asked a few members of the Council to walk Main Street and establish which trees need to be trimmed and contact an arborist to trim them in increments.

National POW/MIA Recognition Day- a MIA flag flies at the Mark Smith Memorial Park and the missing man table will be placed outside by the town hall on September 18th.

New Resident Welcome Program- an email was received regarding complimentary welcome programs for new residents, but appeared to be more of a business paid and sponsored flyer.

Antietam Watershed Afforestation Program Planting Proposal/Action- *(discussed under guests)*

1. The Historic Park is proposed for 12 trees (Liberty and Tulip Poplar) within a 15x15 staggered grid with four trees proposed to border the adjoining neighbor's fence. **MOTION** by Councilmember Kudla to approve the recommended proposal for the Historic Park and to include the adjoining neighbor in the process, second by Councilmember McCullough. Motion carried.
2. The Big Spring (alley 10 springhead) is proposed for 2 non-aggressive tall shade trees at each end of the spring to provide shade for better water quality. **MOTION** by Vice Mayor Martz to not include the Big Spring in the program, second by Councilmember Kudla. Motion carried.
3. The Town Fishing Pond is proposed for a multi phased restoration to include Forest restoration, trail clearing, and larger landscape shade trees. **MOTION** by Councilmember McCullough to approve the clearing of the east side portion/trail of the pond and to schedule an on-site work session regarding the remainder of the proposed items, second by Councilmember Kudla. Motion carried.

South Washington County CROP Walk for Church World Service Donation - MOTION by Vice Mayor Martz to approve a donation of \$250, second by Councilmember Kudla. Motion carried.

CORRESPONDENCE/ANNOUNCEMENTS

Meeting with W.C. Commissioners - Tuesday, September 29th @ 6PM

MML Meeting – Monday, September 28th @ 6PM in Keedysville

MOTION by Vice Mayor Martz to adjourn at 7:38 PM, second by Councilmember Kudla. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Debra A. Valentine-Smith
Town Administrator