

Mayor & Council of Sharpsburg
Meeting Minutes-Final Approved
February 1, 2021

Via Zoom- 6 pm

In Attendance-Russ Weaver, Mike Arant, Ernie Wetter, Mia Parsons, John Hammond, Jacob Martz, Ed Beeler, Jen Bruni, Robbie Waters, Joe Kudla, Carrie Estell, Winston Estell and Tim Lung (via Zoom).

- I. Call meeting to order at 6:07 pm, Robbie Waters initiated pledge
- II. Town Crier-Mike Arant spoke about the town crier and its new life as he'll continue with this community communication. The person who did the original for over 20 years was Mrs. Jan Wetter. Mr. Ernie Wetter, her husband, received the first hard copy in her memory. The newest first edition is dedicated to her and will be available electronically. Mr. Ernie thanked everyone and said that Jan loved talking to people and she would be proud that the Town Crier will continue. Mike Arant spoke of all town USA will be the purpose of the Town Crier, content will not be a bother as many stories and submissions have started to come in; the purpose is to build our community communication and include calendar items. This is a great way for the citizens to be in the know. The drafted meeting minutes will be included with each monthly edition.
- III. Meeting minutes from January 2021 to approve-motion to approve-Russ, John seconded the motion. January's meeting minutes-APPROVED.
- IV. Treasurer Report-reviewed the basics of the expenses/incomes were summarized. Hotel/motel, road way usage and state income taxes have been electronically put into our bank account. QuickBooks learning curve, as these incomes were not reflective in the current report. Snow plowing/removal/salting/shoveling have exceeded the budget, it is over 50k, all agreed to hope for no more snow this season.

PUBLIC COMMENTS-none were brought forth. It is planned that April will be an in-person meeting, and available for the public.

Mayor's Report

Fill Vacancies-

Vice Mayor-Ed Beeler nominated Jacob Martz, Robbie Waters seconded the motion, and the nomination was closed, he'll be on a two-year term. John Hammond will now be on a four-year term.

Joe Kudla to fill the seat Jacob Martz vacated which is a two-year seat. Russ suggested Joe, John Hammond motioned to close the nomination, Ed Beeler seconded the motion. Nominations were closed.

Overview water and sewer-Russ served on a committee for four months, he reviewed the costs, geography of the plant and the division the sewer and water are different components. There are 10K sewer customers. Individual customers and connections are done through Hagerstown, we were merged into the system. On our own the costs would be much higher than they are presently, the county cost was between 25-30 million dollars. Water and sewer-sewer is paid for, our sewer costs will never go down, basic operations. This company does many things, federal regulations have made it so there are costly expenses to get rid of waste. Rates will be gradually increase. Our water is much higher in the county and the reason is because of the 1, 000 water customers, 700 of them are from Sharpsburg. This water needs to be treated, which is very costly. Can Sharpsburg use wells? This is something that would alleviate water cost for our citizens. Possibility of drilling two wells...this to be done asap. Investigated, there are a few people outside the town who are willing to assist in this project. The Little League has drilled a well and it performs at 70,000 gallons/minute. Zoning map, Sharpsburg is unable to expand due to be surrounded by public land. Because the town has been good stewardships of land preservation, fed/state govt/ to assist with this costly endeavor.

Tim Lung, Zoning Admin.-lives in Maugansville, 30 + years of zoning experience in Washington County, most of career in public service. Municipal service with Boonsboro, in office from Fridays from 10-2, responds to emails from home. Zoning and planning issues are the main aspects of this job. He is currently working on a T-Mobile permit. There was an agriculture use permit for a roof extension on a barn off East Antietam Street. Many inquires on fences and sheds. While doing researching this our current ordinances need revisions. Tim will be working on recommendations for the zoning regarding fences, permits/fees need to be determined. He is in contact with the GIS department of the county to map the town for the website for the council and the citizens soon. Email: sharpsburg.zoning.md@gmail.com

Planning commission meeting will be this week, Thursday, March 4th at 6:30.

Joe Kudla-introduced himself, he lives across the street, looking forward to having a role in the Council and to make Sharpsburg a better place for its citizens. His duties will include street maintenance and to seek updated ordinances and fairness to zoning inquires.

- Ed Beeler-Historical Planning, town archives, communications, grants, liaison for Tolson Chapel. The chapel and school were designated as a National Historic Landmark, with significance to our country's history. Ed will work on getting museum ready for opening, which will hopefully be by Memorial Day.
- John Hammond-Building and Infrastructure-Russ and John to work on this closely and to get a list of rebates for some of our senior citizens regarding sewer/water.
- Jacob Martz-Vice Mayor, communications, Memorial Day Parade, grants-Town Crier, Jacob and Mike will be working together, flags have been ordered to display on Main Street, invitations sent out, parade is underway with a great planning. Open space park planning is going well and Susan has helped greatly with the grant writing.
- Mia Parsons-Planning-(Streetscape), grants-looking into some grant information and has ideas, looking forward to assisting with the open space. Minor adjustments can be made for lights, protection of the night sky.

Russ spoke about his leadership style and how he wants to have a side-by-side style of governing, helping council members with their ideas instead of telling members what to do. If the council keeps the best interests of the community and town at its core, many things will be achieved with planning and implementing.

- Robbie Waters-parks, railroad station, town operations-slide at the park will be fixed or replaced soon. Railroad station is closed due to the COVID-19. Slides can be purchased individually. Park to hopefully be open in early April. The park is closed b/c of safety issues, our intention is for it to open as soon as we possibly can; Robbie has taken up the responsibility of maintaining the townhall and we need to keep this in good order as it will be first impressions to many. Mural lights could serve a twofold purpose of highlighting the mural and lighting for safety. The mural was given two coats of a protective layers.
- Chris Vincent-advisory board-Antietam Battlefield, the visitor's center is being remodeled.
- Joe Kudla-streets-will be taking a walking tour to see what needs to be done. Streetscape, walks, trees, many sidewalks in need of repair. The planning commission to walk part of the town too for ideas and areas of need.

Old Business/ACTIONS-councilpersons to please look at these tasks and take on items that could be part of their interest or fall under the heading of their responsibilities.
Light in the municipal parking lot-light need to protect the mural,

Train Station roof completed budget-Russ, budget was done, 8k under budget, spring time could be a nice time to paint.

High Street signs

Opening park

Meet with Dave Trone-ownership of walls and sewer

Meet with state delegates for sewer and water issues

Bricks on walkway around telephone poles to be replaced

West Antietam Street barrier

New Business

Bulk Trash-this is done through Apple Valley Waste; clerk will check with company to get a price. Post to Facebook and signage at the post office. Limbs and brush to wait until fall.

Flag Donation-the company is striving for a flag in every classroom, Robbie voted to donate 100 or 200\$ to the project. Jacob seconded the motion, and all were in favor.

Tax Rate-Constant Yield was discussed, and our tax rate will be decided on at another meeting with more information needed.

Adjourned at 7:13 p.m.