

Mayor & Council of Sharpsburg
Meeting Minutes-Approved

October 4, 2021 6 pm Town Hall

- I. Call meeting to order at 6:03, pledge was led by Winston Estell. After the pledge Winston played a National Anthem recording by the US Army Field Band. Jake Martz read the resolution establishing Sharpsburg as a National Anthem Sanctuary Town, (resolution 002-2021), resolution is attached.
- II. Meeting minutes from August & September 2021 were approved, Ed motioned and Joe seconded, all were in favor of accepting the minutes.

Attendance: Russ Weaver, Jacob Martz, Joe Kudla, Mia Parsons, John Hammond, Ed Beeler, Winston Estell, Carrie Estell, Jamieson Perry, Jenn Bruni, and Chris Vincent

Security proposal from Atlantic Security, Rick Toms

Mr. Toms went over his company's proposals, (cameras in both parks, "Water Tower Park" & Mark A. Smith Park and a new/upgraded fire system). Questions from council were answered, with some questions needing investigation by Mr. Toms, (pull locations and if there is a light on park cameras to quickly and easily check for working order). He suggested that the building's duct work be cleaned, estimated a three day to one week install and all work and equipment would be under a one-year warranty. (Proposals are attached)

Chris Vincent

Next Advisory meeting is October 14th

Visitor Center's renovation project moving along, September 2022 still slated for opening Lay of the new center will allow for more information to be presented to visitors; displayed artifacts will on a rotating basis and some may be housed at the Landsdale site.

Russ wanted Chris to know some folks are upset with artifacts that are associated with the town may not be displayed.

Mayor's Report

Budget

September & FY-reviewed and explained

Coronavirus Local Fiscal Recovery Funds-\$187,500.00

- Russ tasked everyone as to what types of projects to think about funding. Wells-John to get a couple estimates on drilling, Mia to get some estimates on work suggested by Street Scape inventory. Sidewalk assistance would be a welcomed and needed project.
- Carrie to send letter/email stating that the town was awarded the funding for the Coronavirus Recovery Funds to all council members.

Sustainable Community Application

- Application to renew our standing as a sustainable community is due soon, this helps with home values and requires filling out an application. Volunteers needed to assist with application.
- Carrie will send out email; she's meeting with two people on Tuesday, October 12th and will reach out with specific details

Triad Study-explanation and vote on what to do with land purchase

- Russ reviewed emails he sent to council, Ordinance to purchase property, sales/purchase agreement and Triad engineer study.
- Russ reviewed the first 11 pages of the 300+ document.
 - All five gas tanks were removed
 - There was contaminated soil, tons of soil were removed, hydrocarbons were detected, levels were monitored for many years, higher levels detected when it rained, overall, levels are very low now, last reading was in 2021 and MDE released the land portion and discontinued readings.
 - Recommendations were to not dig, however the purpose and function of the Project Open Space, (visitor park), would be ideal as there will not be any major building/digging/foundation work. Grading and fence post type work would be the needed work for the park.
 - Mia suggested that the lower portion of the park have a natural screen of native flowers/shrubs and trees to assist with ascetics and natural barrier.
 - Every council member present wants to move forward with the purchase of the McGaw's properties for the park as the risk is very low and the price a very fair deal.

Zoning with Tim (via speaker phone)

- BZA met last Thursday, October 28th the meeting went well. The meeting was in regard to 110 South Mechanic Street. The board was in favor and approved the special exception for a short-term rental unit in TR Zoning with conditions. There was no opposition and the conditions are that the owner or representative reside in town and have 24 hours a day and 7 days a week access to someone if there are any issues. Parking permission was obtained by both neighbors and the owner is responsible for obtaining a formal easement within 90 days of the approval of the request.
- Town rules of procedures for BZA meetings are needed so meetings can be streamlined and have a more formalized standard of procedures. These are in draft form, Tim took ideas from Hagerstown and the county and revised to reflect the town codes. Tim will meet with Russ to review and will present to the BZA.
- The poultry ordinance zoning amendment will be formalized at the November meeting.

- Property on 121 E Main Street, there were complaints due to tall grass and weeds. Tim went to take a look and it appears that there may be some structural issues. Tim will reach out to the county building inspector. He will write up a violation letter to the owner.
- There was an issue with a resident using a POD or truck container as a storage building off Chapline. Carrie and Jake went there to see the container used as a storage unit. Carrie drafted a letter giving the owners until November 5th to remove the unit. Officer Peyton was not able to ticket the storage unit as the alley it is blocking an alley, but the alley is not being utilized.
- MOU-all alley names have been rejected by the county, Russ tasked Tim to push these names through, (Bluebird Alley, Old Mill Alley and Garrison Alley). The main reason for the naming is to give a resident who has a house an address.

Council comments

- Robbie Waters-parks, railroad station, town operations-not present
- Jacob Martz-Vice Mayor, communications, Memorial Day Parade, grants
 - Security/Peyton report
 - 4 checks at train station, 4 checks at school, 8 checks at park
 - 5 ½ hrs. foot patrol, 2 hrs. radar on Main St and on Church St.
 - 2 tickets 7 warnings
 - 1 call for service for harassment
 - 2 assist calls with county on King Rd and Trego Mtn Rd
 - request from town at 213 W Chapline for storage container
 - Brush Pick Up
 - 4 cubic yards per household, this was met with some disagreements; the exact wording will be further discussed when Robbie is able to speak
 - Date time frame-Russ suggested it get done by Thanksgiving
 - Sound system and equipment for council chambers-three estimates will come in, two have already been here to take a look and offer suggestions. Hoping to report on their findings next meeting.
 - Town's website-as it is now, the price will go up to almost 1000/year with no upgrades, however this will allow the town's council members to have an email address to conduct town business. Jake and Ed will be meeting Laura Oates to see what her company can provide in terms of a website.
 - Interpretive Open Space Workshop is scheduled for Saturday, November 6th from 930-330; nine people have signed up already.
 - Memorial Day Parade Committee will be meeting Tuesday, October 5, 2021 at 6 pm at Town Hall.
- Mia Parsons-Planning-(Streetscape), grants
 - After walking Main Street, the Planning Commission came up with five main projects that can be planned/tasked/estimated
 - Tree and Maintenance Plan
 - Using the Street Tree Survey as a guide, prune and/or remove trees suggested in report, and create new areas for plantings of both old and new species, flowering and low shrubs-estimates for initial suggestions by the Tree Survey for next month's meeting

- Storm Water Management Plan
 - During heavy rains, water fills drain on the corner of Mechanic & Main. Fencing be installed for safety purposes. Estimates/pictures of what a railing or guardrail would look like for next month's meeting
 - Streets & Sidewalks Plan
 - Water meters appear not on grade on the streets and should be addressed with county, many uneven sidewalks are also a hazard.
 - Poles and Banners Plan
 - The town would look and feel more welcoming if we were to place banners/signs along Main Street to Church to recognize events/seasons. Carrie will contact Potomac Edison to see if brackets can be used on the street lights/telephone poles.
 - Square Beautification Plan
 - Idea of a fountain and bench seating in front of the JSB area off Main Street was discussed, not only adding a nice focal point but a welcoming seating area.
- Ed Beeler-Historical Planning, town archives, communications, grants
 - Attendance: September-218, attendance from May is 867
 - Artifact Loans: 1 & 2 gifts-Loan a Daniel Marker Rifles made in Sharpsburg during the 1700's, Gift - Bayonet found four houses down, Gift – Page from the Chapline Family Bible last date recorded was 1760
 - Saturday is the reopening from 9-5-with lots of things to do, demonstrations, living historians, speaker, music, and food truck. The Museum will be fully staffed for the event, (two staff members, four docents and the living Historians) There will be three door prizes.
 - The Museum will sponsor Miss Sharpsburg starting in 2022. The first Miss Sharpsburg will be Lucy Baker daughter of Gary & Sarah Baker and Great Granddaughter of Ernie Wetterer. She attends Sharpsburg Elementary. Future Miss Sharpsburg girls will be required to attend Sharpsburg Elementary school, live in the Sharpsburg town or district.
 - Hoping the museum will become officially a non profit and incorporated by spring, 2022.
- Joe Kudla-streets, roads & culverts
 - High Street Signs-these are up and look good, two four way stop signs are still needed. Joe gave Carrie the invoice for work completed.
 - Hole in road at East Antietam needs repair, Joe took a look and will get some estimates as to the repair.
 - Historic Wall Call results-Russ reported that Edie Wallace will add an addendum to the 2008 historic survey and this will have a record of the walls' historic significance. When this is completed, Russ would like to have some type of press release. The wall estimates for repair and repointing will be emailed to Senator Corderman and Delegate Wivele, as Russ spoke with them last week and both agreed that the walls need to be repaired and that they will assist as best as they can for funding either on a state and/or federal level.
 - Joe reached out to MDOT official to get a definitive answer as to the ownership of bridges in town. Having this information will assist when repairs and maintenance issues arise.
 - Jake will resend his information to Joe in regards to county road work. This is a fee schedule that promises the lowest charge for road maintenance.
 - Tree in alley that is a safety hazard will be removed, the cost is 1k and the removal is on the company's schedule.
 - A resident has complained about cars blocking her garage. Her neighbors use their garage more as a storage unit; she uses hers for two cars. Councilmember Joe will frequently take

pictures to investigate the parking complaints. Results will reflect if a sign and/or painting of curbs is necessary.

- Joe has smelled fumes that appear to be burning plastic. It appears that the resident who is doing the burning does so on a weekly basis. He asked all council members if they smell this to contact the fire department.
- **John Hammond-Building and Infrastructure**
 - Will contact well drillers for estimates for promised funding.
 - Will speak with Ronnie to get an okay about a possible light on his wall to help with parking lot safety.
 - Light in stairwell at the back of town hall is on all the time and blasts a lot of light into a resident's backyard. John and Carrie will try to figure out the switch that turns on and off these lights.

New Business-councilmembers to please think about the funding we will be receiving and think about capital planning projects.

Meeting adjourned at 8:36

Executive Meeting held to discuss employee performance