

# *Town of Sharpsburg*



## *Town Crier*

**Volume 28**

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**Number 1**

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**The minutes of the Council meeting are an overview of business conducted and are not the official minutes of the meeting. The official minutes will be available at the Clerk's office after they are approved by the Mayor and Council at next month's council meeting.**

The meeting of the Mayor and Council was called to order at 7 pm by Mayor Hal Spielman.

Kevin Tucker, Clerk of the Circuit Court, swore in re-elected Vice Mayor Russ Weaver, new Councilperson Robbie Waters, and re-elected Councilpersons Darryl Benner and Ed Beeler.

The November and December treasurer's reports were both approved as presented. The December meeting minutes were also approved as presented.

### **PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

Richard Exline – Parking on West Chapline Street – he is wondering when this came about and where it is. It was clarified for him that it is the 200 Block of West Chapline Street only and that the signage has been there, the Town added additional signs.

Ralph Hammond – Parking on Hall Street – Question regarding the parking on South Hall Street. Mr. Hammond asked the Council to re-evaluate this, as this parking issue is relevant almost on every town street.

Officer Peyton stated that the parking issues in town would be a municipal infraction. The only police enforceable infraction would be no parking within 30 feet of a stop sign. The town could enforce the parking via the Code Enforcement Officer/Zoning Administrator. Russ stated that this is not something he is going to ask the Zoning Administrator to do. Officer Peyton offered to

work with the town on municipal infractions. Officer Peyton offered to attend a workshop session in regards to this. As for now, this parking issue on North Hall Street is on hold. Mr. Hammond also stated that there were 940 citations given at the Sharpsburg Elementary School via the speed cameras. This has slowed traffic down and he is wondering if we can put something similar in the square? Mayor Spielman stated that Delegate Parrott is working on getting pedestrian signals in the square, which we are hopeful will slow traffic and make the crosswalk safer.

Dwayne Harris – Thanked the Town for the old street signs. These were cleaned up and are being sold as a fundraiser for Founder’s Day. Mark Smith Park – Ribbon Cutting on March 19<sup>th</sup>. Russ asked if he has time to paint the building or not because if not, the Town will take care of it themselves. Mr. Harris stated that it would be painted. VGR would like to make flags with the town seal. Russ asked that the seal be the exact seal of the Town, not a re-created seal.

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**Parks and Railroad Station** – The electrical work at the park was to be inspected and signed off on last Monday, the electrical work appears to be complete. Camera installation will be the next step. Robbie will now be in charge of this

**Building** – Michael received a bid on the HVAC work. He will be getting two more hopefully by next week.

**Streets** – Parking on West Chapline Street – Signs were installed on W Chapline Street. Michael and Darryl are still attempting to work with Verizon to have the log in the wires removed from North Mechanic St. The tree has grown around the line and Verizon states it will not fall down. If this is not taken care of by next month, we will release the information to have the public call to complain in an attempt to get this removed.

**Planning and Zoning** – January 22<sup>nd</sup> is the next meeting. The meeting will consist of a review of the planning commission. Russ invited everyone to come that would like to, to clarify any misinformation that has been released to the public. Airbnb’s will be discussed. Mayor Spielman appointed Matthew Ryan to the Planning Commission. Russ moved to accept the nomination and Darryl seconded the motion. The motion carried.

**Battlefield Advisory Committee** – with the government shutdown, there will be no meeting. The Park Rangers are still patrolling and essential personnel are reporting, but the park is not open.

**Town Archives and Historical Planning** – Received Donation from Sid and Marian Gale of a paint on tin painting. It is already being displayed in the council chambers. Ed also asked if he could seek bids to have the Great Spring painted and kept up with every year. The council felt that would be a good idea. There is a pile of rocks by the Great Spring that were removed from the spring without permission. Robbie stated he would remove the rocks.

**Public Safety** – Removal of old trash cans – the town garage has been home to the old trash cans. Darryl asked if they could be donated to someone that may want them. Giving them to the Founder’s Day committee to scrap was also suggested.

**Zoning Administrator Report** - Kerry has been working on abandoned and derelict vehicles in the Town. He has been working with Deputy Payton on this.

Russ stated that we have conditionally approved the Airbnb at the former Clipp property (111 South Mechanic) as long as it meets the bed and breakfast requirements. The second Airbnb on S Mechanic Street (110) needs to be shut down.

**Mayor's Report** – Tolson's Chapel membership. Russ moved to renew the membership and Robbie seconded the motion. The motion carried.

### **Old Business:**

**Trailer at the pond** – this has been parked there for a while and it needs to be removed from the Town Property. Robbie stated he would ask the owner to move it. Russ was also concerned about all the trash over the pond parking lot.

**Demo of Legion Building** – no one has gotten back to the town about this yet.

**Apple Valley Waste** – this contract was renewed for a year. Steve from Apple Valley will be here in February to discuss concerns.

### **New Business:**

**Meeting with Smithsburg re: forgiven Williamsport water/sewer debt** – The County Commissioners will not meet in Smithsburg, so the towns will need to meet with the County Commissioners at their offices. Russ has been in discussion with Mayor Kesselring of Smithsburg. They are interested in possibly joining forces with us to question the Commissioners as to how they came to the Williamsport debt amount. An audit of the funds that were distributed and forgiven will be asked by the County Commissioners to discover an exact amount that was owed compared to what was forgiven.

Mr. Weaver compiled a resolution for the Mayor and Council to sign and send in requesting that this happens. The members present signed the resolution and it will be sent.

**Feral Cats** – Darryl has received several complaints from citizens that the cats are running amuck and causing issues. The Mayor will contact the humane society in regards to what can be done to rectify the situation.

The meeting was moved to closed session to discuss personnel issues at 7:55 pm. It returned to regular session at 9:00 pm and was adjourned.

## **Town News**

### **Workshop meeting of the Mayor and Council**

Workshop meetings of the Mayor and Council are held on the fourth Wednesday of each month at 6:30 pm in the council chambers. The next meeting will be held Wednesday, February 27th.

# Community News and Events

## Come All Who Are Thirsty

Come All Who Are Thirsty will be having their monthly meeting on Saturday February 2, 2019 at 9:30am at the Burnside Church of God, located at 3904 Mills Road. Breakfast is provided. Come All Who Are Thirsty is open to ALL veterans and their families. First responders and anyone who has an interest in supporting Veterans are also welcome to attend. For more information, visit their website at [www.comeallwhoarethirsty.org](http://www.comeallwhoarethirsty.org) or call 240-347-7590.

## Brooke's House Grand Opening



Brooke's House, a sober living home for adult women in the early stages of substance abuse recovery, will be holding their grand opening on Tuesday, February 5<sup>th</sup> at noon. The house will be open for tours until 4 pm.

Brooke's House is located at 17666 Technology Blvd. in Hagerstown.

More information about Brooke's House can be found at [www.brookeshouse.org](http://www.brookeshouse.org).

## Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper



Please join us for: Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper

At

St. Paul's Episcopal Church

209 W Main Street

March 5<sup>th</sup>

5 – 7 pm.

(Donations are welcome)

## **Sharpsburg Ghost Tours**

Sharpsburg Ghost Tours now meets in front of Jefferson Security Bank and the tour ends at Captain Bender's Tavern. Sharpsburg Ghost Tours are candlelit walking tours of the town. Town history and stories of ghostly sightings and strange occurrences are told during the tour by local tour guides. To schedule a Sharpsburg Ghost Tour, text or call 301-991-0265.

## **American Legion News**

We can be proud of the town we live in, people working together, churches, school, American Legion, etc. On Veterans' Day, the American Legion family hosted veterans and families to a soup and sandwich meal and conversation time at the Sharpsburg Bible Church. A nice break after a chilly time in the square for the annual ceremony. A great time was had by all visiting with others and a great surprise when the vets were given a hand-written and drawn thank you note from students at Sharpsburg Elementary School. What an impression that made! Many thanks to the Bible church and school!

In December, the Legion had a chance to thank the students once again with their orange and candy cane give-away. What fun! The men enjoy the children, their manners, and lots of "Merry Christmas" and "thank you for serving" were heard, it is so heartwarming. The men commented many times of how welcomed they feel when they visit there, by teachers and other workers as well as the kids. If you are feeling tired, or don't feel well...go do something nice for children and see if that doesn't make you feel 100% better! Humor and doing for others is some of the best medicine around!! St. Paul's Episcopal Church helped with a donation towards the supplies for the children this year, thank you so much!!

- Darlene Hoffman  
Unit 236 American Legion Auxiliary

# Town Government

Town Office – 301-432-4428

Hours of Operation: Monday-Thursday 8:30 am – 2:00 pm

Zoning Administrator hours: Tuesdays 9:00 am – 1:00 pm

Additional hours for the Clerk and Zoning Administrator are available by appointment

## Mayor and Council

Hal Spielman – Mayor	301-432-6854
Russ Weaver – Vice Mayor (Planning & Zoning)	301-432-5907
Ed Beeler – Councilperson (Town Archives & Historical Planning)	301-800-6877
Darryl Benner – Councilperson (Public Safety)	301-992-2230
Michael Carr – Councilperson (Town Buildings)	301-991-6988
Robbie Waters – Councilperson (Parks)	240-382-4561
Tamara White – Councilperson (Streets)	301-432-7754
Kimberly Fulk – Town Clerk/Treasurer/ Tax Collector	301-432-4428

The Sharpsburg Town Crier

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