

Mayor & Council of Sharpsburg-Meeting Agenda
May 3, 2021 Meeting
Town Hall, 6 pm

- I. Call meeting to order at 6:00 pledge of allegiance was led by Robbie
- II. In attendance: Russ Weaver, Jacob Martz, Mia Parsons, John Hammond, Ed Beeler, Jenn Bruni, Chris Vincent, Robbie Waters, Taylin Eichelberger, Darlene Eichelberger, Ava Gift, Perry Jamieson, Carrie Estell
- III. Ms. Poppy from the American Legion Women's Auxiliary-stuck a poppy in our mayor's lapel. This year, Taylin Eichelberger, is Miss Poppy. Poppies which represent the loss of our military were left for council.
- IV. Meeting minutes from April 2021 to approve-Robbie motioned, Jacob seconded, all were in favor.
- V. Treasurer Report
 - a. Monthly-YTD budget-18K deficit, income tax, basic budget on track.
 - b. State of MD signed contract was missing to get the monies to collect money of the rail station repairs. Expenses compared to income. Highway user and street expenses are much higher than last year due to the snow plow and salting. Streets and alley are plowed. The snow removal with current company is contracted and other companies can bid.
 - c. Basics of expenses telephone, utilities, office supplies, miscellaneous, highway and street maintenance, brush pick up and trash.
 - d. Cemetery was titled into the town; the church took responsible for the mowing. Historical Society helped with the mowing of another cemetery and updated with repairs. Mia to look at the condition of the stones in the Lutheran Cemetery to see if there are any issues; grounds to be surveyed would be a good idea. There are many piles of tombstones that are stacked. This will be an issue for mowing as it is now the responsibility of the town

PUBLIC COMMENTS (two minutes per person)-**Perry Jamieson**-thanked Carrie for including comments of the closed meeting from last month, he stated that it is refreshing to read/see what happened. It was a good way to communicate with the town. In the past, there was speculation that fueled gossip due to the number of closed meetings. Russ described the Sunshine law, (financial, bidding and legal-human resources issues that can allow for a closed council meeting), and assured that this will only be utilized when absolutely necessary.

Chris Vincent-Battlefield advisory group-showcased the Antietam Institute with a presentation of the activities, work and function of the group. Their main focus is to educate public on Emancipation, a brochure, was shared among the councilmembers and public who attended. The objectives of the program were reviewed--well researched journals, yearly conference 3-day event along with a one-day events/symposium will take place at Shepherd's Spring. Next year a Leadership Forum on the corporate level will be implemented. There are varying membership levels...why? To give back to our communities and the battlefield, and most importantly to share knowledge!

Mayor's Report

- Spending plan, if a bid is 10K more, we need to see if it is an emergency. If it's under 10K does the council know people to try for a bid? Community and local partners/businesses would be able to bid and keep it local; mowing of the newly acquired cemetery will be bid on-
- Status on bookkeeping issues-will need a new accountant, but much progress has been made. Dee Snyder has helped tremendously with assisting Carrie with QuickBooks.

Tim Lung-Zoning-

- Chicken ordinance zoning text amendment. Used Smithsburg as a model with modification. Removed special exception requirement, allow up to 6 chickens on property, no roosters. Need recommendation from planning commission prior to final public hearing. First reading, is tonight, John motioned, Joe seconded, all were in favor. The revised text amendment will have to be reviewed and indorsed by the Planning Commission prior to the final public hearing.
- East Chapline shed permit was issued.
- Followed up on a complaint of a grinder pump pit collapse and open foundation. Correction notice was issued by the County building inspector following an inspection. Some issues may be a civil matter.
- New owners of the Piper House are interested in establishing some type of business. They have many ideas, (coffee shop, boutique, etc.), and have reached out to both Tim and Town Hall. The property is zoned Town Residential. Commercial uses like a coffee shop would most likely require a Special Exception. There may also be parking issues that may also require variances. Tim suggested to them that they come up with a firm plan and discuss further with the Town.
- Property for sale at 128 East Main Street Zoned Town Residential. Tim was contacted by a realtor regarding possible use of the property for the owner to operate their landscape architect practice. This would most likely be considered a Home Occupation Business and would require a Special Exception.
- Old Market Place property for sale at 104 N. Church St. Tim has received numerous inquiries and questions regarding possible commercial use of this property which is zoned Town Residential. Most commercial uses would require a Special Exception.
- Junk on East Chapline Street and other properties in town have been complained about numerous times.
- Legacy issues including unpermitted entrance on East Antietam Street, town attorney was involved, need to review history and Town codes for follow up and possible issuance of cease and desist notice. Need to obtain Zoning Certificates for several existing Short Term Rental properties in town.
- Tim asked the council for direction regarding the approach to take on inquiries concerning potential commercial use of TR zoned properties and the use of the “functionally similar” argument. Council recommended that the Planning commission discuss this and issue guidance.
- Joe mentioned property at 219 East Main St. regarding possible building maintenance ans safety issues. Tim had spoken to the County building inspector, there didn’t appear to be any building code issues. Tim and Joe-to meet up soon.

Alleys and trees. Who is responsible? There are many dead trees who is responsible for this? Ultimately it is the property owner’s responsibility and therefore they would have to pay for the cost of any tree issues.

106 West Chapline-Robbie to take pictures

Council comments

- Joe Kudla-streets, safety and culverts-signs will be replaced on Main Street, Mick Carr got back to Joe with street signs-stop sign, 5 reflective no parking, 7 reflecting and installation for Main Street. Old style signs. Robbie accepted the bid, Ed motioned, and Jacob seconded the motion, all were in favor. MDOT-culverts to be cleaned, March 24th and 25th street sweep, signage will go up before.
- Mia Parsons-Planning-(Streetscape), grants-registered for the MD agricultural fund grant, not sure if we qualify, preliminary Shawn Walker-reschedule the walk to get ideas on species, two dogwoods have died-Robbie will be speak with someone at sunny Meadows, Planning committee cross alleys to be named, Air B&B-Tim will look into, Big Spring is deteriorating (ownership is in question-William Hall is one of the properties), planning committee will take this on; there will need to
 - Flower budget will be coming soon

- Upgrade curbs, cemetery fence-cemetery restoration could be part of the planning commission-MD historical-Vernell Doyle to assist.
- Robbie Waters-parks, railroad station, town operations-small park-mowing will be CAWAT responsibility, slide is still in need of repair and/or replacement. Mulching the park will need to happen soon. Russ suggested 15 yards. Ed motioned Jacob second, pavilion will be painted end of May.
- Ed Beeler-Historical Planning, town archives, communications-Mark A Smith park ribbon cutting, Thursday the museum will open. New hours will be posted. Gift bags are being assembled and will be ready to send out early June.
- John Hammond-Building and Infrastructure-cost of snow, trash, possibility of hiring an employee to do snow plow, trash, contracting out work. John and other council members are very disappointed with the sheriff/police, the hours and days that are assigned do not meet the needs of the town. We really need someone on Friday and Saturday evenings when traffic is a problem and issues arise; 10 pm-1 am on Friday and Saturday evenings would be ideal. The county pays for his salary and insurance that is associated with his duties. Russ suggests to get his criminal log and to see if the money that is allotted to sheriff can be given back if hours/days cannot be adjusted to meet our needs. John to table the motion and more information will be gathered and will vote on next meeting. Solar parking lights for the parking lot were presented. Water and sewer rates discussed briefly and a possibility to issue a rebate. Well water drilling-county drilling wells on our land, water from wells will go immediately into a water tower. Ball field will be the area for said water tower.
- Jacob Martz-Vice Mayor, communications, Memorial Day Parade-parade committee will meet tomorrow at 6 pm, 81 organizations, line up is complete, the book is being worked on, school parking lot is still in question, email to the board will be sent tomorrow. Town Crier is posted on Facebook and website. Boonsboro invited us to the parade. Budget-and transportation for dignitaries was asked, Podium purchase-a few options were presented to council. Four options were given, this would be ideal so the town wouldn't have to borrow a podium. The options of the models were discussed, Mia thought the model close to 800\$ would be a good choice, Russ agreed. Robbie motioned to purchase, Ed seconded, and all were in agreement for the purchase of a podium for the town.

Russ mentioned that the sea container will be omitted soon and a small building to purchase for ease of accessibility.

Comments

Carrie Estell-Covid Testing will be Friday, May 7 from 10-2 across from Nutters in the Parking Lot, bulk trash will be Wednesday, May 12th with regular trash pick-up. There have been quite a few complaints concerning trash pick-up, the contact person is supposed to our contract and a flyer and reiterate trash "rules." John will provide a contract from Keedysville as they have with AVW which appears to be more lenient, this would be nice to compare. As of tonight, we have had a total of two rentals for the park pavilion. The library will be using the park's pavilion on a weekly basis starting in June for Thursday afternoon and monthly Wednesday. Council meetings to be out and about in town, (June-train station, Tolson's Chapel in the fall).

Old Business/ACTIONS-

Walls-title search of the properties-lawyers-right of way turnpike commission-title search-walls to help with a right of way-for general public purpose-best hope that the federal government to help with Water & Sewer-May 20thmeeting, a couple council members to assist with a presentation
Light in the municipal parking lot-solar light information to review
High Street signs/signs
Meet with Dave Trone-ownership and maintenance of stone walls

Bricks on walkway around telephone poles to be replaced
West Antietam Street barrier

New Business

American Recovery Plan-may give us money, help and paperwork are needed. Done # would need to have this, link to be sent to Mia about the specifics, appears at first look we may not qualify.

Lutheran Cemetery

- Bid from previous company 275/mowing 550 first mowing
 - RW Properties 450 bid clear alley and cemetery 250/mowing
 - Shepherdstown Lawn 1200 first mow and 800 per month for one mow/month

Ed motioned for RW Properties to have the mowing contract, Jacob seconded the motion, bid went to RW for mowing the newly acquired cemetery.

100\$ donation for the American Legion Women's Auxiliary, Joe motioned, Jacob second the motion all were in favor, a check will be put in the collection jar and will be a nice surprise for Ava who works very diligently for the memories of fallen military.

Three proposals for the walls to be repaired were shared and described by Joe-auto accident-fix about 10K-Travelers insurance property owner to take this on. Joe offered to be a liaison for the owners and will be part of the contact for the insurance company, Travelers. Robbie motioned for the bid to be accepted, Mia seconded the motion, all in favor for this wall project.

Second bid/proposal was for 23K to repair the Spring wall, waste coffering work behind and repaint, scope not included the permits, license fees and the EPA may be involved. At this time Russ and Joe will meet with the property owners to discuss the scope of the project as it will be vast. Bowman Trust and others who may be able to help support the spring repairs. Carrie knows the Bowmans and will reach out.

Wall option for the larger 160K to redo, this will be tabled as we need funding.

Brain and Joe and Russ this Thursday or Wednesday to discuss legal obligations of the title search...

Meeting adjourned at 8:40