

Mayor & Council of Sharpsburg

Meeting Agenda

April 12, 2021 Meeting Minutes-APPROVED

6 pm-In Attendance-Russ Weaver, Ed Beeler, Jacob Martz, Joe Kudla, Mia Parsons, John Hammond, Tim Lung, Mike Arant, Kevin Tucker, Chris Vincent, Carrie Estell, Jen Bruni, Perry Jamieson

- I. Call meeting to order and pledge-at 6 pm, Mia Parsons lead pledge
- II. Swearing in by Kevin Tucker from the circuit court swore in the new Vice Mayor, Jacob Martz, and Joseph Kudla for council person.
- III. Meeting minutes from March 2021 were unanimously approved, these minutes were electronically sent to all members.
- IV. Treasurer Report-treasurer report was discussed by the Mayor-basics were discussed; salaries stated are high, but two months were combined, this is due to the employees being paid monthly. Snow removal exceeded the budget, Highway User Funds were first tagged as a fixed asset, for our purposes we made this account as income.

PUBLIC COMMENTS-there were none

Mayor's Report

Thank you to councilpersons for going above and beyond with their tasks and roles. Planning meeting was highlighted as they are doing many tasks, keeping the rural/residential aspect as this is the main concept of town's comprehension plan and keeping the residents in the forefront of its planning. Street scape aesthetics of the town-councilpersons to work and support each other and the plan of the town. Many things have been accomplished.

Improve Communications-FB to have Town Crier-get the Facebook page be more dynamic.

Blow your own horn! Facebook should know all about what we're doing; street improvements, parade work, send thank you notes. Note cards are available for thank you for councilmembers; state and county people to be thanked as well for emails, utilize those cc lines.

Humane Society of Washington County Gala, Saturday, November 13th

The town will send two people who are willing to represent the town.

Tim Lung-zoning administrator-during his time here questions/queries and calls have been mostly dealing with sheds and fences. He has been dealing with processing permits. Tim's contacts put together a better mapping GIS from the county. They developed a web-map that can be accessed through the town's website, parcel # zoning information/ordinances, a link to the state's tax assessments, flood plain, sensitive areas, the county has finished their work. Tim will forward their work to council members and we can tweak as we go through and provide feedback. Tim reiterated the need for county employees to be thanked. The wall map is updated, the printer is out of commission-a copy can be run off from a zip drive. The GIS map will be very useful for tax purposes, planning green projects. Fridays many calls on fences, sheds and there will be some clarity on those processes.

The Mayor complimented Carrie and Tim as the first faces of the town with some positive feedback from residents.

Council comments

- Ed Beeler-Historical Planning, town archives, communications, grants
 - Welcome baskets idea-small gift bag with a decorative bulb, councilmembers' information, town hall letter, businesses with menus, coupons, Ed has a motion, Jacob seconded, all approved of this idea for new residents within the town's city limits.
 - Museum to be open May 6th, Thursday, Friday, & Saturdays from 9-4, other times by appointment.
 - The Mark A. Smith & Veteran Memorial Park ribbon cutting, Sunday, May 23rd 2-5. Veterans have done a lot of work; the town should be part of this opening. Active park, insurance will need to be addressed. Carrie to reach out to LGIT the company who handles town land/buildings insurance.
- Joe Kudla-streets & safety issues-during the planning walk through a small portion of town many observations were made:
 - uneven sidewalks 17, holes in sidewalks, drainage issues, 3, broken handrails, maintenance of sidewalks, broken walk areas, ordinance violations, open trash, trees/bushes/stumps, featured improvements-will get ideas of costs.
 - Safety and Streetscape will have the two larger headings of these findings. Tim and Russ to meet with Joe concerning the issues found on the walk done with the planning committee on March 24.th the culverts were cleaned, and the drains will be done on a regular basis. Joe met with a resident to discuss the walls off Main Street, mindful of the stone, mortar and aesthetics of the current walls, quotes will be asked for from a few masons, cost cannot be the only factor as these are historic structures. The Big Spring, the wall on 34 at the top, fixing many of these wall issues will be part Joe's tasks. Some costs/estimates should be in by the end of next

week, April 23.rd Gutter pans, sewer and water failing asphalt will be repaired by agency that did the work; Butch Glenn to get a possible free street sweeping before the parade. Some street signs were found but signs

- Curbs to be painted red will fall to the town's expense. The sloping issues to be fixed too-off Church and Main, the asphalt is shearing off, visually see this imperfection, Joe will have the people fix the streets that recently repaired them. The crosswalks we have are the newest and safest. Middletown's street on their state road is very nice, however they may have used stamped concrete.
- John Hammond-Spoke of the water/sewer issues, he has been in contact with H & H welling, their suggestion is to drill a test well 6" ideally two 8" wells would be recommended, 25K was a ballpark estimate, this being on the higher side. Drilling wells would make us more energy efficient, however, the county people mentioned that the water may have to be treated. There is more needed to be learned about the water system, the water tower belongs to the county. John strongly suggested that the town attorney be part of the contract and negotiations. Drilling wells and selling water to the county could be a solution. Maintenance, repair and distribution are all costs to put into consideration. Neighboring municipalities have similar issues with treated water and wells could be a good way for Sharpsburg to have their water costs significantly lowered. Chemicals were put in the pond to kill some of the invasive species, the slide is getting fixed.
- Jacob Martz-Vice Mayor, communications, Memorial Day Parade-60 groups have filled out applications, flags replaced with help from Potomac Edison and CTAWAT, flags for the front will be replaced. The parade committee continues to meet on a weekly basis.
- Robbie Waters-parks, railroad station, town operations (not in attendance) Park is open, 25\$ refundable fee to be refunded after any reservation, all trash must be taken. Grant monies were not all used and the remaining funds were used to paint the railroad.
- Mia Parsons-Planning-(Streetscape), Planning commission walk was covered in Joe's report, April 1st was the meeting for planning, discussion with Tim updating ordinances concerning livestock, chickens, naming alleys, condition of sidewalks
 - Names of the alleys that are up for naming are: Alley #1 Mill Alley, Alley #10 Garrison Alley, Alley# 3 and #4 Bluebirds Alley. Mia motioned for the alleys to be named, Ed seconded, leave it open to discussion, all favored, signs for the alleys to go through the county. Box of street signs that are here, it will be a nice to have all signs at town street intersections be of the same style to show consistency in the town's signage. Street scape looking at plantings, arborist to get some suggestions for shrubs/trees. Consultation will assist with a detailed plan for the street scape.
- Chris Vincent-advisory board-temporary visitor center for the battlefield to be open in July.
- Mike Arant-120 recipients for the Town Crier, second mail group with reoccurring events-community calendar to be part of the Town Crier, to be posted to the town's website, Mr. Althouse, (principal of Sharpsburg Elementary School) would like to have a school corner-this will be 300 words, a call for input came in, featured articles, Mr. Weaver, the mayor's brother, will have some original art featured, business card free ads for now internal interests, looking into paper distribution-funding, paper stuffing, mailings, volunteers to assist, feature article for May edition.

Old Business/ACTIONS

Light in the municipal parking lot-summer coming, Joe to check into this task

Train Station roof completed and paid for, waiting on reimbursement

High Street signs-this to be addressed

Park Opened and pavilion will be painted in April or May

Meet with Dave Trone-ownership and maintenance of stone walls-Carrie to request meeting with him

Bricks on walkway around telephone poles to be replaced Joe working on this

West Antietam Street barrier-Tim and Russ to walk to this and discuss further

Big Spring wall needs to be addressed

Resolutions: Jacob -Memorial Day parade for 2020 to be recognized as an official parade-Jacob made a motion to pass, seconded by Ed Beeler, all were in favor, all councilpersons will sign and this will be part of a parade paraphernalia for the museum.

Tim-ordinances were revised in 2018, changes to complaints in regard to fencing paragraph was omitted, accessory structure is a fence, apply these rules to walls and fences-405 simple rules where fences can be located, without 405 Tim would have to apply the standards, 405 was omitted in error, but to get things to adequately addressed, adopt an emergency ordinance of 405-(6' or less).

New Business

Bulk Trash-May 12th with regular trash pick-up, flyer posted on FB and in the Post Office

Summer Job Internship opportunity-discussed the program, Carrie call Angie and

Covid testing to be done May 7, 2021 in the parking lot from 10-2

Vaccines are available at the Sharpsburg Pharmacy

Mia makes a motion to adopt the ordinance correction, John seconded the motion, all were in favor.

Next ordinance was regarding fees, there are fees that reflect the county, which are types of permits that would need to review, building code review-new house, addition-anything under a building code-these fees are expensive with the lowest at \$50. Permits required are fences, less than 7 feet in height, sheds less than 400 square feet, there is not a specific fee for these, the review with what other towns charge, other towns' charges are higher, a fee of \$30 to charge for a permit, this is a document and shows documentation. Permit's purpose is a verification of the review of the project by the zoning administrator. Each permit is good for a year. Jacob motion, Joe seconded the motion, all were in favor. Discussion on chickens is ongoing, the current ordinance states that chickens are not permitted, bee keeping was also asked about not agriculture, chickens and bees to be addressed later.

Tax Rate- Constant Yield Rate, the rate in Keedysville were discussed. It would be ideal to lower taxes, but if we are not able fund current and future projects, it would be difficult to raise taxes to the current level or higher. The open space project was highlighted, and Project Open Space was very excited by the ideas we presented thus far, a user experience will implement what happens when you go to the park. Some council members voiced a more basic park that would reflect the needs and wants of the residents, more like an open space for picnic tables and greenery. This is a big project that will need a lot of work and grant funding. The town tax to remain the same, with the .35 tax rate to remain the same, an amount to rebate to folks for sewer and water, seniors to get a larger portion. Council members to address the amount of the rebate for residents later. Russ asked for a motion, Jacob seconded the motion, the council all were in favor of keeping the tax rate at its current rate of .35, no increase in property taxes.

EXECUTIVE MEETING-this meeting was closed to the public; basic discussion was for a need to audit the accounting and to oversee payroll expenses and taxes.

Adjourn at 9:15 pm