

Honorable Mayor
Members of Council

The Business Meeting of Shapsburg Borough Council was held January 25, 2018 at 6:30 pm in the Council Chambers.

President Reno called the meeting to order and led in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

President Reno welcomed Manager Bill Rossey back to the Borough recovering from a medical leave.

Roll Call found the following Members present: Matt Brudnok, Greg Domian, Karen Pastor, Joe Simbari, Larry Trozzo, Brittany Reno, Mayor Ruzski, Chief Stellitano.

President Reno announced the application of Jonathan Jaso 's interest in the vacant Council seat, vacated by then Councilman Ruzski, now the Mayor. Council was asked if there were any questions of Mr. Jaso. Pastor expressed her satisfaction of the answers presented to Jaso in the previous interview for Mr. Karpinski's vacated seat. Domian suggested that any questions be presented from the new Council Members. Simbari communicated that any one is welcome to apply for a vacated seat but welcomed Jaso to Council.

Reno requested a motion to accept Jonathan Jaso to the vacated seat . Motion by Matt Brudnok, second by Larry Trozzo resulting in a unanimous vote.

The Oath of Office was administered by Mayor Ruzski swearing in Jonathan Jaso as Councilman.

Mayor Ruzski introduced Officer Brian Hoebel who spoke in support of the Bullying Ordinance and the importance of this tool to help protect juveniles from being bullied. Comments were open to the floor and residents Brian Kozera, Jr, Larry West, and Debbie Colesnik spoke of personal or family member experiences of bullying and expressed their support of acceptance of the Bullying Ordinance. Colesnik also suggested a closer integration with Fox Chapel School District when bullying occurs in the school and on the school buses.

Chief Stellitano communicated the procedures the police follow with the School District by utilizing the School Resource Officer when bullying occurs on the bus or at the bus stop. The ordinance will be enforced when the bullying occurs in Shapsburg. Chief communicated that Shapsburg Police Department is one of the first communities to have the officers go to training for tactics and procedures to deal with bullying. Chief communicated that the interaction with the School Resource Officers is very positive and that Shapsburg Police Officers are welcome to walk through FCASD schools and the strength of the school district getting the smaller communities involved more.

Simbari expressed his support of the bullying ordinance and communicated the changes in the proposed ordinance outlining the fines and consequences to include a reduced fine and community service.

Mayor Ruzski confirmed that the feedback from social media initiated the submitted changes to the proposed ordinance and confirmed that the changes reduced the maximum fine from \$600.00 to \$250.00 and to replace jail time if the fine is not paid to community service of up to 40 hours and to also give the arresting officer the discretion to issue warnings in the first instance. Ruzski congratulated the officers receiving the training as the District Attorney's office is using Shapsburg as their pilot program

for child bullying as Sharpshurg has set the standard as well as the support of the ordinance from the Borough Solicitor's office.

Registered Citizen Comments:

Flo Mascilli, owner of East End Plumbing expressed her concerns for parking for her business employees in the area of South Main Street. Simbari suggested Loading Zone signage for the garage/driveway area of the business all to prevent parking tickets for every violation. Larry Wiest expressed his concern for the difficulty in maneuvering commercial vehicles around East End Plumbing Vehicles. Chief Steltano granted parking permits to prohibit parking tickets for the present violations.

Committee Reports:

Domian (Personnel) communicated the Linden Gym activities are well into the busiest time of the year for revenue. He mentioned of a group wanting to rent the gym in the spring conducting indoor football/soccer starting in April for a minimum of 15 hours a week provided that their sports will not damage the gym.

Pastor (Public Safety) announced that the Fire Department voted Fire Chief Constanzo for the next two year term which she mentioned is on the Consent Agenda. She expressed the following facts regarding the fire department and a yearly review for 2017. Total Fire Calls in the year 2017 amounted to 261 with the following breakdown: Aspinwall 44 calls, Blawnox 10 calls, Etna 9 calls, Fox Chapel 1 call, Millvale, 13 calls, Ohara 55 calls, and Shaler 3 calls. Sharpshurg fire calls amount to 126 calls with 10 of those assisting EMS for usually lift assistance. There is a total of 135 calls for mutual aid calls with surrounding communities.

Pastor announced the results of the fund drive in 2017. Mailings consisted of 2221 letters which resulted in 285 responses which 226 were residential and 59 of 363 business's responded totaling \$13921 or 13.6% response.

Department:

Mayor Rudzki communicated the submission of the Memorandum of Understanding regarding the merging/consolidation of the surrounding Fox Chapel School District police departments with the exception of Indiana and asked Council to act on this MOU with the support of this study to consider this consolidation noting that the wheel is not being reinvented as 35 regional police departments exist within Pennsylvania that represent 125 municipalities with Northern Regional being one of the oldest consolidated departments within Allegheny County as of 1969. The goals of regionalization is to leverage resources among the departments to reduce redundancies, streamline services, and possibly incorporating an investigations unit, specialization in DUI task forces, K-9 unit, etc. Rudzki is asking Council to vote on the MOU and vision statement to move forward with the regionalization under the Consent Agenda.

Domian communicated that upon doing some research he did not see any downside to this police consolidation but his research highlighted the improvement in the quality of the officers, the reduction of revenue expenditures from running a small police department and the ability to resource and adopt ordinances.

Simbari communicated the point that this merge is extremely in the preliminary stages and beginning of this consolidation. He also stressed that social media is NOT a good source of accuracy for facts regarding any issue. Simbari stressed that this Council will not make any decisions in any issue that is not beneficial to the residents of Sharpburg.

Rudzki communicated that the Sharpburg police officers and he met to discuss general department procedures and complimented the phenomenal job the police are doing and mentioned the police should be commended for the work they do. Also discussed were ideas that the department could improve and the importance of officer safety. Rudzki mentioned the importance of repair or replacing radios and firearms as most are 15 years old. Radios are approximately \$1000.00 and approximately \$500.00 to replace a firearm. He mentioned has asked the officers for feedback as to type of radios preferred and information regarding the trade of the current firearms or purchase of new or if firearms should be repaired. Safety in the police station could be improved with a bullet proof glass panel and a door to minimize risk to the safety of the officers.

Rudzki communicated upon speaking with Emergency Management Coordinator, Dennis Lane that the James Sharp Landing is still closed from high water and ice damage this winter.

Rudzki expressed the importance of residents locking their cars as there has been a series of break-ins recently.

Reno requested pricing for the glass upgrades from the Police Department before a vote is made. Jaso recommended the need for bullet proof glass in the administration office as well. Rudzki also mentioned reaching out to DA Zappala for possible financial assistance towards the radios and firearms.

Reno initiated a brief and friendly discussion regarding the snow and ice removal ordinance. Suggestions were addressed for consideration of lowering the fine from \$25-\$15.00, and possibly increasing the time to clear from 24-48 hours.

Code Officer, Dave Komora addressed to Council and the public the procedures and practices of the enforcement of the snow and ice ordinance. He also addressed the responses he has communicated to the residents that are voicing complaints. Komora addressed the difficulties with the parking on Penn Street as well as business owners that are being negligent with snow removal. Komora expressed the importance of keeping sidewalks clear for public safety and that it become common practice for all to keep their sidewalks clean. Komora was responsive to any changes Council may wish to make regarding the ordinance or procedure of enforcement of snow and ice removal.

Domian inquired if there were any rules beyond the local ordinances that County, State, or Federal can intervene and residents can be fined more money. Komora expressed the process of higher fines through the Magistrate's office.

Manager Bill Rossey states he was unaware of any state or federal restrictions and that snow removal is enforced on a local level. Rossey addressed the communication of this snow and ice ordinance sent to all residents on a map in the spring. He stressed the importance that residents have 24 hours after the snow fall to clean their sidewalks for safety. Rossey mentioned that the Borough is no exception and that he assures all that public works will maintain the borough property to these standards as he recently had to reinforce to public works their responsibility with snow and ice removal as well. People

are pleading ignorance to what they are well aware of is their responsibility to take care of their properties.

Public works are also maintaining the vacant properties so residents, the disabled, mail man, etc. can maneuver town safely. The Borough will set an example as well. He complimented Komora in doing his job and being fair with his enforcement. He also mentioned that Komora has explained the appeal process for those that remain disgruntled.

Simbari asked of Komora how many citations were written. Komora mentioned that 267 citations were issued from the accumulation of three snow storms as reflected on his submitted written report. It was mentioned that 129 citations were issued from just this past snow storm. Simbari suggested that habitual people need to be dealt with differently possibly a more severe find. Komora mentioned if council does upgrade 2nd and third offenses the form will need to be re-printed. Brudnok questioned the possibility of photographing an address with the snow covered sidewalks for additional information/documentation when residents question their violation.

Reno inquired if Council would like to make any changes to the snow ordinance at this time and Council agreed to keep as is. Seniors or disabled residents that have difficulty clearing their walks may inquire of the North Hills Community Outreach "snow angels" program which are volunteers that will help those in need.

Cathy Mercer expressed her concerns with the ordinance or enforcement for the homes on Penn Street which owners do make the effort but parked vehicles make the pass through very difficult and asked for consideration of this area.

Manager Rossey revisited the issue of the ice buildup at James Sharp Landing and the damage that has occurred to the launch and docking area. He mentioned that this has been turned into the insurance company and the adjuster has contacted Rossey to acquire an estimate once the ice has cleared. Rossey mentioned that this damage will be covered under the insurance plus a grant was approved to redo some of the features at Sharps Landing. Rossey hopes that by spring time boats will be able to be launched.

Domian inquired of the status of the next ice jam in the Springdale area as to when it may be moving downstream.

Chief Stellitano reviewed the totals of arrests and revenues received from tickets and fines for the year 2017 as well as the totals for the month of December. He further discussed the current car break in situation occurring by juveniles from Penn Hills. He also stressed the importance of locking a personal vehicle to deter the continuance of breaking into vehicles.

Reno complimented the fire department on their efforts with the Etna Warehouse fire which was huge and dangerous.

Mayor Rudzki addressed the discussion of the "e-citations" for the police officers in his officer's meeting. He would like to include in the consent agenda the approval of the printers for the police cars which are needed for the citations. Printers are at a cost of \$855.00 for three printers.

Officer Brett Carb discussed the advantages of e-citations and how the ease of reporting incidents will create accuracy and save valuable time as well as how the process of e-citation data is handled and entered with direct communication to the Magistrate's office. This process can be used for all types of violations and accidents. Chief Stellitano commented that this will save in costs for reporting as well. Council agreed to include this issue on the consent agenda.

President Reno made a motion to approve the following general business by consent agenda:

Motion to approve payment of bills due through February 22, 2018.

Motion to approve the Minutes from the January 2, 2018 Meeting

Motion to pass Ordinance 18-02 reasonably regulating bullying and harassment in the Borough of Sharpshurg and providing for the enforcement of the same.

Motion to accept the 2 year appointment of Lou Costanzo as Fire Chief of the Sharpshurg Volunteer Fire Department.

Motion to approve the MOU for inter-municipal cooperation planning and merging of police departments.

Motion to approve the purchase of printers for the e-citation system of police reporting.

Motion made by Karen Pastor second by Larry Trozzo and resulted in a unanimous vote.

Motion made to adjourn to Executive Session to discuss personnel matters.
Motion of Karen Pastor and second by Greg Domian.

Reno thanked all the public for attending the meeting.