

SHARPSBURG BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING
April 22, 2021

Honorable Mayor
Members of Council

The Regular Business Meeting of the Sharpsburg Council was held April 22, 2021 at 6:30pm.

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

Roll call found the following members present: Jonathan Jaso, Karen Pastor, Joe Simbari (excused), Brad Truman, Adrienne Laing, Brittany Reno, Mayor Rudzki and Chief Stelitano.

Reno acknowledged the passing of Mayor Panza and said what an incredible impact he had on this town. Reno asked for a moment of silence.

Reno asked Rossey to give the rules on the R47 agenda item. Rossey explained that you are accepting the recommendations from the planning commission only.

Citizen Comments (Agenda items Only):

Citizen Comments (Registered)

Sara Innamorato – State Representative

Innamorato congratulated Sharpsburg Borough on becoming the 3rd certified Eco District in America. Innamorato prepared a Citation that she read aloud and there is a hard copy in the borough office.

Sara Mariacher, Sharpsburg Library - Gave her monthly update on the library statistics and activities available to the children and adults.

Mariacher asked to use Kennedy Park on June 12th for the Summer Reading Kickoff Party.

Mike White – Sharpsburg Human Rights Commission

White wanted to give an update on their mission state for the HRC. The HRC's mission statement is as follows: The HRC will safeguard all rights of the Sharpsburg residents based on principals of equality and equity through education, advocacy, and empowerment.

Sara Ishman – 19th Street infrastructure & R-47 Development

Ishman reiterated the concerns of the residents from the planning commission meeting on the R47 development. Ishman asked that rodent control be part of the process and that all documents requested by the planning commission be made public for the residents to review and voice their opinion and concerns.

Committee Reports:

W. Rossey – Borough Manager

Rossey reviewed the consent agenda.

B. Truman – Zoning/Planning/Code

Truman made a motion to appoint Ed Nusser and Christine Girty to the planning commission.

2nd by Jaso

All in Favor – Yes

K. Portis – Personnel

Nothing currently.

Portis asked Rossey if he could get 3 estimates to pave the lot on Chapman Street next to the new DPW building for resident parking. Portis asked about the landscaping at the new DPW building. Rossey responded and said the lot next to the building is for employees and landscaping will be done by the contractor.

Reno responded and said it is the property that abuts the building that she is asking be made into a lot for resident parking.

A discussion ensued and no action was taken at this time.

K. Pastor – Public Safety

22 Fire Calls – March

155 calls Y-T-D

Pastor said the new truck is now in service.

Pastor said the firemen had a refresher course this Tuesday and Thursday for hazmat.

Pastor mentioned that the fire department is always looking for new members. We have 12-15 firemen that answer calls at the present time. You can be a business member and volunteer a few hours of your time. Pastor also said you do not have to run into a fire, there are many other things you can be doing to assist the firefighters on a call.

Pastor mentioned one of the benefits of joining the fire department is that you can go to community college for 2 years for free through a program called FireVest.

Pastor said that they are working on a new recruiting program. Nancy Goldberg is helping to put ads together to recruit teenagers to join.

Reno mentioned a letter that Chief Stelitano received from Indiana Township's Chief of police on Officer John Lukasic's quick reactions to stop when he saw a house on fire in Indiana Township. Officer Lukasic called 911 and ran into the house to get the occupants out of the burning structure. Reno commended him on his act of public safety even when not on duty.

J. Simbari – Public Works

Excused

Rossey mentioned that OBR program will provide up to 8 kids with a supervisor this summer to help the DPW department with painting and grass cutting. There is no cost to the borough.

Reno said the county has a Learn & Earn summer program for teenagers.

A. Laing – Health/Property

Laing thanked the volunteers and the local businesses on a successful Earth Day cleanup on Saturday.

Laing thanked the DPW for going around town and picking up the garbage bags on Earth Day.

Laing thanked Truman for his recommendations for the planning commission.

Laing congratulated the borough for becoming the 3rd Eco District.

J. Jaso – Finance

Nothing currently.

Jaso mentioned the lantern festival he would like to have. Jaso said he wants to have it on August 22nd on the full moon at James Sharp Landing. More details to follow.

J. D'Ambrosio – Public Works Director

D'Ambrosio thanked Dellert for helping with the trash pickup on Saturday for the Earth Day cleanup.

D'Ambrosio said the new flags are up and the snowflakes are down.

M. Rudzki – Mayor

Rudzki mentioned the passing of Mayor Rich Panza. He had 60 years of service in the borough from being a policeman, fireman, councilman, to becoming Mayor. He has been a huge impact on our community and is a legacy. Rudzki said he knew he had huge shoes to fill when he became Mayor.

Rudzki thanked Officer Lukasic for his quick action with the house fire in Indiana Township.

Rudzki mentioned the lack of parking on Chapman Street and said maybe Chapman can be widened on one side to add additional parking. A discussion ensued.

Rudzki thanked the First English Lutheran Church for their service to the community over the last 130 years.

Rudzki mentioned the police department designed a sticker for individuals with Autism for cars and homes.

Rudzki thanked Rossey for the update on the catch basin work to be done.

Rudzki mentioned that it is the VFW's 100th anniversary. Rudzki said they serve our community well. Rudzki presented the VFW with a proclamation at the bingo.

Rudzki mentioned the Earth Day Challenge for Saturday.

Rudzki explained the need for another fulltime officer. Rudzki said it is for officer safety and that the department cannot rely on the 3 part-time officers to always cover open shifts because they themselves have fulltime jobs and are not always available.

A discussion ensued and Jaso made a motion to start the process to hire one fulltime officer.

2nd by Reno

All in Favor – Yes

B. Reno – President

Reno congratulated the fire department on a successful fish fry.

Reno said she would like to get the Sharpsburg Climate Action plan approved next month.

Reno said that the 2.2-million-dollar grant request with the federal government will be submitted for the Kittanning Pike flooding issue.

Reno mentioned that there is a program through Sustainable Pittsburgh that helped us write our solar panel regulations. There is a new certification called Solsmart which makes it easier for people to know we are solar friendly community.

Reno asked the Chief about road signs for children with special needs. The Chief responded and said he can talk with Rossey and D'Ambrosio about getting signs.

Reno said Second Harvest is having an open house on April 28th, Wednesday at 5-7pm to share the updated plans for the community front yard. More news to come.

Reno asked to bring two concerts to Kennedy Park. One being Squonk Opera on August 7th.

Reno asked for a motion. Motion by Jaso to approve the planning of the Squonk Fest. 2nd by Truman.

The 2nd concert request is for Ishtar. Reno said they would like to perform late spring early summer. This is middle eastern music.

Motion by Jaso to move forward with the concert. 2nd by Portis.
Reno mentioned to go out and vote on May 18th.

T. Stelitano – Chief

Stelitano thanked council for making the motion to hire another fulltime officer.

Stelitano said he will let Officer Lukasic know that he was recognized at tonight's meeting.

Stelitano addressed Councilman Jaso about his crosswalk watch. Stelitano said he as 12 reports for stops at the crosswalks.

Stelitano also said there were 33 traffic stops and a lot of them were at the intersection of 10th and Main Street with the illegal left turn onto Main.

Stelitano said there were several stops for people not stopping at stop signs.

Stelitano said a lot of people do not use the crosswalks on Main Street. He watches on the cameras. Stelitano feels if we can get some bright signage at each of the crosswalks when Main Street streetscape starts would be very helpful.

271 Calls

3 – Juvenile arrests

4 – Adult arrests

Stelitano said he has the officers monitoring the parks now that it is getting warmer.

Stelitano said he has talked to D'Ambrosio about getting accutracks painted on Main Street to start checking speed.

Reno asked the Chief if he could have the officers at night keep an eye out on a grey car that speeds up 9th Street towards High Street. She has received complaints from residents on that street. The residents would also like to make 9th Street a one way.

M. Witherel – Solicitor

Nothing Currently.

Consent Agenda:

- a. Payment of bills due through May 27, 2021
- b. Minutes from the March 25, 2021 Meeting.
- c. Motion to pass Resolution 21-04 approving the grant application for Act 152 funds through Allegheny County Economic Development on the amount of \$73,410 for demolition of the following properties: 1833 Main Street, 207 Altmeyer Street, 915-917 Clay Street and 1527 North Canal Street.
- d. Motion to pass Slums and Blight Resolution 21-05 identifying several vacant and dilapidated structures located within the Borough of Sharpsburg that constitute a health and safety hazard for its residents.
- e. Motion to pass Resolution 21-06 approving the acquisition and subsequent disposition of numerous parcels of vacant property known as block and lot 167-R-21 (16 3rd Street) would be in accord with the comprehensive plan of the municipality.
- f. Motion to grant Faith UMC/Roots of Faith permission to use Curley Park and to close one block of 8th Street from Clay Street to Main Street on Sundays from 10:00 am to 1:00 pm to hold outdoor services beginning April 4th through August 29, 2021.

- g. Motion to approve the Joint Municipal Agreement for Ravine Street Stream Removal Project with O'Hara and Shaler Townships.
- h. Motion to appoint Jocelyn Codner to the Sharpsburg Historical Commission.
- i. Motion to appoint Peter Adams to the Zoning Hearing Board. (3-year term)

- j. Motion to grant the Watson Institute permission to use Kennedy Park on Wednesday, June 2, 2021 from 11:00 AM to 2:30 PM to hold their annual graduation ceremony with a rain date of Friday, June 4, 2021.
- k. Motion to grant Francien Porter permission to use Kennedy Park on Tuesday evenings from 6:00 PM to 7:00 PM beginning May 18, 2021 to hold FREE Yoga classes.
- l. Motion to accept the recommendation from the Planning Commission regarding the R-47 development request with the following conditions:
 - i. Stormwater Management Ordinance Conditions;
 - 1. Section 501
 - 2. Section 502.A
 - 3. Section 503
 - ii. SALDO Conditions; (Outstanding section for SALDO compliance)
 - 1. Section 22-104.2.A
 - 2. Section 22-104.2.B
 - 3. Section 22-304
 - 4. Section 22-403.3 D through V
 - 5. Section 22-403.8
 - 6. Section 22-403.9
 - 7. Section 22-403.10
 - 8. Section 22-502.2.G
 - 9. Section 22-504.3
 - 10. Section 22-511
 - 11. Section 22-513
 - 12. Section 22-603
 - 13. Section 22-612
 - iii. Additional Conditions:
 - 1. NPDES Permit Approval
 - 2. Developer Agreement Approval
 - 3. Highway Occupancy Permit Approval
 - 4. Identify roadways that may need to be vacated in project area.
 - 5. PennDOT grant prior approvals before bidding project.

- m. Motion to appoint the following people to the Sharpsburg Planning Commission:
 - 1. Ed
 - 2. Christine Girty

Motion by Jaso
2nd by Truman
All in Favor – Yes

Truman – Yes
Laing – Yes
Portis – Yes
Jaso – Yes
Pastor – Yes
Reno – Yes
Simbari – Excused
Motion Carried

Permits:

- a. Accessible Parking
- b. Use Permits (NONE)
- c. Zoning/Building (NONE)

Refunds – NONE

Executive Session

- a. Discuss personnel matter.

Reno asked for a motion to adjourn at 8:25pm.

Motion by Truman

2nd by Jaso

Respectfully Submitted,

William Rossey
Sharpsburg Borough Manager

WR:ck