

**SHARPSBURG BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING  
AUGUST 22, 2019**

Honorable Mayor  
Members of Council

The Regular Business Meeting of the Sharpsburg Council was held August 22, 2019 at 6:30pm.

Vice-President Pastor called the meeting to order and led in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Roll Call found the following members present: Greg Domian, Jonathan Jaso, Karen Pastor, Joe Simbari, Larry Trozzo, Adrienne Laing, Brittany Reno (excused), Mayor Rudzki, Chief Stelitano, Aiden Mack (Junior Council Member).

**Appointment of new council person**

Pastor mentioned that the borough advertised the open council seat. There was only one applicant that applied, Adrienne Laing. Adrienne served on council for 4 months in the past. Pastor asked for the motion to appoint Adrienne to fill the empty council seat. Motion by Domian, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Jaso. All in favor Yes.

Rudzki swore in Adrienne Laing.

Pastor welcomed Adrienne back on council.

**Proclamation by Mayor Rudzki recognizing William F. Wiest**

Rudzki read his proclamation to Mr. Wiest.

**Citizen Comments (Agenda items Only):** None

**Citizen Comments (Registered)**

Nasir Nelson – Heinz Field (Veteran Park) Basketball Courts

Nelson was not available due to a football commitment.

Kris Schroeter – Food Drive during Halloween – to benefit St. Mary’s Food Pantry  
Schroeter explained the food drive program for Halloween and how it will operate.

Ruth Ann McGarry – Market Garden at 124 13<sup>th</sup> Street vacant lot

McGarry explained that it is very difficult for some residents to get to the grocery store. She feels they have a plan to help. The vacant lot at 124 13<sup>th</sup> Street could become a market garden and would provide fresh produce for a minimum donation. They have over 250 signatures on a petition and a list of 7 local volunteers. She submitted a request to Grow Pittsburgh to show their interest in starting another garden in our area.

If they go with Grow Pittsburgh, they will provide soil, seeds, beds, shed etc. and education to make the garden successful. If they do not qualify for this help, the committee already has plans for the site. With a grant from the Tri-Boro Ecodistrict, they can purchase about 20 beds and soil. They will ask for donations from nurseries for seeds and plants. HSWA will provide a water meter pit and supply water service. A plan to distribute the produce in the business district is being looked into to make it more convenient for the residents. Gardening tips and healthy eating education will be provided. Using the growing tents will extend the growing season into the beginning of winter. We have a list of volunteers and support from the Senior Center, Sharpsburg Community Garden, and Sharpsburg Neighborhood Organization to help us with this endeavor. Jaso asked if they are looking for a lease of the property for a time period of 5 years. McGarry answered mostly likely if we go with Grow Pittsburgh. The borough solicitor suggested McGarry go back to Grow Pittsburgh and ask what their requirements are and submit those in addition to their packet and presentation.

Jeff Jarzynka – ZYNKA Gallery – 9<sup>th</sup> Street Closure, September 21<sup>st</sup>

Jarzynka stated that his gallery is having a grand opening on September 21<sup>st</sup> in collaboration with the Andy Warhol Museum who is supporting the opening. Jarzynka has had conversations with Rudzki and Reno about closing 9<sup>th</sup> Street for the evening between Main and Clay to park food trucks there to help support the hospitality portion of the event. Jarzynka also noted he requested the street to be shut down between 5-10pm -- an hour before and an hour after the event. Simbari asked if he spoke with the funeral home in the event of a funeral happening at the same time. Jarzyka said no, but he will follow up with the funeral home and understands a large funeral supersedes his event.

Joe Thor – 1626 Middle Street – Recovery House

Thor is trying to get an answer as to what it takes to open a recovery house in Sharpsburg. Jaso asked if this is inpatient recovery. Thor answered no, it's for recovering alcoholics and drug addicts that cannot live on their own yet.

Thor doesn't understand why he can't get an answer from the borough.

The Solicitor responded to his question. He said this is a zoning issue and we cannot render to him an opinion on what you need to do because we police the zoning matters as well. He suggested that Thor obtain a copy of the ordinance and seek independent council. They will explain to you what you want to do.

Rossey responded that the property is not zoned for the use that he wants, it's zoned residential only. You cannot bring in a recovery house and you would have to seek a variance to be able to use as a multi-person house.

Pastor suggested that the solicitor look into the matter. The solicitor agreed and met Joe Thor in the back of the room to exchange mailing information.

PWSA -1200 Penn Avenue – Jeff Bradshaw – Project Manager for PWSA – Brad Dudaw with Michael Baker International

The purpose of us speaking today is to keep the borough informed of the project that they are planning for a new treated water pipeline beginning at the Aspinwall pump station going through Aspinwall, Sharpsburg, Etna, and terminating in Shaler Township at the Lanpher reservoir. It's an approximate distance of 3.8 miles. We have been meeting with borough managers to keep them informed of the project and to update all on the project timeline. Bradshaw approached council and showed them the maps that have the existing pipeline and the new proposed pipeline. The project is still in the design phase going until approximately May of 2020 and at which point we will seek the board's approval to go into procurement. We are looking to begin construction at the latter part of next year.

**Committee Reports:**

W. Rossey, Manager

Rossey explained each of the items on the consent agenda.

A&B: Are self-explanatory

C: The purchase of block & Lots 168-M-00121, 168-M-001100, and 168-M-00111 from Pittsburgh Metals Products for \$175,000. Riverfront 47 purchased our riverfront property through an auction a month ago. Our public works department which is down on 19<sup>th</sup> Street, we will be relocating the public works building behind Heinz field off of 19<sup>th</sup> and Chapman. We're buying those three lots and probably only using half of it and the plan is to use the other half along Chapman to possibly put in 3-5 affordable housing houses there on that property. All indications are that it is not going to cost the borough anything as it's going to be paid for by the sale of the riverfront property. The new public works building will be more efficient and safer for our DPW workers. We will move our portable salt bin over there and will be all set up next to the ballfields.

D: Resolution 19-09 designating William Rossey, Borough Manager as the sole authorized signatory on all documents (both paper and electronic) relative to the PENNDOT Multimodal Fund Grant Agreement #119830. Over two years ago, we got a 1.5 million dollar grant from PennDot for the reconstruction of the 19<sup>th</sup> Street property. Rossey can sign the documents and Riverfront 47 will match on that. They will pay all fees and administration fees.

E: The opening of the 3 new bank accounts with Northwest Bank. To keep all the money separate and make it easier for the auditor. We will have a public works account for the new public works building, PennDot Multi-Modal 1.5 million will be deposited into an account and paid out through that account to keep clean. Public playground account – we have someone who is donating a substantial amount of money to improve our public playgrounds in the borough and we're going to put this money in this account. When the new grant cycle from the DCNR this money that we have in this account will be used as a match with DCNR to increase the amount of money we have for improvements. They will match 50%.

F: Tri-COG Land Bank – They have purchased a vacant property in the borough and will turnover. It is another way for us to take these empty properties in the borough and get them rehabbed and back on the tax books.

G: Watson Institute is self-explanatory. It's a grant program that we are going to help them with as we have done in the past.

H: Letter of support to Dr. Francis Sekula is about the dust wipe certification. Our code officers, when they go in for an inspection, will have these wipes to use to test for lead in buildings. The code officers will be trained in this program which is held at CCAC.

I: Jeff Jarzynka to give him permission to shut down 9<sup>th</sup> Street.

Rossey addressed Council about the trees along Main Street. The Chief and Rossey have gone up and down Main Street and there are some trees we would like to take out now because they obstruct the view of road signs and business signs also. Rossey said we can tie ribbons around the ones that need to be taken out so they can see which trees they are talking about. Rossey we are looking for permission.

Rossey spoke about the Guyasuta Triangle. The contractor was there pulling wires in to the new light pole locations and Friday they will be putting up the new lamp posts. The granite for the sign has been found and the sign will be made and installed as soon as possible.

Rossey mentioned the street paving project. Folino will begin September 4<sup>th</sup> and will start milling the first day and should be done by the 6<sup>th</sup>. We will be opening bids tomorrow for the section of Clay Street from 6<sup>th</sup> to 8<sup>th</sup> at 11am.

L. Trozzo, Zoning/Planning/Code

Nothing

G. Domian, Personnel

Nothing

K. Pastor, Public Safety

Fire calls for the month of July – 44

The raffle winner was Jay Smutney - \$2000.00. All tickets were sold.

This past Tuesday we toured the Hampton Shaler water plant. Pastor said it is absolutely amazing what is housed in that building. Mayor Rudzki, who accompanied the fire department, gave an overview with facts about the Water Plant and its capabilities.

Pastor also addressed the borough's ambulance service. Our responsibility as council is to continually evaluate all the services to make sure we are offering the best services possible to our residents. Not only does this include internal operations such as office personnel, public works, and other borough employees but any services we receive from the outside. Not all the time do we look at the best price but instead how a particular outside entity will best serve our community. We have made some recent changes which were our engineering firm and a few years ago switched our auditors which saved a huge amount of money.

As chair of the public safety committee, which looks out for the wellbeing of every resident, borough council will be asking for proposal from local EMS services to ensure the best EMS service shows up at your door when you make that call to 911. We believe that this proposal will be met by 100% approval from our residents as quality EMS service is something that everybody expects when their loved one needs emergency care. Once the proposals are submitted, we have the option to have the proposals evaluated by a UPMC EMS coordinator. We will consider this approach as we do not have expertise in this area. Once we receive this feedback, we will then take a look at the big picture and determine if the EMS service that you receive is the best that can offered to you.

Simbari – Motion to request proposals for EMS services for Sharpsburg. 2<sup>nd</sup> by Trozzo.

All in Favor - Yes

J. Simbari – Public Works

Nothing

Simbari wants to make clear the clarification (is there anyone here from the Post-Gazette? No, Okay). There was an article in the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette that said that Sharpsburg officials support Allegheny County Police Review Board.

Simbari asked everyone up here except for Adrienne because she was not on the panel until today, I asked everyone up here if they spoke with anybody from the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette and the answer was no.

Simbari asked the Chief and he said no.

Simbari stated that no one was interviewed or questioned for that news article.

Simbari said we have never voted on participating in the Allegheny County Police Review. We never discussed it beyond the fact that we would only consider it. That's all we have done. And if you read that article, it says that we support it, however, we've never been asked as a group or deliberated on it or voted on it. We did say we would consider and there is a big difference between consider and support.

Simbari wanted to make that clear. Again if you read the newspaper and had any discussions about that, this is the official word.

Simbari said he's not sure where the Post-Gazette gets their quotes from or their sources, and if, in fact, everyone up here on this panel is telling the truth then they were totally out of line with that article.

J. Jaso, Health/Safety

Jaso stated from last month he was asked to type an ordinance for installation of fire lanes in the borough. We are looking to get fire lanes painted on Garnier, curb on Penn Street to Altmeyer, 6<sup>th</sup> and High Streets (bend leading to the Korean Church), Clay Street from Linden to 11<sup>th</sup> Street (Watson Institute to Linden Gym), 11<sup>th</sup> and N. Canal across from LaNova Pizza to include two parking spaces, School Street and N. Canal the left side where there is no parking will be a fire lane, 19<sup>th</sup> and Main on right side should be converted to a fire lane.

Pastor wanted everyone to think about the locations as when we do these, there will be a cost for signs.

Pastor would like everyone to look at all the streets and where they are and if there is a problem, we can discuss or we can keep the yellow line there.  
Jaso said these are recommendations from the Fire Chief. I have to take him at his word what is needed for public safety.  
Jaso made a motion to advertise 19-02 installation and regulation of fire lanes. 2<sup>nd</sup> by Simbari.  
All in Favor - Yes  
Jaso proposed ordinance 19-03 regarding food trucks.  
Jaso said we want to know who's in the borough. The ordinance is a copy of Millvale's but tailored to our own use.  
Rudzki said he wanted to have a discussion about it before there was a motion to advertise. A discussion went on between the brewery owners and council. The brewery owners said they would comply with having the food trucks park on their private property or off the road as far as possible not to inhibit traffic flow.  
Pastor stated no action required for food trucks.

A Laing, Finance  
Nothing

A Mack, Junior Council  
Nothing

J. D'Ambrosio, Public Works Foreman  
Nothing – We are really busy.

M. Rudzki, Mayor  
Rudzki mentioned the Etna-Sharpsburg National Night out and thanked the following: Etna-Sharpsburg first responders and Departments of Public Works, Blawnox Vol. Fire Co., Cherry City Vol. Fire Co., North Hills SRT, PA Army National Guard, Right on Fifth Band (sponsored by Coldwell Banker's Rob Strohm), Pub Chip Shop, Mr. Bulgogi, Snakeguy's Pepper, Kona Ice, and Ferra's Automotive providing the stage in the form of a flatbed truck.  
Rudzki wished the students, teachers, and staff good luck and congratulations to parents on the first day of school at Fox Chapel Area School District.  
Rudzki also mentioned the Fair Districts Resolution. Simbari asked to table it until next session.

B. Reno, President  
Nothing – Excused

T. Stelitano, Chief of Police  
Stelitano read his police report.  
254 calls  
11 traffic citations  
13 adult arrests

M. Witherel, Solicitor  
Nothing for the public meeting

**Consent Agenda:**

Pastor asked for a motion to approve the following general business by roll call:

- a. Payment of bills due through September 26, 2019.
- b. Minutes from the July 25, 2019 Meeting.
- c. Motion to purchase Block & Lots 168-M-00121, 168-M-00110 and 168-M-00111 from Pittsburgh Metals Products for \$175,000.00
- d. Motion to pass Resolution 19-09 designating William Rossey, Borough Manager as the sole authorized signatory on all documents (both paper and electronic) relative to the PENNDOT Multimodal Fund Grant Agreement #119830.
- e. Motion to open the following three (3) new bank accounts with Northwest Bank: Public Works Account, Penn Dot Multi-Modal Grant Account and Sharpsburg Public Playgrounds Fund.
- f. Motion to participate in the Tri-COG Land Bank's Notice of Intent to Acquire REO (Real Estate Owned) Properties through the National Community Stabilization Trust REO Acquisition Program.
- g. Motion to send a letter of support for the Watson Institutes WISCA (Watson Institute's Social Center for Academic Achievement) program supporting a grant application to pilot a program for students to learn job skills throughout the officers.
- h. Motion to send a letter of support to Dr. Francis Sekula at CCAC regarding interest in a dust wipe certification course for our borough code inspection officers.
- i. Motion to grant Jeff Jarzynka from ZYNKA Gallery to close 9<sup>th</sup> Street from Clay Street to Main Street on Saturday, September 21, 2019 from 5:00PM to 9:00PM to hold a grand opening of the ZYNKA Gallery.

Motion by Jaso, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Trozzo  
All in favor – Yes

**Permits:**

- a. Handicap Parking
  1. 210 21<sup>st</sup> Street - Motion by Jaso, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Trozzo
- b. Use Permits (None)
- c. Zoning/Building (None)

Refunds (None)

Pastor asked for a Motion to Adjourn at 8:08PM to Executive Session  
Motion by Laing, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Trozzo  
All in favor – Yes

Respectfully Submitted,

William Rossey  
Sharpsburg Borough Manager

WR:ck