

SHARPSBURG BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING

August 26, 2021

Honorable Mayor
Members of Council

The Regular Business Meeting of the Sharpsburg Council was held August 26, 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 - Absent, Brad Truman - Absent, Adrienne Laing, Brittany Reno, Mayor Rudzki and Chief Stelitano.

Citizen Comments (Agenda items Only):

Citizen Comments (Registered):

Sara Mariacher – Sharpsburg Library

Mariacher gave her monthly update of the statistics of the library use and what programs are available at this time.

Peter Adams – Volunteer Service Credit Program

Adams would like revisions to Chapter 24, Part 10 of the borough code which is the Volunteer Service Credit Program. Adams said it only applies to firefighters and would like it amended to add emergency management (volunteer EMT's and paramedics) in Act 72. Adams provided revisions for the Solicitor to review. The Solicitor responded and said that council could give approval tonight so he can prepare the amendment and have it ready for the October or November meeting.

Committee Reports

W. Rossey – Manager

Rossey said he heard from Jeff Bergman from Tree Revitalize. They put out an RFP for engineering design services and should have someone in the coming weeks. Rossey said Bergman also stated that Forrester will be coming in during the 2nd week of September to do a tree inventory. They should have a report for the next meeting.

Rossey also mentioned the Ravine Street project will begin on September 7th from 7th Street to the river.

Rossey mentioned the streetscape is moving along. The contractors are doing an excellent job. Rossey said open bids for the 3rd phase of the streetscape from VFW to 13th Street. The contractors doing the job at the present time have been awarded the bid. Streetlights are being ordered and new LED string lights will be installed and a new 18' Christmas Tree is ordered.

B. Truman – Zoning/Planning/Code
Absent

K. Portis – Personnel
Nothing currently.

K. Pastor – Public Safety

19 calls in July

Pastor talked about the fire at 1850 Main Street. The fire department arrived on scene in six minutes. The home was being renovated. The cause was faulty wiring. The house next door had damage to their siding and heavy smoke damage. Pastor asked Rossey if the building inspectors were there yet? Rossey said yes.

Pastor said the fire department applies for as many grants as they can. Pastor said they were just awarded a federal grant with a 10% match. They are going to replace the radios that are 22 years old. The cost of a radio with an extra battery is \$4,000. They are going to purchase 10. Pastor said Rossey, Costanzo, and the Chief have been communicating about traffic and the different phases of the sidewalk construction around town and the Ravine Street project, so everyone knows where they are going for a call.

Pastor said Hampton Shaler Water Authority is relocating 2 hydrants to accommodate the new project and the new locations are better because they are closer to the high rise.

Pastor thanked the Chief for the No Parking Signs on the river side of Main Street.

Pastor said Sunday is the fire departments 150-year anniversary. This Saturday is the banquet and is looking forward to celebrating with everyone.

Pastor talked about the testing for a full-time officer. The applicants went to the academy on July 20th for the agility test, the written test was on July 22nd, and the oral test was given on August 10th by 3 Chiefs from surrounding departments with our Chief sitting in. We received the results, the Civil Service Commission approved and signed off on them. Only three candidates took the tests and all three are our current part-timers. The Chief has the ability to choose from the top three and decided to take #1.

Pastor made a motion to hire officer John Lucasik as the fulltime officer contingent upon him passing the physical and psychological tests.

2nd by Portis

All in Favor Yes

Simbari – Absent

Pastor – Yes

Jaso – Yes

Laing – Yes

Portis – Yes

Truman – Absent

Reno – Yes

Motion Carried

Pastor mentioned item E in the consent agenda. A discussion ensued.

A. Laing – Health/Property

Nothing currently.

Laing asked Rossey about the status of the playground equipment. Rossey responded and said they should be here soon to start the demo of the existing playground equipment and the new equipment should be shipping mid-September. Rossey also mentioned a resident had reached out to him about putting in pickleball courts at Heinz field. He explained that he can raise money for the borough by the cost of the teams that register. Rossey would like to convert one of the basketball courts into the pickleball courts and leave the other for basketball.

Rossey also mentioned quickly that the DPW department is completely out of the old building and into the new building. All utilities have been shut off.

Reno mentioned the core drilling at Kennedy Park for the stormwater retention project and the green infrastructure project. The cost is roughly \$7000 to do the core drilling. Rudzki asked if the sewer maintenance fund can it pay for the drilling? Rossey said yes.

Reno made a motion to get bids for the core boring at Kennedy Park.

2nd by Portis

All In Favor – Yes

J. Jaso – Finance

Nothing Currently.

Jaso mentioned an ordinance regarding decriminalizing small amounts of marijuana. The Chief said he is against the ordinance and will always be against it. The Chief said it goes against everything I have tried to do here in the last five years. He said you have a K9 unit that is a drug detection dog that you pay a lot of money for. The Chief mentioned the no alcohol and no smoking signs that are posted in the public parks. A discussion ensued and no decisions were made at this time.

J. D'Ambrosio – Director Public Works

Nothing currently.

M. Rudzki – Mayor

City of Bridges Land Trust: 320 Linden

Rudzki mentioned the occupant w/ Autism Decals: To better serve our community, the Sharpsburg Borough Police Department designed and ordered the below "Occupant with Autism" decals. The decals are now available at the police station and administration office.

Rudzki thanked the Anonymous donor towards the cost of the decals.

Rudzki mentioned the Positive Painting Project: He is so thankful for the The Positive Painting Project and the awareness they are bringing to suicide prevention through art and community engagement, spreading the message that you matter!

Rudzki thanked the Whysongs, the eternal memory of their beloved daughter Katie, and to all the volunteers who are spreading a message of hope!

Rudzki mentioned next month is National Recovery Month. To raise awareness, Lauren Broyles is hosting a Collage Conversations on Recovery: A Community Artmaking and Exhibition Series at Ketchup Creative. The event is free and open to anyone in recovery who lives, works, or attends a recovery community in Sharpsburg.

Two collage making and sharing sessions will be held at Ketchup City Creative: September 2 from 6:00pm till 8:30pm; and September 12 from 4:00pm till 6:30pm. The exhibit will be open from September 17 till September 19.

Rudzki mentioned Chief Stelitano and himself are grateful to the Allegheny County Health Department and Allegheny County Department of Human Services for providing NARCAN to the Department for distribution, which is available for free to anyone at the police station during business hours. We have seen a spike in overdoses across Allegheny County and encourage residents, business owners, and allies to carry NARCAN.

While having NARCAN is one step we can take to save lives, education is also vitally important. We must recognize addiction is a disease and not a choice, knowing no bounds, does not discriminate, and is a lifetime struggle. Harm reduction resources are available. Please visit the ACHD or DHS sites, the Pennsylvania Department of Drug and Alcohol Programs, Prevention Point Pittsburgh, or locally at Addiction Recovery Ministry Pittsburgh, among many others.

Rudzki said at Operation Backpack, over 300 backpacks were given away to local students in addition to a cook out, free haircuts, a rummage sale, and other giveaways.

Thank you so much to Fox Families Care, Volunteers of America: Youth Empowerment Project, Backpack For Hunger - Fox Chapel Area, the Society Saint Vincent de Paul, the Sharpsburg

Family Worship Center, and all of the other volunteers and donors for making this amazing event possible.

B. Reno – President

Reno thanked the fire department, EMS, and the police for responding to the house fire on Main Street.

Reno thanked the DPW, Sharpsburg Wolves, and Greg Domian for their help with the Squonk Concert set up.

Reno mentioned the Community Rating System. This is a flood reduction mitigation program through FEMA. She said you may have seen on social media that SNO welcomed a new staffer this week. His name is Matt. He will be working on getting us ready as a municipality to apply for the program through FEMA. Reno gave some examples of activities that we can do as a community towards the rating. Reno said the program could give up to a 5% reduction in flood insurance cost depending on the borough's rating.

Reno brought up that she would like to see curbside recycling. Rossey said it cannot be added at the present time. When our contract with WM is renewal next year, he will make sure that the borough receives quotes for the recycling.

Reno mentioned the LEAD program. This is the program that will give the police department a social worker for free during the pilot program. The social worker can help the officers with obtaining resources for the people that need the help. Reno will have more information at the next meeting.

Reno mentioned again that SNO has a stipend to pay a \$100 a week for you to attend the Trade Institute of Pittsburgh to learn carpentry or masonry trade.

Reno talked about the Home Energy Audit. This is a program that sends out a home energy auditor that will go through your home with equipment and give you recommendations on what repairs you can do to your home that help save on your energy bills.

Reno will be leading a Civic Leadership Series to inform people how to get involved in their local government and commissions, or how you can volunteer at the fire department. More information to follow next month.

T. Stelitano – Chief

Stelitano said on August 4th Officer Carb and Officer Karski arrived first on scene at a fire in Aspinwall and helped assist the Aspinwall Fire Department. Mayor Noro asked Stelitano to attend their council meeting. Officer Carb and Officer Karski received a Certificate of Achievement. Mayor Noro thanked them for arriving so quickly to the scene. Stelitano said they saved a dog and cat.

Stelitano mentioned that Sandy had fallen at home and has been off with a shoulder injury. However, she will be returning a few days a week next week. Rossey said he received a doctor's note that she can come back work.

289 Calls for July

9 – Adult arrests

0 – Juvenile

8 – Traffic citations

1 – Non-traffic summary arrest

Stelitano thanked council for adding John Lukasik as our new fulltime officer.

M. Witherel – Solicitor

Kalina gave an update on RAD Auto. They have cleared out. Today they had their hearing at the magistrate's office and the Judge found them guilty. RAD will pay \$1000.00 towards Lou Deluca's time towards the issues at hand. There were 57 citations that Deluca filed. They will be paying all the citations and the court costs.

Consent Agenda:

- a. Payment of bills due through September 23, 2021
- b. Minutes from the July 22, 2021, meeting.
- c. Motion to purchase X-One Kohler Command Pro 52” zero turn mower from Vettorisi Equipment at a price \$7,499.00.
- d. Motion to purchase a 2021 Lamar Utility Trailer from A&H Equipment at a price of \$3,950.00.
- e. Motion to advertise Ordinance 21-05 amending Chapter 15, Section 213 of the Sharpsburg Borough Code to add a stop sign at Church Street at intersection of Penn for north bound travel, a stop sign and stop bar at Penn Street at the intersection of Church for westbound traffic and to amend Ordinance by Resolution for future changes.
- f. Motion to advertise Ordinance 17-06 Chapter 24 Part 10 in the borough code, the Volunteer Service Credit Program to add provisions to offer credit to emergency medical services volunteers.

Motion by Jaso

2nd by Pastor

All in Favor – Yes

Jaso – Yes

Pastor - Yes

Simbari – Absent

Truman - Absent

Laing – Yes

Portis – Yes

Reno – Yes

Motion Carried

Permits:

A. Accessible Parking

i: Joshua Alcorn – 217 13th St.

Motion by Jaso

2nd by Laing

All in Favor – Yes

Use Permits – None

Zoning/Building – None

Refunds – None

Executive Session – No

Reno asked for a motion to adjourn at 7:47pm.

Motion by Pastor

2nd by Portis

Respectfully Submitted,

William Rossey
Borough Manager

WR:ck