

SHARPSBURG BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING
December 17, 2020

Honorable Mayor
Members of Council

The Regular Business Meeting of the Sharpsburg Council was held December 17, 2020 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 Greg Domian, Jonathan Jaso, Karen Pastor, Joe Simbari (arrived @ 6:53pm), Brad Truman, Adrienne Laing, Brittany Reno, Mayor Rudzki and Chief Stelitano.

Citizen Comments (Agenda items Only):

Citizen Comments (Registered)

Domian opened the citizens comments with a statement about the anti-discrimination/human rights commission ordinance.

Carrie Tongram – Spoke on the anti-discrimination ordinance.

Morgan Miller – Spoke on the human rights commission.

Kathryn Murray – Spoke on behalf the anti-discrimination ordinance.

Kelly Strain – Spoke on the anti-discrimination ordinance.

Kathy Mercer – Spoke on the discrimination against the four councilmen who voted no last month and where is everyone on zoom any other time for council meetings.

Heidi Brayer – Spoke on the anti-discrimination ordinance.

Paul Brayer – Spoke on the anti-discrimination ordinance.

Erin Angeli – Spoke on the anti-discrimination ordinance.

Sara Ishman – Spoke on the anti-discrimination ordinance.

Sherry Hilt – Spoke on the human rights ordinance.

Roxanne Acquaro – Spoke on the anti-discrimination ordinance.

Kayla Portis – Spoke on the LGBTQ+ inclusion in the anti-discrimination ordinance.

Peter Adams – Spoke on the anti-discrimination ordinance

Sara Mariacher – Sharpsburg Library Update

Mariacher gave her monthly library stats. Mariacher asked if the library could have a temporary story walk in Kennedy Park. Mariacher also asked if the library can potentially install a food pantry at the library outside the front door for more access to non-perishable items to the community and the pantry will be monitored. Reno said good to go on the story walk and pantry. Simbari asked Mariacher about the potential tri-borough library system. Mariacher said there is an RFP for a consulting group to do a feasibility study and that it is in the very beginning stages of talks.

Reno asked to have the discussion on the human rights commission. Reno asked Laing to take the lead in the discussion. After the discussion, Domian read a statement he prepared on the prior meeting and the status.

Simbari made a motion in favor of the Human Rights Commission Ordinance.

2nd by Jaso

All in Favor – Yes

Simbari – Yes

Domian – Yes

Jaso – Yes

Pastor – Yes

Laing – Yes

Truman – Yes

Reno – Yes

7 Yes - motion carried

Committee Reports

W. Rossey – Manager

Rossey thanked the DPW for their time and effort in the snow removal. Rossey received a lot of thank you's for their hard work.

Rossey reviewed the consent agenda.

B. Truman – Zoning/Planning/Code

Truman said Lou Deluca is still inspecting.

G. Domian – Personnel

Domian thanked the DPW for the great work removing the snow.

Domian has closed the Linden Gym due to the new restrictions put in place by the governor.

K. Pastor – Public Safety

16 calls in November

Pastor said the fire department assisted in the recovery of a body from the river in Millvale.

Pastor said there was a kitchen fire in the apartments on 19th Street and no one was hurt.

Pastor mentioned there was the annual fire call on Thanksgiving.

Pastor hoped everyone enjoyed the Christmas Parade with Santa and Mrs. Claus.

Pastor thanked Santa and Mrs. Claus for coming out for the parade.

J. Simbari – Public Works

Simbari asked residents to be mindful of their neighbors when removing the snow from their sidewalks or from around their cars. Please do not put the snow on your neighbor's sidewalk. We got 6" or more of snow and then you pile another 6" or more on their sidewalk, it will make it very heavy and difficult for them to shovel.

Simbari is in favor of the council meetings to continue via zoom.

Simbari asked the Solicitor the status of RAD Auto. The Solicitor replied that there were court hearings set at the magistrate's office but because of COVID, they will be rescheduled sometime in the new year.

Simbari said the new public works building is coming along and new signage has been installed.

Simbari mentioned the new dump truck is in.

A. Laing – Health/Property

Laing thanked the citizens for the comments and support of the anti-discrimination ordinance and thanked council for working together.

Laing mentioned the potential tri-boro library system.

Laing said Second Harvest held a zoom meeting on December 9th on the status of the store's construction status. They plan to open early 2021.

Laing thanked the fire department for the Christmas parade.

Laing thanked the DPW for their hard work removing the snow from the roads.

Happy Holidays.

J. Jaso – Finance

Jaso thanked the DPW for a great job.

Jaso said he spoke to Rossey about the proposed budget and Rossey answered all his questions. Jaso feels comfortable with the budget.

J. D'Ambrosio – Public Works Director

Absent

A. Mack – Junior Council

Absent

M. Rudzki – Mayor

Rudzki thanked the DPW for the hard work removing the snow.

Rudzki spoke about the late "Snake Guy" Robert Habegger on his love of Sharpsburg.

Rudzki prepared a proclamation to the nonprofit organizations for their commitment to help the community during the COVID-19 pandemic. Rudzki said there are so many to thank from our faith communities to our non-profit organizations in town. Rudzki read his proclamation.

Rudzki wished everyone Happy Holidays and Happy New Year.

B. Reno – President

Reno spoke about "Snake Guy" Robert Habegger and what an amazing person he was and is looking forward to honoring him soon.

Reno thanked Laing for her leadership in the human rights ordinance, her perseverance, and her talking to so many people to incorporate their concerns and priorities into the ordinance.

Reno asked Rossey the status of the highway occupancy permit? Rossey responded and said we do not have it yet.

Reno would like to apply for the Alcosan Grow Grant next year to get funding for a storm water retention infrastructure with green qualities to it at Kennedy Park. We need to get a geotechnical survey, so we know what is down there. Reno asked Rossey if he can get estimates for core sampling.

T. Stelitano – Chief

9 – Adult Arrests

0 – Juvenile

2 – Non-Traffic Arrests

Stelitano said Officer Hussar will be off for an extended time due to shoulder surgery after the first of the year. Stelitano said he will do his best at scheduling.

Stelitano gave an update on the body cameras. He and Officer Kimmel had an 8-hour training session with an Axon representative. Each officer will get individual training from Kimmel. We have a few that are active now. Once everyone is trained and all cameras are operational, Stelitano will give everyone an update.

Stelitano mentioned his and Officer Carb's possible exposure to COVID-19 and how it affected the department with scheduling. Reno said we need to talk more about hiring a fulltime officer at

the beginning of the New Year because of the OT expense. Reno also thanked the Chief for the update on the body cameras.

M. Witherel – Solicitor

Reno asked the Solicitor to explain the changes to the HRC ordinance due to domestic violence. The Solicitor replied that the changes are excluding domestic violence calls, nuisance property ordinance, and the Protection Against Abuse Act so people are not afraid to make the call. The Solicitor said it will be ready for advertising at the January 2021 meeting.

Consent Agenda:

- a. Payment of bills due through January 28, 2021.
- b. Minutes from the November 19, 2020 meeting.
- c. Motion to pass Resolution 20-17 authorizing the execution of a cable franchise agreement between Sharpsburg Borough and Verizon Pennsylvania LLC. This is a five-year agreement.
- d. Motion to approve Resolution 20-18 approving an intergovernmental cooperation agreement among member municipalities of the North Hills Council of Governments, to include certain specified municipal authorities, for the purpose of providing mutual aid in police, fire, public works, and other municipal services as needed and extending across municipal boundaries.
- e. Motion to approve the 2021 proposed budget.
- f. Motion to advertise Ordinance 2101 setting the tax millage rate at 7.50 mills (no Increase).
- g. Motion to pass Resolution 21-01 establishing fees for applications, permits, licenses and services for 2021 for the Borough of Sharpsburg.
- h. Motion to advertise the following meeting notices for 2021:
 1. Regular Council Meeting – 4th Thursday @ 6:30PM
 2. Planning Commission – 2nd Thursday @ 6:00PM (as needed)
 3. Zoning Hearing Board – 2nd Tuesday @ 6:00PM (as needed)
- i. Motion to appoint Witherel and Associates as Borough Solicitor for 2021.
- j. Motion to appoint Mark Turnley, PC as Borough Auditor for 2021.
- k. Motion to appoint Senate Engineering as Borough Engineer for 2021.
- l. Motion to appoint Joseph Bruno to the Planning Commission. (4-year term)
- m. Motion to appoint Clark Wigginton to the Zoning Hearing Board. (3-year term)
- n. Motion to appoint Frank Bagnato and Anthony Karpinski Sr. to the Civil Service Commission. (6-year term)
- o. Motion to appoint Larry Stelitano to the Vacancy Board for 2021.
- p. Motion to appoint Kayla Portis to the Sharpsburg Historical Commission.

Motion by Domian

2nd by Jaso

Domian – Yes

Jaso – Yes

Pastor – Yes

Simbari – Yes

Truman – Yes

Laing – Yes

Reno – Yes

Permits:

- a. Accessible Parking
 - 1. Donata Haberman – 318 8th Street

Motion by Reno

2nd by Simbari

All in Favor – Yes

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

Refunds: (NONE)

Executive Session: NO

Reno asked for a motion to adjourn at 8:38PM.

Motion by Jaso

2nd by Simbari

All in Favor - Yes

Respectfully Submitted,

William Rossey
Sharpsburg Borough Manager

WR:ck