

SHARPSBURG BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING
December 19, 2019

Honorable Mayor
Members of Council

The Regular Business Meeting of the Sharpsburg Council was held December 19, 2019 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 (excused), Larry Trozzo, Adrienne Laing, Brittany Reno, Mayor Rudzki, Chief Stelitano, Aiden Mack (Junior Council Member)

Citizen Comments (Agenda items Only): None

Citizen Comments (Registered)

Ken Aquiline – State Representative Sara Innamorato Office

Aquiline spoke about the new mobile hours of Innamorato’s office at the library. The hours now are every Thursday from 11:00am – 2:00pm. He understands that some of the constituents here in the borough don’t have the means to be able to come to the office in Lawrenceville. They can help constituents with senior bus passes, property tax rebates, and utility assistance and other various items. There will be a meeting at Panera Bread on January 8, 2020, at 5:30pm to get feedback from Sharpsburg residents and council on what some of the needs of the community are. Aquiline also introduced a new staff member, Kristen. She will be helping the borough with future grants.

Mike Danihar – Sharpsburg Volunteer Fire Department

Danihar noticed there is no tax increase for the 2020 budget for the fire department. We are wondering if council gave any consideration after the proposal presented at last month’s meeting. Reno responded and said she has not heard anything and is not opposed to a tax increase for the department. Jaso will bring up before we get to the budget.

Committee Reports:

W. Rossey, Manager

Rossey explained each consent agenda item.

L. Trozzo, Zoning/Planning/Code
Nothing

G. Domian, Personnel
Nothing

Thanked everyone who made the Hometown Celebration a huge success and a thank you to everyone who attended.

K. Pastor, Public Safety
28 fire calls in November
Year to date there are 301 calls
Parkview EMS
77 calls in November
13 BLS
24 ALS
33 Refusals and Standby's
7 turned over to other agencies

Rossey asked Pastor if she wanted him to explain the allocation of the monies agreed upon for Parkview to service our community. She said yes.

Rossey explained that nothing is owed for the months of November and December of 2019.

Rossey met with Parkview's director and they agreed to \$1,000 a month to be paid for the first 10 months of 2020.

J. Simbari, Public Works
Excused

J. Jaso, Health/Property

Jaso would like to raise taxes. We have not raised taxes in a long time. Jaso proposed an increase at 1.35mills for a total of 8.35 mills.

Reno asked is that a motion.

Pastor asked Rossey his opinion of the tax increase. Rossey feels that revenue from the sale of homes, increase in the collection of mercantile tax due to new businesses in town, and EIT collection increase because people are working is a good sign. Rossey feels that the borough is okay.

Reno asked Jaso what exactly he is looking for. Jaso said 1.35mills. The fire department would get .5 of the 1.35mills.

The discussion ensued and Jaso removed his motion.

Laing supports the raise in the fire tax.

Rossey stated you must advertise the increase before the January 6, 2020 meeting.

Jaso made a motion to advertise the additional .35mills for the fire tax for a total of .50 mills.

2nd by Trozzo
All in Favor – Yes
Roll Call:
Domian – Yes
Jaso – Yes
Pastor – Yes
Trozzo – Yes
Simbari – Absent
Laing – Yes
Reno – Yes

A. Laing, Finance

Thanked Rossey for the proposed budget and explanation of the financial payment arrangement with Parkview EMS.

Laing also thanked everyone involved who helped with the Hometown Celebration.

A. Mack, Junior Council

Mack feels the Hometown Celebration was a huge success.

J. D'Ambrosio, Public Works

D'Ambrosio we are busy with the snow and ice removal currently.

M. Rudzki, Mayor

Rudzki prepared and read a proclamation for Larry Trozzo on his extraordinary service to Sharpsburg Borough.

Rudzki also read a proclamation from County Councilwoman Anita Prozio about the Triboro Eco District that consists of Etna, Millvale, and Sharpsburg. She presented the borough with a certificate of recognition.

Rudzki talked about O'Hara Township and Fox Chapel and how they have applied for a grant through the Army Corp of Engineers to do a watershed and flood plain study of Squaw Run. They did not include Sharpsburg, so Rudzki reached out to Conor Lamb's office and the Army Corp of Engineers. Last week they met with Rossey and Rudzki to discuss the two programs the borough can apply for funds for a study of Seitz Run. There are two programs we can apply for. One being the Flood Plain Management Services Program. It's a 50% funded program, that's the guarantee minimum that they will provide. The other being the Environmental Infrastructure Program which is 100% funded. They advised us to send letters of intent for both. Packages will then be prepared for the borough council to review to see which option is the best for the borough. Rudzki will be looking for O'Hara Township to share the expense with us because most of the flow is theirs. The letters are written and looking to have approval for Rossey to send out.

Rudzki mentioned Fox Chapel Area High School's telethon tomorrow from 11am-1pm. They are generously donating the proceeds to the Sharpsburg Community Library.

Rudzki thanked Domian for his work on the Hometown Celebration and all his volunteers who helped and the companies and people who donated all the gifts.

Rudzki mentioned the Volunteers of America. They are starting a youth empowerment project here in Sharpsburg.

Rudzki talked about the Second Harvest store that will be up and running by August.

B. Reno, President

Reno has an issue for executive session which is personnel.

Reno followed up on Vicky Alexander's dilemma with the parking around Ferra's. The no parking signs are coming down and the yellow line removed after the Chief spoke with Mr. Ferra.

T. Stelitano, Chief of Police

222 Police calls

Zero Juvenile Arrests

3 Adult Arrest

1 – Drug Arrest

1 – DUI Arrest

7 – Traffic Stops

Stelitano mentioned that Kimmel completed a taser instructor certification class. All police officers will be trained by the end of the year. Kimmel is also our firearms instructor.

Rudzki said he and the Chief reviewed the calls from last year to this year and the call volume is down by 400 calls which is roughly 13-14%.

Reno said that she and Stelitano attended a meeting about a Law Enforcement Assisted Diversion program which is going to be piloted in the city of Pittsburgh and communities who want it. Essentially, this is a program that gives officers the option to not arrest someone for a petty crime but to get them a case manager that will take them through the process offering many different human services such as helping them find housing, etc. Next year Reno will be looking for a resolution from council to pursue the program. A lot of the officers are doing this right now but having to look for the resources themselves.

M. Witherel, Solicitor

Witherel said we are getting close to closing with Pittsburgh Metal and trying to get it done before the end of the year.

Consent Agenda:

- A. Payment of bills due through January 6, 2020
- B. Minutes from the November 26, 2019 Meeting

- C. Motion to pass Ordinance 20-02, known as the Commercial Fire Safety Inspection Ordinance, requiring owners, landlords, managers and agents of commercial properties to obtain a commercial fire safety operating license.
- D. Motion to approve the 2020 Proposed Budget.
- E. Motion to advertise Ordinance 20-01 setting the 2020 tax millage rate at 7.15mills. (No Increase)
- F. Motion to approve the subdivision plans for 19th Street and Chapman Street known as Block & Lot 168-M-121.
- G. Motion to advertise the following meeting dates for 2020:
 - 1. Re-organization Meeting – Monday, January 6th @6:30pm
 - 2. Regular Council Meeting – 4th Thursday @ 6:30pm
 - 3. Planning Commission – 2nd Thursday @ 6:30pm
 - 4. Zoning Hearing Board 2nd Tuesday @ 6:30pm
- H. Motion to send letters of intent to seek the Army Corp of Engineers proposals for the Flood Plain Management Services and to the Environmental Infrastructure Program.

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

Roll Call:
 Domian – Yes
 Jaso – Yes
 Pastor – Yes
 Simbari – Absent
 Trozzo – Yes
 Laing – Yes
 Reno – Yes

Permits:
 A. Handicap Parking
 1. Art Granzeier – 1335 Main Street

Motion by Pastor
 2nd by Jaso

- B. Use Permits (NONE)
- C. Zoning/Building (NONE)

Refunds – None

Executive Session

1. Personnel

Reno asked for a Motion to Adjourn to executive session at 7:40pm

Motion by Pastor

2nd by Jaso

Respectfully Submitted,

William Rossey

Sharpsburg Borough Manager

WR:ck