

**SHARPSBURG BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING**  
**February 25, 2021**

At 6:00 p.m., the interviews of the three candidates that applied for the vacant seat started. These candidates are Anita Schaming, Kayla Portis, and Dan Snyder. Each candidate was asked to explain why they would be suitable for the seat.

Anita Schaming – Said she would like to be involved in the community. She has lived in the borough for 26 years and has a business here. She would like to be part of the R47 project and she would like to try and recruit more restaurants and businesses into town to support the other local businesses already here.

Dan Snyder – Would advocate for more signage around town and he supports council in other projects throughout the borough. He said he has learned a lot from when he ran for council in 2017.

Kayla Portis – Said she has lived in the borough for 30 years. She would like to build a better Sharpsburg economically and socially.

Questions and answers ensued from the candidates until 6:30pm and the regular business meeting started.

Honorable Mayor  
Members of Council

The Regular Business Meeting of the Sharpsburg Council was held February 25, 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, Brad Truman, Adrienne Laing, Brittany Reno, Mayor Rudzki and Chief Stelitano.

After roll call Reno asked for a discussion for the appointment of the vacant council seat. A discussion ensued about each of the candidates. Jaso made a motion to appoint Anita Schaming to the 10-month appointment to the vacant seat.

2<sup>nd</sup> by Simbari

All in Favor 3 Yay's 3 Nay's

Reno asked if the Mayor needed to vote to break the tie.

Solicitor replied and said in the event of a tie in the appointment, the Mayor does have the ability to break the tie, however you can still have a roll call. The roll call will determine if there is a tie and then you can request the Mayor to vote or not.

Roll Call:  
Simbari – Yes  
Jaso – Yes  
Pastor – Yes  
Laing – No

Truman – No  
Reno – No

Reno asked at this point should we have Matt vote yes or no to appoint Anita Schaming to the council seat? The Solicitor responded and said the Mayor at this time may or may not choose to break the tie. Reno responded, okay.

Rudzki said being faced with a tie at this time and having three great candidates, he feels that one candidate outside of the other two candidates has been an integral part of the community. Rudzki voted no at this time.

Reno spoke to Portis' passion in her letter and commitment to this community and leadership in organizing people into the process has impressed Reno not just since tonight and a month but for years in being on the frontline helping people getting them involved and advocating for changes they want to see and Reno said is very impressive. Another issue as a borough Reno believes we have never had a person of color on council. Reno said she feels it is beyond time for that to happen. Reno said we are fortunate because Portis happens to be the best suited candidate for this position but on top of that Reno said she feels it really knocks it out of the park for her.

Reno made a motion to appoint Kayla Portis to the vacant seat on council.

2<sup>nd</sup> by Truman

Reno asked for discussion or any comments or questions.

All in Favor – Yes

Roll Call:

Jaso – Yes

Pastor – Yes

Simbari – Yes

Truman – Yes

Laing – Yes

Reno – Yes

Motion carried.

Rudzki administered the oath of office with the help of Rossey because of zoom technical difficulties.

Citizen Comments (Agenda items Only):

Citizen Comments (Registered)

Sara Mariacher, Sharpsburg Library - Gave her monthly update on the library statistics and activities available to the children and adults. Mariacher also mentioned that the Greengrocer is now doing delivery. Please call the library for more information.

Sharon Shepard – Flooding Seitz Run

Shepard expressed her concerns about the flooding from Kittanning Pike. She feels that no one will take responsibility. This includes PennDOT, O'Hara Township, and the borough. Shepard feels everyone keeps passing the buck. Rossey addressed Shepard and said the flooding starts up above in O'Hara. We have to stop it from above. Rossey also said that O'Hara and

PennDOT are addressing the issues. It takes time to come up with a plan of action, the engineers from PennDOT and O'Hara are working together to find the solution to the problem. Rossey said he will reach out again to O'Hara and District 11 of PennDOT. Reno asked to be copied on the email.

### **Committee Reports**

W. Rossey – Borough Manager  
Rossey reviewed the items in the consent agenda.

B. Truman – Zoning/Planning/Code  
Nothing currently.

K. Portis – Personnel  
Nothing currently. New to council.

K. Pastor – Public Safety  
21 Fire Calls in January

Pastor explained the amount of time it takes to be on calls. She went through a one-day scenario when they had 4 calls in a 10-hour period. One of them was a fire in Shaler and they returned to the station at 4:30 a.m. only to have another call at 6:30 a.m. Everyone is a volunteer and sometimes after a call most have to go to work. Pastor asked that everyone please donate when the fund drive letters come out and say thank you when you see one of the firemen. Pastor said the yearly letter will be going out in the next month and the fish fry is Good Friday, April 2<sup>nd</sup>, 11am-7pm. We will take pre-orders the night before from 6pm-8pm and orders the day of the fish fry, take-out, or delivery.

Please support the fire department.

Pastor welcomed Portis to council.

Pastor said she will be sending a link for the Incident Command System to Truman and Portis. It is 2 classes. She asked that they please print their certificates when complete. It helps the fire department with grants.

Pastor said the aerial truck is still being built and should be delivered mid-March.

J. Simbari – Public Works

Reno thanked the DPW for their phenomenal job at removing the snow around town.

Simbari welcomed Portis to council.

Simbari said his decision he made tonight to nominate Anita Schaming was not personal. Simbari thought it was the best decision for council just on optics if nothing else, because we are in an election and there is a ticket on the next election and there are members of council that voted tonight on that ticket and Simbari feels the appearance is not right. That is why he made the decision because it was only a 10-month appointment. Simbari feels council sets precedence. Simbari though we would follow that of the past appointment of Adrienne Laing. Simbari was disappointed and feels it is old stinky politics.

Simbari said the new DPW building is coming along nicely and we are getting close to occupancy.

#### A. Laing – Health/Property

Reno thanked Truman, Pastor, and Laing for all their time in interviewing the candidates for the positions for the human relations committee.

Laing said there was 9 applicants for the HRC. Laing thanked Pastor and Truman as it was difficult to make the decisions.

Laing said their recommendations are Roxanne Acquaro, Erin Angeli, Kayla Causer, Michael White, and Mary Jane Kozlowski.

Laing said Allegheny County HRC is committed to supporting Etna and Sharpsburg and has invited Etna and Sharpsburg to their meeting next week to introduce us and talk about our ordinances and HRC's and talk about training and collaboration.

Laing said the Etna/Sharpsburg Earth Day Challenge is set for April 24, 2021.

Reno made a motion to accept the recommendations of the HRC interviewing committee to appoint Michael White, Mary Jane Kozlowski, Erin, Kayla, and Roxane Acquiro to the human rights commission for the staggered, 4, 3, 2, and 1-year terms on random drawings.

2<sup>nd</sup> by Laing

All in Favor – Yes

#### J. Jaso – Finance

Reno said the Adopt a Street ordinance is the best thing you have done since you have been on council and you have gathered great material for the program, so thank you.

Jaso thanked the DPW for fixing the crater on 15<sup>th</sup> Street.

Jaso asked the Chief if we can look into the crosswalk enforcement please and also the enforcement of the abandoned vehicles. The chief responded and said yes, we are working on both.

#### A. Mack – Junior Council (absent)

Reno let us put another call out there for a Junior Council member. Reno said she will write an article for the position.

#### J. D'Ambrosio – Public Works Director

D'Ambrosio said the building is getting close to being ready to move in.

D'Ambrosio said we have been very busy with the snow and ice removal lately.

D'Ambrosio mentioned that they are working on the potholes. Jaso asked if the guys can use the tamper instead of using a vehicle to pack the cold patch.

Rossey said remember that Main Street is a PennDOT's road, and we maintain it some but not entirely.

#### M. Rudzki – Mayor

Rudzki congratulated and thanked Kayla Portis but also to all the applicants for the vacancy.

Rudzki congratulated and thanked all the newly appointed members of the Human Rights Commission and please stay engaged to all those who applied but were not appointed.

Rudzki thanked the DPW for all their tireless work during the winter weather.

Rudzki thanked Chief Stelitano and Officer Hoebel for organizing the Legitimacy Training and to all the participating agencies.

Rudzki congratulated Posa Landscaping on 50 years of business in Sharpsburg.

Rudzki congratulated Building Products on 30 years of business in Sharpsburg.

Rudzki spoke with Chief Stelitano, Chief Nemec, Mayor Noro, and Council President Reno and McLaughlin regarding piloting the Law Enforcement Assisted Diversion program through the

Congress of Neighboring Communities. It is another tool for our officers to help divert people from the criminal justice system who suffer from addiction and mental health issues to get them into counseling and rehabilitation to get better outcomes for all and strengthen our communities. The Chiefs and Council Presidents have been attending meetings, and it has the support of Mayor Noro and Aspinwall Council.

B. Reno – President

Reno heard from the Tri-Cog Land Bank that the county passed a new Act for providing new funds for demolitions. Reno would like to pursue some of the funding when it opens in March to demo the building at 1833 Main Street. Rossey responded and said he has a zoom meeting with our Cog regarding the new Act.

Reno thanked Officer Hoebel and the other officers who attended the Police Legitimacy training. Our whole team goes hard on trainings and it does not go unnoticed and is greatly appreciated. Reno mentioned the LEAD program. Reno has been talking with the Mayor, Chief, and Officer Hoebel. Reno sent information to the other council members and understands it is a lot of information to read. Reno said we have been talking to Aspinwall to see if they are interested and other neighboring municipalities if they would be interested in taking advantage of this opportunity to bring other social resources into the communities.

Pastor responded and said that it is a very in-depth program, and it is something that is not going to happen overnight. There are so many different guidelines and we are going to need funds to hire these people.

Reno said that is why she is bringing it up now because there is going to be a Grant opportunity to have these resources covered for us. It is a good time to pilot the program. It has been done in other metropolitan areas and just started here as a pilot program.

A discussion ensued. Reno will introduce at next month's meeting.

Reno mentioned the Connect the Congress of Neighboring Communities, of which we are a member, is working with Trying Together which is an advocacy group for early childhood education and support. They are a focus group on early education and childcare access in our community. They are having a meeting during the day if any of you can attend and there is also a survey that you can use to give your input.

Reno mentioned Augie's Way again. Can we move forward on this? Jaso asked if she needs a motion.

Jaso made a motion to rename Short Alley to Augie's Way.

2<sup>nd</sup> by Reno

All in Favor – Yes

Mary Grace Ferraro thanked everyone on behalf of her family. Augie was a volunteer fireman and worked locally at Miller Springs and retired from there.

T. Stelitano – Chief

1 – Adult Arrest

1 – Juvenile Arrest

10 – Traffic Citations

Stelitano mentioned the Police Legitimacy training, it went very well with a lot of great feedback. Stelitano thanked Ferra's for supplying breakfast from Panera and Gino Brothers for donating half of the pizzas.

Stelitano said they will be working on speeding details on Main Street shortly and stop signs.

Stelitano addressed Jaso that they have found 4 abandoned vehicles this week.

M. Witherel – Solicitor

Nothing currently.

Simbari asked the Solicitor what the status of the business on 1<sup>st</sup> Street. The Solicitor responded and said the hearings have been rescheduled for early March.

Consent Agenda:

- a. Payment of bills due through March 25, 2021.
- b. Minutes from the January 28, 2021 Meeting.
- c. Motion to pass Ordinance 21-02 amending chapter six, part seven, nuisance property infractions section 6-703 to exclude instances associated with domestic violence.
- d. Motion to grant Sharpsburg Family Worship Center permission to use Kennedy Park on Saturday March 27, 2021 from 10:00am to 4:00pm to hold their 22<sup>nd</sup> Annual Easter Egg Hunt and Carnival and to close North Canal Street during this event.
- e. Motion to award Shields Asphalt Paving the 2021 Paving Contract in the amount of \$81,608.30.
- f. Motion to advertise Ordinance 21-03 establishing the Sharpsburg Borough Adopt-A-Street Program.
- g. Motion to advertise Ordinance 21-04 dealing with Polycyclic Aromatic Hydrocarbons and certain other Hazardous Substances.

Motion by Jaso

2<sup>nd</sup> by Simbari

All in Favor - Yes

Roll Call:

Simbari – Yes

Truman – Yes

Laing – Yes

Pastor – Yes

Jaso – Yes

Portis – Yes

Reno - Yes

Permits:

- a. Accessible Parking
  1. Ronald Bauer – 209 N. Main Street

Motion by Reno

2<sup>nd</sup> by Simbari

All in Favor - Yes

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

Refunds – NONE

Executive Session

- a. Discuss borough property.

Reno asked for a motion to adjourn at 8:05pm.  
Motion by Jaso  
2<sup>nd</sup> by Truman  
All in Favor – Yes

Respectfully Submitted,

William Rossey  
Sharpsburg Borough Manager

WR:ck