

SHARPSBURG BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING

July 22, 2021

Honorable Mayor
Members of Council

The Regular Business Meeting of the Sharpsburg Council was held July 22, 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.

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.

Joe Simbari arrived at 6:37pm

Jeff Berman – TreeVitalize Pittsburgh

Berman gave a short presentation on what they can do for the borough offering a green community assessment and providing trees, watersheds, and water gardens to the borough through a grant that they have received.

Greg Domian – Sharpsburg Fall Festival

Domian asked for permission to have the fall festival at Kennedy Park on October 2, 2021, from 2 p.m. – 7 p.m.

Motion by Pastor to approve the Sharpsburg Fall Festival on October 2 in Kennedy Park.

2nd by Jaso

All in Favor – Yes

Thomas Heilman EMT – Parkview VFD/EMS

Heilman explained the reasons why they must do a subscription mailing for EMS services.

They need to be in Medicare compliance. Heilman also gave examples of costs when you are a subscriber and not a subscriber with insurance for services provided.

Jaso made the motion to let Parkview EMS go forward with the subscription drive with the parameters provided.

2nd by Truman

All in Favor – No

Jaso – Yes

Pastor – Yes

Simbari – No

Truman – Yes

Laing - Yes

Portis – Yes

Reno – Yes
Motion Carried

Steve Mosites – R47 Update

Mosites said they sold 6 acres of the 58 to Aspinwall Riverfront Park and that they have changed their name to the Allegheny River Trail Park and will be expanding the park side of that after purchasing a 12-foot trail easement that will travel the mile and a half for a temporary trail easement. Mosites said the Live Work Learn Play Group and Working Group will be back in town next week and meeting in Harrisburg to talk about the overall project and will be meeting with certain folks in the borough like Roots of Faith. Mosites offered their property for the fireworks for the Fall Festival.

Committee Reports:

W. Rossey – Borough Manager

Rossey reviewed the consent agenda.

Rossey said the streetscape project was delayed but they will be in town this coming Monday to start the project. There will be 6-8 bike racks along Main Street. There is a circle in the middle of the bike racks and there will be the Sharpsburg logo on them.

Rossey mentioned there a shipping delay of the playground equipment until middle to late August.

B. Truman – Zoning/Planning/Code

Nothing Currently.

K. Portis – Personnel

Portis thanked the council members who interviewed the new part-time officer. Portis said that they recommended the hire of Officer Karski which is on the consent agenda.

Portis said she would like to address a recurring issue. Last council meeting, I was appalled by the behavior that Councilor Simbari displayed. His actions as an elected official during a public & recorded meeting reflect poorly on Councilor Simbari and us as a board. He has been censured previously due to threatening physical harm to the mayor. This must be addressed. I would like to make a motion to censure Councilor Simbari for his inappropriate behavior.

2nd by Truman

All in Favor – Yes

K. Pastor – Public Safety

24 Fire calls in June

Pastor said that there was a fire call on Bridge Street in Etna and there was a fatality. An 80-year-old woman passed away. The house next door also caught fire. Two firefighters did a search of the second floor. The smoke was very thick and they could not see -- they opened a door and a firefighter fell because there were hundreds of beer cans on the floor which made it very difficult for the firefighters to work into the room. Hoarding situations are very dangerous for the residents and for the firefighters.

Pastor mentioned the new cement pads are finished in front of the building.

Pastor asked Rudzki when Dancing Gnome is going to open their new location. Rudzki replied and said that they have had supply chain issues which is delaying the job, however they have started to brew. Pastor said the reason she asked was because we don't need food trucks on the Main Street with all the construction going on. A discussion ensued about the food trucks and the new location. Chief Stelitano said he would email Mr. Witchey about the food trucks.

J. Simbari – Public Works

Simbari said he will be abstaining from E on the consent agenda and, he does not receive any commission because he works in a totally different division from municipal sales.

Simbari said as for D on the consent agenda, he did not have the opportunity to interview but is going on the recommendation of the Mayor and Chief.

Pastor asked Simbari when the dedication of the new public works building will be. Simbari said he will have information at the next meeting.

A. Laing – Health/Property

Laing said at the last meeting Mr. Mauro came and talked about the speeding on Penn Street and an autism sign and she saw that the signs are up. Thank you.

Laing also reached out the property manager of Sharps Terrace about the parking issues in the 1100 block of Penn Street. Laing said the property manager is not on site but is available by phone and zoom for the residents. Laing is going to share the borough ordinance for accessible parking with her.

Laing mentioned that funnel cake Friday's continue and this Friday Allegheny County Health Department and Allegheny County VHS will be providing information on overdose prevention, Narcan, Hep C, and STD testing.

Rossey mentioned that this has been a huge success for the Rotary.

J. Jaso – Finance

Nothing currently.

Jaso apologized for the quick exit at the last meeting as he had a family emergency.

Jaso said he will have more information on the lantern festival at the next meeting.

J. D'Ambrosio – Public Works Director

D'Ambrosio said they are almost completely moved into the new building and that the floors will be completed next week.

D'Ambrosio said the painting of the crosswalks is in progress.

Truman thanked D'Ambrosio for coming down on a Saturday and help him find power for the Shop Sharpsburg Street Fair.

M. Rudzki – Mayor

Rudzki mentioned the Army Corp of Engineers. They have submitted their flood plan management study for Seitz Run. It is at the top of their list. If we receive the grant, there would be a 2-year study that would finish at the end of 2023 for \$162,000 and is completely federally funded. Thank you to the Army Corp. of Engineers.

Rudzki reiterated Laing's mention of signage on Penn Street and talked about the request for the stop sign. Rudzki and the Solicitor reviewed the ordinance for signs and found that there are 20 intersections that could have stop signs but do not. The Solicitor said that the resolution should be added instead of having to go through advertising. He asked for it to be added to the consent agenda or a motion be made to get the resolution in motion. Rossey said there are intersections where the roads are too narrow to add a stop sign because the garbage trucks will rip them down and suggested that painting stop bars and stenciling stop on the road to be able to identify better.

Rudzki thanked Laing for mentioning the rotary and funnel cake Fridays, it has been a blast.

Rudzki thanked Allegheny River Trail Park – we have been waiting for years to have a trail.

B. Reno – President

Reno mentioned the Squonk opera August 7th at 1pm.

Reno said CMU professor that is a civil engineer has her senior civil engineering students that would like to do a project on Kennedy Park. Suggesting feasibility analysis, what green infrastructures, how much water can be held, and be able to talk to the community focused thing to be able to talk to residents in the community to see what they would like to see, like flower gardens, etc.

Reno asked about the quotes for the core drilling at Kennedy Park to see what is there. Rossey said Shane from Senate Engineering has already looked into it, he will follow up with Shane. A discussion ensued about the water retention at Kennedy Park.

T. Stelitano – Chief

Stelitano thanked council for the hiring of Officer Karski.

Stelitano said for the fulltime officer position, they took their physical agility test last week and only three people showed up to take it and all three work for us and they all passed. They also took the written test this week and Rossey sent the test out to be graded. We should get the results back in the next week and then Stelitano will get the oral interview process moving.

Stelitano mentioned that the traffic nightmare we thought would happen because of the bridge ramp closure has not happened. The business district is dead during the day. There is a traffic officer at the light at 8th Street along with two traffic officers at the 62nd Street Bridge.

Stelitano wanted to make everyone aware that the new report rating system is up and running and that Officer Carb created the system for the whole county. Stelitano said he gets calls that they want to borrow him. He did an excellent job!

263 Calls

3 Adults Arrests

0 Juvenile Arrest

M. Witherel – Solicitor

Nothing currently.

Consent Agenda:

- a. Payment of bills due through August 26, 2021
- b. Minutes from the June 25, 2021, meeting.
- c. Motion to pass Resolution 21-10 approving the grant submittal for the Alcosan Green Revitalization of Our Waterways (GROW) Program.
- d. Motion to hire John-Michael Karski as a part-time police officer effective July 22, 2021.
- e. Motion to purchase a 2021 Ford F-350, 4x4 Dump Truck from Woltz & Wind Ford, Inc. through the COSTARS buying program for \$65,665.00.
- f. Motion to advertise an amendment to the stop sign ordinance as described by the Solicitor.

Motion by Jaso

2nd by Laing

All in Favor – Yes

Simbari abstains from E because he works at Woltz & Wind Ford

Simbari – Yes

Truman – Yes

Laing – Yes

Pastor – Yes

Jaso – Yes

Portis – Yes
Reno – Yes
Motion carried.

Permits:

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

Refunds: None

Executive Session – NO

Reno asked for a motion to adjourn at 8:19pm.

Motion by Jaso
2nd by Pastor

Respectfully Submitted,

William Rossey
Sharpsburg Borough Manager

WR:ck