

**SHARPSBURG BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING**  
**July 23, 2020**

Honorable Mayor  
Members of Council

The Regular Business Meeting of the Sharpsburg Council was held July 23, 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, 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 report on the statistics on the library.

Riverfront 47 – Grant Request

Riverfront 47 presenters gave a presentation pertaining to the development of the riverfront. They are asking the borough to help raise funds locally for the public infrastructure. One way is Tax Increment Financing (TIF) and the other is Transit Revitalization Investment District (TRID). R47 is asking the borough to sponsor and apply for the funding for the TRID study only.

Motion by Simbari to apply for the funding for the TRID study on behalf of R47 project.

2<sup>nd</sup> by Jaso

All in Favor – Yes

Simbari – Yes

Domian – Yes

Jaso – Yes

Laing – Yes

Truman – Yes

Reno – Yes

7 yay's Motion Carried

Committee Reports:

W. Rossey – Manager  
Rossey reviewed the consent agenda.

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

G. Domian – Personnel

Domian spoke about the body cameras for the police. He stands firm on the original discussion. He would like to see them implemented when the Chief is ready.

Domian addressed the proposal from Laing on the anti-discrimination ordinance. He is aware that the county, state, and federal levels have anti-discrimination ordinances. He feels that if we put the anti-discrimination commission into place that it could open lawsuits against the borough. Domain feels that these issues would be better addressed by the county, state, or federal levels. A discussion ensued about the commission. Jaso asked to table the discussion.

Domian talked about the email received from Mike Danahur about the issues at James Sharp Landing with the garbage, drinking and drug use at the park.

A discussion went on about changing the park hours, access to the park (gate), and the use of alcohol and that people should be cited. The discussion also addressed people using Riverfront 47's property. Rossey was asked to contact Riverfront 47 and ask them to put up signage. Domian stated that he would contact the Fish & Boat Commission on what the borough can and can not do at the Landing.

Motion by Simbari to contact the Fish & Boat Commission to see what jurisdiction is at James Sharp landing and if we are permitted to post hours for fishing. Hours that the park would be closed to the general public would be from 10pm to dawn.

2<sup>nd</sup> by Jaso

All in Favor – Yes

K. Pastor – Public Safety

19 calls for June

130 Year to Date

Pastor talked about the 10<sup>th</sup> Street fire that happened on the 4<sup>th</sup> of July. There is a resident that likes to set off heavy duty fireworks. The embers from one of the fireworks landed onto a roof. The resident's daughter put the embers out with a garden hose. You are not supposed to set off fireworks within 150' of another structure. We need to try and control that issue. There were two people cited for that incident.

Pastor mentioned that every five (5) years the county asks us to submit our mitigation plan. Dennis Lane, our Emergency Management Coordinator, is working on that right now. We must give them our target actions and that is flooding. He will present before council and then the plan will be sent to the county.

Pastor talked about the handicap parking spot issue in town. She talked to the Solicitor and he forwarded her the ordinance. She feels that we give them to anyone. She feels that we are not checking to see who truly needs one and who does not. The ordinance states that it is at our discretion and not mandatory to give spots to people. It also states that a copy of the Physical Disability plate registration is required. She feels it is something we should think about requesting. Chief Stelitano addressed Pastor and said he has done a drive through town and counted the spots – there are 60. Carleen, and Sandy and the Chief will be sending out a renewal letter. If he does not receive a response back their spot will be removed.

Pastor said there is a yellow line at 9<sup>th</sup> and Penn Streets. If we remove the line that is not necessary, we can create a parking space.

Reno spoke about the parking study that she has been working on with Allegheny Together. They focused on Clay Street. She said the curb cuts on that street are wide. If we were to make them smaller, we could possibly increase the parking spaces by 20.

Simbari – Public Works

Nothing currently.

Rossey mentioned that the start of the new public works building will begin the week of July 27, 2020. He will put out the complete construction schedule once he receives it from Graham Construction. Reno asked Rossey to send a letter to the residents so they are aware that the construction is going to begin.

Lou Costanzo, Fire Chief, asked to speak.

He thanked Chief Stelitano, Officer Sculli, and Officer Carb for their assistance and quick response to the potential fires he had on his street on the 4<sup>th</sup> of July.

A. Laing – Health/Property

Laing thanked all the first responders and the faith community during the pandemic.

Laing spoke about the Sharpsburg Environment Advisory Committee. They will be meeting on July 27<sup>th</sup> to discuss the Climate Action proposal and the future of the committee.

Laing also thanked the Sharpsburg Community Garden for all the produce they have been distributing to the residence. Reno also said that tomorrow (Friday) evening they will be giving out free produce at the 13<sup>th</sup> Street and Middle Street garden location. The garden will also be selling a cookbook for \$15.00 to help raise money for the garden.

J. Jaso – Finance

Jaso asked if the new vehicles are in yet? Rossey responded and said the police car is here but we are waiting for the equipment to be installed. It is going to take 6-8 weeks to get the equipment installed. The dump truck is not in yet.

Jaso expressed concern about using a fire truck and EMS vehicle for a warrant arrest. Chief Stelitano addressed Jaso and said it will probably be the only time that it will be used. Jaso does not want people to think that this is going to be a regular occurrence which could put our firefighters and EMS at risk of getting hurt.

A. Mack – Junior Council

Nothing currently/Absent

J. D'Ambrosio – Public Works

Nothing currently/Absent

M. Rudzki – Mayor

Rudzki thanked Shaler Township for sending their vactor truck to help clean the catch basins to help mitigate the effects of wet weather events in Sharpsburg.

Rudzki thanked the DPW for the work at James Sharp Landing. They did a deep cleaning, repainted the lines, trimmed the weeds, and cleared the overgrowth below the fishing wall and the swept the lot. The pollinator garden that the Kerr Girl Scouts plated looks great.

Rudzki reminded the community that there is free Yoga in Kennedy Park every Wednesday at 6:30pm.

Rudzki mentioned that the Green Grocer is back. They will be at the Sharpsburg Community Library from 2pm-4pm on Friday.

Rudzki talked about the Rent/Mortgage Relief under the CAREs Act. Applications are now being accepted by Pennsylvania Housing Finance Agency (PHFA).

Rudzki also said that Governor Wolf has extended the eviction and foreclosure moratorium until August 31, 2020.

B. Reno – President

Reno talked about the CAREs Act for people who have lost work since March 1<sup>st</sup>. Sharpsburg Neighborhood Organization on July 29<sup>th</sup> to find out what programs are available.

Reno thanked the police department for handling all the incidents in town and thanked the first responders for their help during the recent surface flooding in town.

Reno mentioned that the library box at 16<sup>th</sup> Street is empty. If you have any book you can donate would be great. If you take a book put a book back in its place. Children's books would be wonderful to have for the children.

Reno asked about payables. There was a check written for a refund for the senior tower. Why? Rudzki responded and said that they are now exempt and there was an appeal filed. Reno asked about the check for \$250.00 for weed killer. Rossey responded and said it is approved through the county. Reno still wants to know what kind of weed killer is it. Rossey said he will have to find out and get back to her.

Reno asked for the Chief's feedback on the body cameras for the officers. The Chief responded and said he is all for it if we go the right way about it and that the equipment is top notch and not cheap. A lot of the departments that went the inexpensive way are having many problems with the equipment. The Chief and Officer Kimmel have a few more things to add to the policies and procedures. He also said that he has a contact at Zappala's office. They will help with the purchase of the cameras. However, they want to know how much we are paying for the cameras and how much the borough is going to pay. Jaso said 50/50 at the cost for the basic package of \$19,126.00.

Reno mentioned the produce boxes are being given out at Roots of Faith and the Family Worship Center. There is enough to feed a family of 4. She is happy to say that the program has been extended until the end of October.

Reno thanked the Mayor and Shaler for the vector truck action in town.

T. Stelitano – Chief of Police  
302 calls  
10 – adult arrests  
1 – juvenile arrest

M. Witherel – Solicitor  
Nothing currently.

Consent Agenda:

- a. Payment of bills due through August 27, 2020
- b. Minutes from the June 25, 2020 meeting.
- c. Motion to pass Resolution 20-10 approving the Dancing Gnome Brewery plan revision for new land development at 1023 Main Street, Sharpsburg, PA 15215 request for a sanitary sewer tap.
- d. Motion to give Sharpsburg Family Worship Center permission to have their annual "Operation Backpack" on Saturday, August 15, 2020 from 6:00PM to 8:00PM and to block Clay Street from 8<sup>th</sup> Street to 6<sup>th</sup> Street during this time.
- e. Approve request from Bettina Taylor to close Cecil Street on Saturday, August 15, 2020 from 12:00pm to 5:00pm to hold a birthday party for her son who is turning 1 year old.
- f. Motion to move forward with the purchase of the body cameras from the Axon proposal in the amount of \$19,126.00.

Motion by Jaso  
2<sup>nd</sup> by Pastor  
All in Favor – Yes

Reno – Yes  
Jaso – Yes  
Pastor – Yes  
Simbari – Yes  
Truman – Yes

Laing – Yes  
Domian – Yes

Motion carried.

Permits:

- a. Handicap Parking
  - i. Elizabeth Lucille Hunter – 1337 Main St.

Motion by Simbari  
2<sup>nd</sup> by Truman  
All in Favor – Yes

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

Refund – No

Executive Session – No

Reno asked for a Motion to Adjourn at 9:34pm  
Motion by Jaso  
2<sup>nd</sup> by Simbari, All in Favor – Yes

Respectfully Submitted,

William Rossey  
Sharpsburg Borough Manager

WR:ck