

**SHARPSBURG BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING**  
**May 28, 2020**

Honorable Mayor  
Members of Council

The Regular Business Meeting of the Sharpsburg Council was held May 28, 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 (absent), Brad Truman, Adrienne Laing, Brittany Reno, Mayor Rudzki and Chief Stelitano. Joe Simbari and Junior Council Member Aiden Mack were absent.

Citizen Comments (Agenda items Only): None

Citizen Comments (Registered)

Committee Reports

W. Rossey – Manager  
Rossey explained each consent agenda item.

B. Truman – Zoning/Planning/Code  
Reported that Lou Deluca is still able to do inspections via facetime and or going into the property when vacant. Truman would also like to get Lou to start using excel rather than having handwritten reports.

G. Domian – Personnel  
No, not currently. Domian talked about the renovations at the Linden Gym and their COVID-19 protocol once the gym can be opened to the public.

K. Pastor – Public Safety  
Calls: March 21, April 10  
Pastor mentioned that they had to cancel their annual fish fry due to the pandemic and they estimate they lost about \$8000 in revenue.  
Pastor is disappointed that Lindsey Williams, State Representative, voted against the additional grant funding for fire departments during the pandemic.  
Pastor noted that the fire department decided not to send out fund drive letters at this time, but we may send them out later in the year.  
Pastor mentioned James Sharp Landing area had some issues. One being the handicap rails. The rails have been taken out but there are some sharp pieces left that someone could get hurt on. Rossey said he will have the DPW grind them down. There is also a curb stop that is missing at the handicap spot. The caps on the top of the support poles are missing and garbage has been dropped inside so the fishermen can put their fishing rods inside. Pastor is also concerned about the kids playing near bodies of water during this time since many pools are not open. She asked the Chief how often they patrol there? Stelitano replied constantly.  
Pastor explained that a red fire lane line is needed on 1<sup>st</sup> Street. RAD Auto is parking vehicles on both sides of the road and working on them in the middle of the street. If there would be a fire on 1<sup>st</sup> Street, the fire truck would not be able to quickly get to the house or businesses on that road.  
Lou Costanzo – Fire Chief asked to speak. He said that RAD Auto is not a good neighbor. They have been told repeatedly not to park their vehicles on the street which was part of the terms of his occupancy permit and their permit should be revoked.

Jaso made the motion to revoke their permit.

Pastor made the 2<sup>nd</sup> motion

All in Favor – Yes

Pastor – Yes

Domian – Yes

Jaso – Yes

Simbari – Absent

Truman – Yes

Laing – Yes

Reno – Yes

Pastor asked Rossey about the yellow lines on Main Street. She suggested that this might be the perfect time for DPW to paint them since businesses are closed and Main Street is empty. Rossey said they are working on it.

A. Laing – Health/Property

Laing thanked the police department and fire department during this challenging time.

Laing asked Rossey if she could get a copy of the DCNR Grant application for the Children's Rehabilitation Project. Reno asked if everyone could get a copy. Rossey – said yes.

J. Jaso – Finance

Jaso is concerned about consent agenda Item H - the roof replacement at the borough building. Does it have to be done or can it be patched until next year because of the pandemic? Pastor informed Jaso that the roof has needed replaced for many years now and needs to be done this year. Rossey reassured Jaso that the funds are there to replace the roof. Jaso is concerned about the financial impact of the pandemic on the borough.

Jaso is also concerned about the cost to build the new public works garage. Are we going to be able to cover any overages and change orders? Rossey addressed Jaso and stated his hope is that the cost will be less. However, if there are overages and change orders, then Liquid Fuels can be used and worst-case scenario, the borough will borrow money. Rossey said he will be watching the expenditures very closely. Rossey stated he understands the situation we are in with the pandemic. The roof needs to be replaced, there are multiple leaks throughout the entire building. The public works garage must be built because we need to be out of the current location by September.

Jaso brought up fireworks. What can we do about the time of day people can shoot off fireworks? Officer Hoebel addressed the issue with the noise ordinance the borough has and stated that people have also been warned. The Solicitor said he will investigate our local ordinance and also the state legislation.

Nancy Wynn – A resident asked to speak about the fireworks issue. Her concern is where the fireworks are landing for safety reasons. If they land still lit on a wooden structure like most of the homes here in the borough, you could have a house fire. Lou Costanzo, Fire Chief, asked to speak. He said that the recent house fire in Etna happened because fireworks were shot off from the porch. Reno asked if there can be permit that residents would have to apply for to be able to shoot off the fireworks? The Solicitor said again, he will investigate the state legislation and local ordinance.

Jaso mentioned the school tax increase. Amy Cooper who is new to the school board answered questions to the best of her knowledge.

M. Rudzki – Mayor

Rudzki's hope is that all the residents, their families, and friends are doing well and staying safe during the pandemic. His thoughts and prayers go out to the one Sharpsburg resident who lost their battle to COVID-19.

Rudzki issued a Declaration of Emergency in conjunction with Council President Reno and EMC Dennis Lane, which was effective for seven days pursuant to the general powers of mayor as prescribed by the Borough Code. Council thereafter voted to extend the Declaration indefinitely, and it continues to date.

Rudzki spoke for Dennis Lane – Emergency Coordinator – He is in constant contact with the county during the pandemic. With help from the county and outside resources, the PPE needs of our first responders is continuously being met. He addressed the needs of residents, businesses, non-profit organizations, and the faith community. Lane monitors the local, county state, federal and international numbers. The county is also working on updating their five-year Hazard Mitigation Plan at the same time as the pandemic, which is a tall task in itself.

Rudzki spoke with the Government Affairs Rep. from Allegheny Health Network and they are considering Sharpsburg as a possible site for their mobile testing clinic. The clinic would be free of charge.

Rudzki talked about the grants the borough has received. CDBG money totaling \$481,523 for streetscape, catch basin reconstruction, and ADA ramp improvements.

Rudzki said that on March 6, he and President Reno, Councilors Laing and Pastor, Manager Rossey, and Officer Carb attended the ALOM Banner Communities luncheon to receive Sharpsburg's seventh straight banner award, which recognized the Borough for the steps we take to make Sharpsburg a model community.

Rudzki is asking that everyone fill out their census form if they have not already done so. The higher our response rate, the better outcomes for Sharpsburg.

Rudzki said police call rates were down until recently, however, we have seen an uptick in overdoses. If you or someone you know needs help to get the proper resources, please let him know and he will get you in contact with the proper channels.

Rudzki congratulated the Sharpsburg Seniors from the class of 2020.

Rudzki thanked the volunteers at the Sharpsburg Market Garden. They are growing fresh produce to sell to the community.

Rudzki thanked the officers, members, families, and volunteers of the American Legion and VFW for placing flags on graves of veterans at St. Mary Cemetery and Greenwood Cemetery. He also praised the continued traditions on Memorial Day of holding services at both cemeteries, the memorial at the American Legion in Sharpsburg for fallen service members, and the Pleasant Valley VFC.

Rudzki said Tuesday, June 2, is Election Day. Your mail-in ballot must be submitted before 8pm on Tuesday. The polling stations in Sharpsburg have been consolidated and all residents should vote at the Municipal Building at 1611 Main Street.

## B. Reno – President

Expressed her gratitude to all the first responders, employees, volunteers, and social services in our community. Our community shines in times of crisis.

Reno had the owner of Art in Motion Dance Studio approach her about using an outdoor space in the borough to hold dance classes.

Reno spoke with Julie Gibson about getting amateur marble players together. She teaches and plays marbles with some of the kids at Sharp Landing. She is interested in starting a Sharpsburg marbles team. Can we install 2 6x6 courts somewhere in the borough? After discussion, council decided they will give it more consideration depending on the interest from kids who sign up to play. Rossey suggested putting the 2 - 6x6 courts in the 16<sup>th</sup> Street Park when the park is renovated.

Pastor asked Reno how can we determine when to open the 16<sup>th</sup> Street park? Reno said Rossey has guidelines from the Parks and Recreation Commission to follow.

Reno said she e-mailed everyone a letter for review asking council to approve a letter she would like to send to our state representatives advocating that our General Assembly in PA allow local municipalities to pass legislation on the use of certain single use plastics such as Styrofoam and plastic bags by restaurants and businesses.

Reno made a motion to send a letter to our state representatives and members of the general assembly. 2nd by Jaso. All in favor – Yes

Pastor – Yes

Laing – Yes

Domian – Yes

Jaso – Yes

Truman – Yes

Reno – Yes

Reno – Local Business Support

We have a lot of store front and restaurants in our community. When we go to the green phase, they will not be able to service as many patrons due to the social distancing and capacity rules. Etna, Aspinwall, and Millvale are using some of their open spaces to place tables, chairs, and picnic tables to help with the social distancing so the restaurants and businesses can serve more people. Reno would like to use Guyasuta Square as a space for people to sit and enjoy their food and the space. It would also help with the streetscape. Rudzki mentioned the possibility, in the future, of using North Canal Street as a temporary piazza.

Reno – Police Brutality News

Reno said it is happening around the country in the recent months. She believes we have the best police department in the county and has heard as much from outside our community. She is asking about the possibility of getting body cameras for our officers. She feels it is the best practice and is ethical and moral right thing to do and protects us from liability. Domian is concerned about the financial expense of purchasing the body cameras at this time. Stelitano has been watching what is going on in Millvale because they just purchased cameras and are using the equipment. Storage of the camera data is an issue. Stelitano is not for it until he can gather more information from other police departments. Truman asked where the cost lies, In the equipment or the storage of data? Stelitano said in storing the data. Reno asked if she could check back with Stelitano at the next meeting for any updates? Stelitano said that, unfortunately, all Chief meetings have been cancelled until further notice. He said he can try and get information and feedback from Millvale and Russellton police chiefs.

Reno – Dredging of tunnels

Flooding season is upon us, it is a matter of when, not what if. Reno mentioned the tunnel by Kittanning Pike. According to the Pitt student study, it is 70% clogged. Reno asked Rossey if it has been looked at and if so, what is the status? Rossey said he is still waiting for the Army Corp report.

Reno thanked Rossey and Jaso for attending the Connect Municipal Budget presentation. They learned how the pandemic will possibly affect municipalities.

Reno has been getting complaints about people running stop signs. Can we get a blitz on 16<sup>th</sup> Street? Stelitano responded and said his officer have been watch at 18<sup>th</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup>, and Main Streets. Reno said speaking as a SNO representative who is involved in the community vision process, we are now seeking a certified Eco-District plan. Etna was the 1<sup>st</sup> and Millvale the 2<sup>nd</sup> and hoping Sharpsburg can the third. The municipality must formally endorse the plan.

T. Stelitano – Chief

Stelitano reported that call volume was down but has risen a little. Police are wearing their PPE on every call. They will be wearing PPE for a while until we feel they do not need it anymore.

168 Police Calls

Zero Juvenile Arrest

1 Adult Arrest

Zero traffic stops

M. Witherel – Solicitor

Nothing currently

Consent Agenda:

- A. Payment of bills due through June 25, 2020.
- B. Minutes from the February 27, 2020 Meeting.
- C. Motion to pass Ordinance 20-03 amending Chapter 15 of the Borough of Sharpsburg Code (Motor Vehicles and Traffic) specifically Section 208 (turning certain intersections prohibited or restricted) to add No Left Turn on Main Street from 10<sup>th</sup> Street and No Right Turn onto North Canal Street from Main Street.
- D. Motion to pass Resolution 20-04 authorizing the cable franchise agreement between the Borough of Sharpsburg and Comcast Cable Communications Management, LLC. This is a ten (10) year agreement.
- E. Motion to pass Resolution 20-05 approving the DCNR Grant Application for the Sharpsburg Children's Park Rehabilitation Project.
- F. Motion to pass Resolution 20-06 approving the DEP Plan Revision for New land Development. This is for the new public works complex for sewer tap-ins.
- G. Motion to pass Resolution 20-07 amending Ordinance 20-07 amending Ordinance 19-02 providing for installation and regulations of Fire Lanes adding the west side of 1<sup>st</sup> Street as designated.
- H. Motion to approve the bid from Bur Mac Commercial Roofing in the amount of \$114,910.00 to replace the roof on the borough building.
- I. Motion to accept the bid from Graham Construction in the amount of \$682,634.00 for the construction of the new public works garage project.
- J. Motion to pass Resolution 20-08 approving the acquisition and subsequent disposition of numerous parcels of vacant property known as block and lot 168-L-216 (208 17<sup>th</sup> Street) would be in accord with the comprehensive plan of the municipality.

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

Roll Call:

Pastor – Yes

Domian – Yes

Laing – Yes

Jaso – Yes on all except Nay on H

Truman – Yes

Simbari – Absent

Reno – Yes

Permits

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

Refunds – None

Executive Session – None

Reno asked for a Motion to Adjourn at 8:40pm

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

Respectfully Submitted,

William Rossey

Sharpsburg Borough Manager

WR:ck