

# SHARPSBURG BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING

## November 18, 2021

Honorable Mayor  
Members of Council

The Regular Business Meeting of the Sharpsburg Council was held November 18, 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 arrived at 6:48pm, Brad Truman, Adrienne Laing, Brittany Reno, Mayor Rudzki and Chief Stelitano (absent)

Citizen Comments (Agenda items Only):

Joe Simbari explained the accident that happened on November 16, 2021, on Main Street and how the three employees from Ferra's Automotive went into rescue mode to help get the two passengers freed from the car. Simbari praised their immediate reaction to help others. Brittany Reno, Council President presented Eric Scavincky, Brandon Carroll, and Andrew Spang with a Certificate of Special Recognition. Mayor Matt Rudzki presented a Citation to the gentlemen because they provided a valuable service to the borough. Simbari then presented each of them with gift certificates for CC's Café from himself for their outstanding service to the community.

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.

Angela Kenbok – Hampton Social Worker

Kenbok shared her background from Slippery Rock University. Kenbok explained that Slippery Rock is the only university in Pennsylvania that has a track program for crisis intervention and forensic social work. Kenbok said the program focuses on law enforcement and police collaboration. Kenbok explained the program she designed and helped implement in Hampton's police department. Kenbok explained the benefits of having a social worker in the police department and the community.

A discussion ensued. No action taken at this time.

### **Committee Reports:**

W. Rossey – Borough Manager

Rossey reviewed the consent agenda.

Rossey went over the budget and voiced his concerns; The borough's outstanding \$500,000 loan, Worker's Compensation increased cost to \$132,000 from \$50-60,000 a year (borough cancelled due to claims). We now pay \$10,000 for our EMS service when the borough did not pay in previous years and the residents will now need to subscribe. That is \$10,000 we did not pay two years ago. The borough contributes \$22,000 to the library and pays all their expenses.

Rossey also mentioned that real estate tax collection went up however, \$60,000 of that is the fire tax that goes to the fire department. Rossey explained that the Alcosan, DEP, all the consent orders we must meet, we cannot even put a figure on that right now. R47 and Azcon. We lost \$40,000 in mercantile and business tax from them. We receive nothing from R47. We receive real estate tax from R47 however they have appealed that, and that land sits vacant. That is over \$40,000 we are missing in our taxes. Alcosan is raising their rates 7% next year, Garbage rates are going up 4.1%, and Hampton/Shaler is going to institute a \$2.00 per household lead pipeline replacement fee. Rossey said look at the inflation that everyone is feeling, social security is giving a 6.2% raise to seniors and Medicare. Our residents are going to pay more on items that no one can control. Rossey said the budget is together and we can pay for everything right now. Rossey said it is good to look to add things and look into the future. A discussion ensued.

#### B. Truman – Public Safety

Nothing currently.

#### K. Portis – Personnel

Nothing currently.

#### K. Pastor – Public Safety

25 Calls October, 215 YTD

Pastor mentioned the accident on Main Street on November 16<sup>th</sup> and wanted to thank Aspinwall, Cherry City, and Etna for their help. They have vehicle rescue teams, we do not. Pastor said the fire engine they purchased in 2016 is now paid off. The fire department was able to pay off a 20-year loan in 5 years.

Pastor said they made their first payment for the ladder truck which was \$60,000. This is a 15-year loan.

#### J. Simbari – Public Works

Simbari said the dedication of the DPW building will happen in April as everything is in place.

Simbari hopes he is asked to come back to be the MC for the event.

Simbari talked about the accident again with the quick response from the Ferra employees and the order that first responders arrived on the scene. A St. Margaret's paramedic was first, Foxwall EMS, Hampton/Shaler EMS. Simbari noted that Parkview was absent from the scene. Simbari said the arrival times he is sure is documented. Simbari brought it up for your future talks about ambulance services.

Simbari congratulated the people who won in the election and condolences to the ones that lost. Simbari brought attention to on street parking with car manufacturers going to all electric cars and car chargers. Residents will have to have chargers put in front of their house and they are going to want to park in front of their homes. It is something to think about.

Simbari mentioned that the new dump truck should be here by the end of the month but will get an update for next month's meeting.

#### A. Laing – Health/Property

Nothing currently.

Laing said she saw that the playgrounds at Kennedy Park and 16<sup>th</sup> Street are starting to be worked on and the equipment has been delivered. Rossey said they are working on trying to have them done by spring but will depend on the weather.

Laing thanked Rossey for taking her call about 1016 Penn St. Rossey said they have already been cited.

J. Jaso – Finance

Jaso said he is still reviewing the budget.

Jaso would like to get the proposed ordinance for the decriminalization of marijuana on the agenda. A discussion ensued and Reno said it cannot be added to the agenda until it has been advertised. Reno also asked Officer Carb if it is possible to compile data from the past 3 years? Carb said he will try because it is on the old system.

J. D'Ambrosio – Director of Public Works

D'Ambrosio said they took advantage of the weather and put the Christmas tree up and started stringing the lights along Main Street.

M. Rudzki – Mayor

Rudzki congratulated the two new businesses that just opened. One being Atithi Art Gallery on N. Canal Street. They rent space to artists to do their work and sell and they will also have a kitchenette to rent, and a pod cast studio to rent. The other business is Tal & Bert located on Main Street. They sell concrete planters, home décor, plants, and much more. Stop by and check them out.

Rudzki wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving.

B. Reno – President

Reno said a small group of business owners have been meeting on a regular basis and asked Reno if she could help find funding for a business district strategy to possibly hire someone to help with marketing to bring businesses into town and also bring people into town to shop. Reno said there is an ordinance that was passed a while ago on the recommendation from Allegheny Together program. Reno said the ordinance states a building owner with a 1<sup>st</sup> floor retail space in the business district would have to advertise their vacant space for rent/lease or face a mongering fee. Reno stated the fee can be waived if the building owner puts a sign in the window stating it is rent/lease or if the 1<sup>st</sup> floor retail space is actively being renovated. Reno would like to see this ordinance enforced. A discussion ensued.

Reno mentioned that SNO is still working with the CMU engineering students on the Kennedy Park stormwater infrastructure and surface level designs. There will be a meeting on December 1<sup>st</sup> at 6pm via zoom for the students to present their top two designs.

T. Stelitano – Chief

Absent

M. Witherel – Solicitor

Nothing currently.

Consent Agenda:

- a. Payment of bills due through December 16, 2021.
- b. Minutes from the October 28, 2021, meeting.
- c. Motion to pass Resolution 21-16 amending Ordinance 17-06 and Resolution 17-20 to include Emergency Medical Service Agency volunteers making them eligible to receive local tax credits.
- d. Motion to pass Resolution 21-17 authorizing the signing of the Consent Order and Agreement from the Department of Environmental Protection to address the Combined Sewer Overflow issues in the ALCOSAN service area of Sharpsburg Borough.

Motion by Jaso  
2<sup>nd</sup> by Portis  
All in Favor – Yes  
Roll Call:  
Simbari – Yes  
Portis – Yes  
Jaso – Yes  
Pastor – Yes  
Laing – Yes  
Truman – Yes  
Reno – Yes

Permits:

- a. Accessible Parking – None
- b. Use permits – None
- c. Zoning/Building – None

Refunds: None

Executive Session – No

Reno asked for a motion to adjourn at 8:06pm.

Motion by Jaso  
2<sup>nd</sup> by Truman

Respectfully Submitted,

William Rossey  
Sharpsburg Borough Manager

WR:ck