

SHARPSBURG BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING
November 19, 2020

Honorable Mayor
Members of Council

The Regular Business Meeting of the Sharpsburg Council was held November 19, 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 - Gave her monthly update on the library statistics and activities available to the children and adults.

Carrie Tongarm – Spoke of her support to pass the Anti-discrimination Ordinance.

Roxanne Acquaro – Expressed her support to pass the Anti-discrimination Ordinance.

Kathryn Murray – Expressed her support to pass the Anti-discrimination Ordinance.

Erin Angeli – Spoke of her support to pass the Anti-discrimination Ordinance.

Sara Ishman – Expressed her support to pass the Anti-discrimination Ordinance.

Heidi Brayer – Spoke of her support to pass the Anti-discrimination Ordinance.

Kayla Portis – Spoke of her support to pass the Anti-discrimination Ordinance.

Kyle Webster – Action Housing – Expressed his support to pass the Anti-discrimination Ordinance.

A discussion ensued after the above spoke of their support of the ordinance.

Motion to table the Anti-discrimination ordinance discussion by Simbari, 2nd by Jaso

Roll Call:

Simbari – Yes

Jaso – Yes

Pastor – Yes

Domain – Yes

Truman – No

Laing – No

Reno – No

Committee Reports

W. Rossey – Manager

Rossey reviewed the consent agenda.

Rossey spoke for D'Ambrosio. They are currently working on Christmas decorations and cleaning up leaves. They replaced the siding on the concession stand at Kennedy Park.

Rossey said the new public works building is coming along nicely.

B. Truman – Zoning/Planning/Code

Nothing Currently

G. Domian – Personnel

Nothing Currently.

Domian explained why he had to close the gym. It is due to the rise in COVID-19 cases.

K. Pastor – Public Safety

26 fire calls in October

213 calls YTD

Pastor thanked all the businesses that donated money to the fire department for the Halloween candy. There were 450 bags made.

Pastor said we ordered a new ladder truck. It was a necessary purchase.

J. Simbari – Public Works

Simbari reviewed the spike in COVID-19 cases in Allegheny County.

Simbari spoke about the progress of the new public works building. Everything looks good.

Simbari asked Rossey when we will be able to occupy the new building. Rossey is hopeful by the new year.

A. Laing – Health/Property

Laing thanked all the speakers on the Anti-discrimination for their support of the ordinance.

Laing mentioned that the Sharpsburg Environmental council passed on a letter to the borough manager asking that the borough be considerate about the materials being used for the surfaces and the equipment being chosen when planning the playground.

J. Jaso – Finance

Jaso asked Rossey about the budget. Rossey responded and said we are working currently working on it and everything looks good. Rossey stated we came through this year pretty good considering the pandemic. The real estate taxes came through better than expected. However, next year will be modest.

A. Mack – Junior Council

Nothing currently.

J. D'Ambrosio – Public Works Director

Absent

M. Rudzki – Mayor

Rudzki thanked everyone who participated in the borough council meeting tonight.

Rudzki talked about the spike in the COVID-19 cases, wear a mask, social distance and wash your hands.

Rudzki spoke about the conversation he had with the Chief concerning the staffing of the police department. They are asking to hire another full-time officer. He explained that since we have several part-time officers that have other full-time jobs, they are not always readily available to fill a shift when someone is off sick, or quarantining because of COVID, or on vacation. Rudzki asked the Chief to explain why he is asking for a full-time officer. The Chief reiterated what the Mayor said. The Chief explained there is going to be a lot of overtime in the next couple of months.

B. Reno – President

Reno spoke about the Community Rating System which is a FEMA program and the National Flood Insurance program. Etna has been working on this since 1996 with enough community

services done, they now have a 15% discount for the residents and businesses on their flood insurance. We are already doing enough activities that we can apply. It is a free application and is due in May of 2021. Reno feels we will be successful in getting approved.

Reno also stated the county is encouraging her to apply for the Active Allegheny Grant on behalf of the borough seeking \$30,000 in funding to map out all the different options in connecting the Three Rivers Heritage Trail through Etna's Riverfront park up to James Sharp Landing. This is a reimbursable grant. Reno wanted to get council's approval before submitting the grant request. Reno read her grant request.

Reno spoke about the Triboro Library System feasibility study. This is the Allegheny County Library Association. They support the nonprofit library systems in our region. There will be a survey circulated asking what people would like in a library. Simbari asked would that mean we would leave the Cooper-Siegel program? Reno said yes. Reno also asked if there are any council members that would like to be members of the focus group.

Reno talked to Kathleen Stanley from Roots of Faith to assess their current needs. Reno wants to try and get a handle on their biggest issues and needs. Reno said their calls for help are more than doubling in the past couple of weeks. They would like to do more grocery drives. They are looking to do 4 in December and looking to do it outside safely. Reno asked council for their input on where a good spot might be to have it centrally and where cars could drive in and right out. Council gave several suggestions.

T. Stelitano – Chief

Stelitano thanked the fire department for allowing him to give out candy with them on Halloween.

258 Calls

10 – Adult arrests

0 – Juvenile arrests

9 – Traffic stops

2 – Canine assists

Stelitano wanted to recognize Officer Hussar & Jango. They went on a call in Indiana Township where there was a runaway/missing child. Jango was able to follow the child's scent from the home to a park where the child was found safely.

M. Witherel – Solicitor

Nothing currently.

Consent Agenda:

- a. Payment of bills due through December 17, 2020.
- b. Minutes from the October 22, 2020 meeting.
- c. Motion to pass Resolution 20-13 authorizing the CDBG grant application in the amount of \$57,240 for the replacement of (12) catch basins throughout the borough.
- d. Motion to pass Resolution 20-14 authorizing the CDBG grant application in the amount of \$50,220 for the replacement of (18) ADA ramps throughout the borough.
- e. Motion to pass Resolution 20-15 authorizing the CDBG grant application in the amount of \$500,000 for continued Main Street Streetscape improvements.
- f. Motion to pass Resolution 20-16 authorizing the Active Allegheny Grant application in the amount of \$30,000 for a study for potential trail connection options between Etna Riverfront Park and James Sharp Landing.

Permits:

- A. Accessible Parking (NONE)
- B. Use Permits (NONE)
- C. Zoning/Building (NONE)

Refunds (None)

Executive Session: NO

Motion by Jaso
2nd by Domian
All in Favor – Yes

Roll Call:
Domian – Yes
Jaso – Yes
Pastor – Yes
Simbari – Yes
Truman – Yes
Laing – Yes
Reno - Yes

Reno asked for a Motion to adjourn at 8:45pm.

Motion by Jaso
2nd by Truman
All in Favor – Yes

Respectfully Submitted,

William Rossey
Sharpsburg Borough Manager

WR:ck