

SHARPSBURG BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING
November 26, 2019

Honorable Mayor
Members of Council

The Regular Business Meeting of the Sharpsburg Council was held November 26, 2019 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 (arrived 6:39pm), Larry Trozzo, Adrienne Laing, Brittany Reno, Mayor Rudzki, Chief Stelitano, Aiden Mack (Junior Council Member)

Reno announced that she is excited to welcome our State House Representative Sara Innamorato with her Chief of Staff, Rachel. We have a check presentation tonight because Sara and Senator Fontana helped secure a million dollar grant to build out our streetscape project which includes new sidewalks, crosswalks and bike racks, along with other improvements throughout the business district.

Citizen Comments (Agenda items Only): None

Citizen Comments (Registered)

Vicky Alexander – Police/Council

Alexander – Back in April, Ferra Automotive painted some of the curbs in yellow along Main Street. She feels that he took at least 3 parking spaces away. The issue has been brought to the attention of the Mayor, Borough Manager, the Chief and President of Council.

Jaso addressed the Chief about the issue. The Chief responded that he has looked at it, and he also had Lou go and look. It's not an issue as all of the property is owned by Ferra.

Alexander addressed the issue with the neighbor's dogs. Alexander gave Reno a copy of the court order.

The Chief said that the dog warden has been there along with them responding to the calls. The neighbor has been given citations and he continues to appeal them. Every resource available concerning this issue has been used.

Reno is going to give a copy of the court order to the Solicitor for his advisement.

Alexander also brought up about Verizon taking away the telephone landline in town. She gave Reno a copy of the letter.

Mike Daniher – Sharpsburg Volunteer Fire Department

Daniher presented a proposal to council for an increase in the fire tax.

Daniher explained some of the reasons for the increase in the fire tax.

He also said they are talking about consolidating with other municipalities. He indicated that consolidation is a long process. It could take up to 10 years to consolidate.

Daniher thanked Council and the DPW for the quick response and painting of the new fire lanes in town.

Heidi & Paul Brayer, Lauren Pearce – Park Conditions

Paul is following up on the status of the playgrounds. He has concerns about safety, particularly the use of toxic weed killers. Are we still using them? Reno addressed Paul and said that she has talked to Borough Manager about the use of Roundup.

Reno then addressed D’Ambrosio on the use of Roundup in the parks. He responded that he’s been here a year and a half and they do not use any weed killers. All they do is weed whack in the parks.

Lauren Pearce is concerned about the safety and condition of the playground equipment. She hopes that the parks will be upgraded and then maintained.

Reno asked them to look for small improvements to the parks within the budget amount available at this time.

Heidi added about the upkeep and maintenance of the current equipment in the parks. Repairs, painting, etc.

Committee Reports:

W. Rossey, Manager

(Excused)

L. Trozzo, Zoning/Planning/Code

Nothing

G. Domian, Personnel

Nothing

Domian spoke about Sharpsburg Hometown Celebration that will be held on Saturday, December 14 at 6pm at GUYASUTA Square. There will be a strobe light show that will be choreographed to holiday music. Santa & Mrs. Claus will arrive and everyone will proceed to the Linden Gym for the rest of the evening’s festivities.

K. Pastor, Public Safety

29 Fire calls for October

Pastor thanked the businesses and organizations who donated for the Halloween bags.

Pastor advised that everyone should beware of the yellow and red lines in town.

Pastor mentioned that there will be a lot of scheduling for training in the next year. There will be extensive training with Aspinwall and Sharpsburg to learn each other's equipment, trucks, etc.

Pastor said we are always accepting applications.

Pastor spoke about EMS – from 10/24 – 11/22, Parkview answered 60 calls in Sharpsburg. They turned 3 calls to mutual aid because their 2 trucks were on other calls. Parkview also was out on the town Halloween night from 6pm-8pm.

Simbari addressed the parking issues on 5th Street with East End Plumbing's two vans and Diversified Health's conversion van parked across from each other and that there is no room for emergency vehicles to get through. The issue needs to be addressed with both companies on placement of their vehicles.

Pastor said we are going to advertise for the ordinance for the Commercial Fire Safety Inspections for businesses. This ordinance will require owners, landlords, managers and agents of commercial property to obtain a fire safety operating license. BIU (Building Inspection Underwriters of PA, Inc.) will be doing the inspections. They will do as much or as little as we want them to do. Either BIU or the borough will send out a letter/packet to notify the commercial building owners. All businesses will be required to be inspected once a year.

J. Simbari, Public Works

Simbari talked about the purchase of the property for the new maintenance building and the plans for the facility. He said once it is all finalized, we will discuss.

Simbari addressed council about the motion that was passed last month to change our EMS service. There were no deliberations or discussions. He asked the council members do they know what they agreed to particularly the \$10,000.00.

Reno said that the question is legitimate and how is the money going to be appropriated? She will be talking to Rossey to find out the details.

J. Jaso, Health/Property

Nothing

A.Laing, Finance

Laing said that Rossey is working on the budget and will have information to present at the next meeting.

A.Mack, Junior Council

Nothing

J. D'Ambrosio, Public Works

Nothing

M. Rudzki, Mayor

Alcosan manages the Clean Water Assistance Fund to help families to pay their sewage treatment bills. Qualifying property owners will save \$128 per year on their bill. To set up an appointment to apply, you can contact the Northern Area Multi-Service Center at 412-781-1175 or visit them at 209 13th Street in town.

Congratulations to the Sharpsburg Neighborhood Organization on the acquisition of a building that will be a center for sustainability and civic engagement in our central business district.

Thank you to all the organizations that helped make this happen.

Thank you to the library staff for the expanded Sharpsburg Community Library programs and opportunities.

The Borough received a \$1 million grant from the Commonwealth Financing Agency through the Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic development for the central business district streetscape project. Thank you to everyone involved in making this possible.

Grant update: Since 2016 the Borough has received over \$7 million in grant funding. For the streetscape project, we have received \$1,750,000 in grants, with a \$500,000 community development block grant application pending.

Thank you to Allegheny County Port Authority for installing bus shelters throughout the community at no cost to the borough.

Paving completed on 3rd, 4th, Short Canal, 800 block of Clay, and 1400 block of S. Canal.

Thank you to the DPW for doing a tremendous job “winterizing” Main Street.

B. Reno, President

Thanked the DPW and all the first responders that showed up for the water break on Clay Street.

We belong to the Allegheny Together Program which is a program on Allegheny County economic development. Basically, consultants come in and meet with Mayor Rudzki, herself, or business owners who want to be part of the conversation. They talk about the needs of Sharpsburg, Etna and Millvale. One of the topics of discussion has been to consider hiring, across the 3 communities, a shared Main Street Manager to address a lot of the issues in the business districts from vacancies, to marketing to opening up a business.

Reno asked for any input.

Rudzki said he would see that person as a concierge to welcome businesses to the community and help them through the process of opening a business in town.

Reno addressed the issue of lead poisoning in Sharpsburg and around the city and county. She said that children in Sharpsburg have a slightly elevated level when tested. She mentioned that Lou Deluca and Dave Komora went to a class at CCAC to learn about the testing. She stated that it is a simple dust cloth wipe test.

If the house tests positive for lead in the paint, the simple fix is to paint over the lead paint. She also stated that the cost of the test would be added to the current rental inspection ordinance which happens every two years at \$60 which would now be double to cover the cost of the test. Reno addressed council and asked if they had a copy of the check from Knollwood Energy for \$87. It's from the solar panels on the library. They're now generating money. Do we split the check with the library or donate the whole check?

Laing made a motion to donate the 1st check.

2nd by Pastor

All in Favor – Yes

Reno mentioned we have another thrift store coming to town that's going to be called Second Harvest. They will be working along with Roots of Faith and Sharpsburg Family Worship Center in extending the programs and offering other programs as well. Very exciting.

T. Stelitano, Chief of Police

327 Calls

14 Adult Arrests

3 Juvenile Arrests

2 Canine Assists

21 Traffic Stops

Consent Agenda:

- A. Payment of bills due through December 19, 2019
- B. Minutes from the October 24, 2019 Meeting
- C. Motion to advertise Ordinance 20-02 known as the Commercial Fire Safety Inspection Ordinance, requiring owners, landlords, managers and agents of commercial properties to obtain a commercial fire safety operating license.
- D. Motion to reach out to the councils of Millvale, Etna, Aspinwall, O'Hara, and Blawnox regarding a study for a potential road map to the future fire departments consolidation.

Motion by Jaso

2nd by Trozzo

All in Favor: Yes

Roll Call:

Pastor – Yes

Domian – Yes

Laing – Yes

Reno – Yes

Jaso – Yes

Trozzo – Yes

Simbari - Yes

Permits:

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

Refunds – None

Executive Session

1. Personnel
2. Potential Legal Issue

Reno asked for a Motion to Adjourn at 9:02 pm

Motion by Jaso

2nd by Trozzo

Respectfully Submitted,

William Rossey
Sharpsburg Borough Manager

WR:ck