

SHARPSBURG BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING
October 22, 2020

Honorable Mayor
Members of Council

The Regular Business Meeting of the Sharpsburg Council was held September 24, 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): Simbari requested that a vote be made after the citizens comments on item C of the consent agenda. Reno agreed.

Citizen Comments (Registered)

Sara Mariacher – Sharpsburg Library - Gave her monthly update on the library statistics and activities available to the children and adults.

Simbari asked Sara about the solar panels on the building and what is being done with the savings received. He asked if there any monetary benefit for having the solar panels? Reno said yes, there should be a credit at the end of the year from Duquesne Light for the electric that was produced. Rossey said he will have to look at the invoices.

Ken Aquiline – Sara Innamorato's Office

Aquiline said if you have not received your mail-in ballot, then this weekend only you can go vote at a satellite office with an absentee ballot or over the counter in person at the county elections office.

Innamorato's office will be holding a webinar on October 27th at 6pm on voting and elections.

Aquiline said there will be a blood drive at the Teamsters Local in Lawrenceville on October 29th.

Aquiline said on October 31st there will be a recycling event at the Ross Township municipal building between 10am-12pm.

Aquiline mentioned there will be a Webinar on November 5th at 5pm about utility assistance.

Emily Taylor – Dancing Gnome – James Sharp Landing Event – Taylor stated some changes were made to the event. There will be a cornhole competition and fishing competition with light food and beverages. A discussion ensued. Truman made a motion to approve the changes. 2nd by Reno

Roll Call:

Simbari – No

Domian – Yes

Jaso – Yes

Pastor – Yes

Laing – Yes

Truman – Yes

Reno – Yes

Roxane Acquaro – Expressed her support of the Anti-discrimination ordinance.
Carrie Tongarm – Spoke on her support of the Anti-discrimination Ordinance.
Shanna Carrick – Spoke on her support of the Anti-discrimination Ordinance.
Heidi Brayer – Expressed her support of the Anti-discrimination Ordinance.
Paul Brayer – Expressed his support of the Anti-discrimination Ordinance.
Catherine Brunetti – Spoke on her support of the Anti-discrimination Ordinance.
Rebecca Farabaugh – Spoke on her support of the Anti-discrimination Ordinance.
Eanna Holton – Spoke on her support of the Anti-discrimination Ordinance.
A discussion ensued after all the above spoke about their support of the ordinance.
Reno made a motion to pass the Ordinance 20-04 creating a Human Rights Commission to
Enforce the Provisions of this Nondiscrimination Ordinance.

2nd by Laing

Roll Call:

Domian – No

Jaso – No

Pastor – No

Simbari – No

Truman – Yes

Laing – Yes

Reno – Yes

4/3 Motion Lost

Committee Reports

W. Rossey – Manager

Rossey explained the consent agenda items.

Rossey gave an update on Dave Komora.

B. Truman – Zoning/Planning/Code

Nothing currently.

K. Pastor – Public Safety

19 Calls for the month of September

200 year-to-date

Pastor said trick or treating will be 6-8 at the fire department and they have prepared 450 bags.

Pastor asked Stelitano to keep watch on the red cones on Penn Street.

J. Simbari – Public Works

Simbari said the new DPW building is progressing and seems to be on schedule.

Simbari gave a R47 update. Rossey finally got the plans needed to turn into the railroad.

Domian asked Simbari about the TRID study grant. Reno answered and said there are delays in grants because of COVID and the state does not know their budget yet for next year. We will probably hear something at the beginning of next year.

Simbari mentioned the great playground equipment at O'Hara Community Park. Reno said the Environmental Advisory Committee is working on a letter on their recommendations for parks surfaces and equipment.

Simbari addressed the issues with RAD Auto. Lou Deluca has been issuing citations on a regular basis. Deluca has been subject to verbal attacks due to the situation. The Solicitor said we are at the maximum process we can assert at this time. Rad will have time to respond.

Rossey stated that PennDot owns the property under the bridge and recently signed a lease agreement with Etna. Rossey spoke with Mary Ellen, the Etna borough manager, and she is on board with helping remove the cars from under the bridge.

A. Laing – Health/Property

Laing said a letter will be sent to Rossey from the Environmental Advisory Committee stating their recommendations on the material to be used for the new park playgrounds. He should be receiving it soon.

Laing mentioned that it is domestic violence awareness month.

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

J. Jaso – Finance

Nothing currently.

Jaso said we will be looking at the 2021 budget in the next month.

A. Mack – Junior Council

Absent

J. D'Ambrosio – Public Works Director

D'Ambrosio said he has Shaler on a regular schedule now with the vector truck.

M. Rudzki – Mayor

Rudzki mentioned that it is domestic violence awareness month. Isolation because of COVID has caused a rise in domestic violence. If you know anyone who needs help, please reach out to Hope Center or Adrienne Laing and she help with the resources available.

Rudzki asked Council to talk to the Solicitor and add language for domestic violence to the current Nuisance ordinance. The Solicitor responded and said he would investigate it.

Rudzki – Mentioned the new DPW vehicle. Rudzki and the Chief have concerns that the car looks too much like a police car and they are concerned about D'Ambrosio's safety. Rudzki and the Chief would like to see one of the stripes removed.

Rudzki thanked everyone who came out to help clean up the riverfront. Thank you to Allegheny Clean Ways and Snakeguy's Pepper for organizing the event. About 20 volunteers showed up and cleaned 500lbs of garbage from the riverfront and James Sharp Landing.

Thank you to Fox Chapel Area Rotary for donating \$500 to St. Vincent DePaul food bank and thank you to the Sharpsburg/Aspinwall Rotary for donating \$800 to the Volunteers of America Youth Empowerment Project.

B. Reno – President

October 28th at 5:30 live stream air quality machine will be installed, and you can see what kind of air you are breathing.

Reno said please vote!

Reno said if you think you are going to have trouble paying your heating bill reach out to Roots of Faith, they can help you sign up for the LIHEAP program to help pay your heating bill.

Reno said Happy Halloween and be safe.

T. Stelitano – Chief of Police

197 Calls

1 Adult arrest

0 juvenile

Stelitano stated that as far as the borough goes, the residents are acting appropriately and understand the state that we are in. His officers are out actively interacting with the public and they are not getting any negative feedback.

Stelitano said on Halloween, he will have a few extra officers out patrolling. Officer Carb will be out on the bike weather permitting.

Stelitano said we got the new police car and it is in service. Thanks to everyone and Bill.

Stelitano said that while enforcing our Nuisance Ordinance, he has never sent out a letter to anyone for a domestic violence situation. He said he has sent nuisance letters out to a property that for assaults, public drunkenness, disorderly conduct, or drug complaints or violations.

Lou Costanzo – Fire Chief

Costanzo is asking for a fire chief parking space in front of his house. He never has anywhere to park, especially after returning from a fire call in the middle of the night.

Costanzo also asked if he can be notified when there are street closures for events. He needs to notify 3 other fire departments of the closures.

M. Witherel – Solicitor

Nothing currently.

Consent Agenda:

- a. Payment of bills due through November 19, 2020.
- b. Minutes from the September 24, 2020 meeting.
- c. Motion to accept the bid from Joe Palmieri construction in the amount of \$44,316.00 for the installation of 8 ADA Curb Ramps. This is through a CDBG Grant.
- d. Motion to accept the bid from Protocol LLC in the amount of \$52,611.00 for the reconstruction of 10 Catch Basin/Storm Inlets. This is through a CDBG Grant.
- e. Motion to approve a parking space on 10th Street for the Fire Chief.

Permits:

- a. Accessible Parking
- b. Use Permits (NONE)
- c. Zoning/Building (NONE)

Refunds – NONE

Executive Session – NO

Reno asked for a motion to adjourn at 9:12pm.

Motion by Jaso

2nd by Simbari

Respectfully Submitted,

William Rossey
Sharpsburg Borough Manager

WR:ck