

SHARPSBURG BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING
October 24, 2019

Honorable Mayor
Members of Council

The Regular Business Meeting of the Sharpsburg Council was held October 24, 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, Larry Trozzo, Adrienne Laing, Brittany Reno, Mayor Rudzki (excused), Chief Stelitano, Aiden Mack (Junior Council Member)

Reno gave an explanation of why Mayor Rudzki was excused from the meeting. His first child was born October 15, 2019 and congratulated him on the birth of his daughter, Lydia Anne.

Citizen Comments (Agenda items Only): None

Citizen comments (Registered)

Heather Bohn – Voiced her opinion and her support of Seneca EMS services and Bill Alexander.

Bill Alexander – Seneca EMS

Alexander addressed the issues brought up at last month's meeting. He took the negatives and turned them into positives.

Alexander addressed the issue of staffing; all shifts now have a medic. He also said there have been changes with some alliances with neighboring services. He is discussing with one particular EMS service to combine services with them.

Alexander mentioned that Sharpsburg has the Cadillac of services available to them within 10-15 minutes.

Alexander addressed the issues brought up by the police department at the previous meeting and explained what happened on those calls. He also gave an example of Seneca's turnaround time from receiving a call to arriving on scene.

Alexander again addressed that Seneca never asked for money from the borough. However, they could use it to help them to continue to move forward and be a stronger service.

Reno asked Alexander about the IRS 990 showing debt. Alexander stated they are debt free from the IRS and the state. November 11, 2018 was their last payment to the IRS.

Domian interjected and said the IRS 990 was due June 10th and asked if they filed an extension because 2018 was not posted on the IRS website. Domian also indicated that there is a current lawsuit filed against Seneca. Simbari asked Domian did you speak to anyone at the IRS. Domian responded no, you cannot speak the IRS concerning another party.

Simbari asked Domian did you ask Bill for a copy of his 2018 filings. Domain said no. Reno then asked Alexander if his full-time employees had health insurance. Alexander said yes. Reno proposed to Alexander if the borough stays with Seneca for a year with a \$10,000 contribution, what are the benefits and changes the borough can expect? Other services can offer ALS, pediatric recognition at the expert level, car seat installation program and memberships for all residents, BLS canine care, and water rescue certification through the state, and a business and financial plan. Alexander responded and gave an answer to each of the items Reno stated. Alexander said give me a list and he will go to his board to work out a plan to meet the expectations. Simbari said he fully supports Reno's proposal to Seneca. Domian addressed Simbari – stating that no one on council was aware of any issues until the police department came to us via the proper channels. Simbari likes Reno's plan. He said let's give them the \$1,000 budgeted for this year and then in 2020, give them the \$10,000 and come back in the 3rd quarter and see what we have for service and make a decision at that time. Domian expressed his concerns of the financial stability of Seneca. Simbari questioned Domian on his research of Seneca's financials. Reno asked Alexander to speak to the percentage of revenue that comes from calls from Indiana Township. Alexander said about 30% comes from Indiana Township. The rest of his revenue comes from Sharpsburg. Domian expressed concern over Seneca losing 500 calls once they lost Etna. Alexander said that does not mean losing 500 paying customers, half may be profitable. Two thirds of the calls are witnesses, refusals, no one there, or a disregard. Reno asked is there any more questions for Alexander.

Vicky Alexander – EMS Seneca/Police

Alexander talked about her support of Seneca and the services they provide to the community. She also noted that they help a lot of the residents behind the scenes. Reno said to Alexander that Bill did not have health insurance? Alexander said he has insurance she does not. Reno asked Alexander about the comment that the police officers that approached council about these problems went behind the Chief's back and the Mayor's back and went outside the chain of command. Alexander said correct. Reno said she heard from both the Mayor and the Chief that that is not the case and that they did go the proper chain of command. Reno wanted to clarify to the Alexanders and the residents that was not the case. The Chief also verified this fact. Alexander said if Seneca got the financial support that the other services have received that they would be doing well. Reno asked if she would help with the planning of a financial plan for Seneca even though she is not an employee. Alexander said yes she would help any way she can. Alexander expressed her concerns about the police department.

Jaso – Motion to terminate our affiliation with Seneca EMS and move forward with a contract from Parkview EMS to provide emergency medical services to the Borough of Sharpsburg effective immediately.

2nd by Pastor

Discussion:

Reno – Inclined to vote no on this right now. Reno has been disgusted with the response of Seneca to do to a simple request for proposal, truly disappointed. Reno has heard lies about her and lies about other people, but she trusts Bill and his ability to serve and she's trusts the people who run this organization. She thinks that signing on for another year for \$10,000 is not a bad idea and it would be a good faith effort to see if we can keep Seneca serving our community.

Simbari – Added that he shares the same sediments as Reno. We do have to accept some responsibility that this happened.

Domian asked Reno if he could ask a representative from another EMS service a question for clarification. Reno responded no, on the advisement of the solicitor.

Domian then asked Reno if the other EMS services ask other municipalities that they serve to fund their service. Reno responded yes.

Solicitor Witherel said he could answer that question. He represents several ambulance authorities and, yes, they all asked for contributions or monies from the municipalities and that it varies from organization to organization. It varies greatly as some put in very little, some put in a lot.

Roll Call:

Pastor – Yes

Domian – Yes

Laing – Yes

Reno – No

Jaso – Yes

Trozzo – Yes

Simbari – No

Rossey stated 5 yes's 2 no's.

Reno stated Motion passes

V. Alexander addressed Reno does that mean this right now? Reno responded yes, it's effective right now. Reno addressed Rossey or the Solicitor to clarify. Witherel responded what the motion said.

Committee Reports:

W. Rossey, Manager

Rossey explained each of the items on the consent agenda.

Rossey – Mentioned that port authority will be coming and installing 7 bus shelters throughout town on Main Street. The bus shelters were free from Port Authority.

Rossey – Mentioned that the few benches that were down at 6th Street now have been moved down to the park under the 62nd Street Bridge.

Rossey – On November 12, 2019, the Department of Community and Economic Development will be voting on a grant that we submitted for our downtown Main Street. We put in for a 3 million- dollar grant, so I encourage our council members to call Senator Wayne Fontana and Sara Innamorato our State Representative and make sure they talk to the board of DCED in Harrisburg to get Sharpsburg this money. We will be able to fix all the sidewalks, street lights, etc.

Rossey mentioned that for over a year he sat on a SR6 Committee. It's Senate Resolution House Bill 6 and 23 resolutions were written to help the volunteer firefighters in Pennsylvania. These are things we need to do to recruit and retain our volunteer firefighters in this state. He is happy to say that even though Randy Vulakovich and Dom Costa, who were two of the biggest promoters of this bill and chaired that committee, lost their elections last year. Fortunately, other people in Harrisburg picked up the slack. In this past week, they passed over half a dozen of those resolutions in the House. They go to the Senate and if the Senate passes them, they become law. Some of the things that they passed this week will aid firefighters in college education, tuition forgiveness, tuition help, real estate tax relief and allowing school districts to give firefighters tax relief on their school taxes and also incentives for time of service.

L. Trozzo, Zoning/Planning/Code

Nothing

G. Domian, Personnel

Nothing

Linden Gym – Had the boiler system tested in the basement. Two wall mount furnaces were inspected also. We are getting a bid to put in a new furnace.

Saturday, December the 14, 2019, at 6:00pm the Annual Hometown Holiday Celebration will take place. Refreshments will be served at Guyasuta Square and Mr. and Mrs. Claus will be there. Toy collection boxes will be placed around town.

K Pastor, Public Safety

26 Fire calls for September

253 year to date

KSWA Wrestling on November 2, 2019 at 7:00pm, Tickets are available now or at the door.

Halloween bags on Halloween night will begin at 6pm and run until the bags are gone. There will be 400 bags for the kids.

Thank you to the business's and organization's that donated.

Five of our volunteer firefighters attended Cherry City's banquet.

They were celebrating 100 years of being in service. Congratulations to Cherry City. Sharpsburg's will celebrate 150 years in service in two years. Thank you to Officer Hoebel and Adrienne Laing for the program they put together with the Alle-Kiski Hope Center. They are the leading agency in this area for domestic violence. It was a great presentation.

J. Simbari, Public Safety
Nothing

J. Jaso, Health/Safety
Nothing

A.Laing, Finance
Nothing

Laing thanked Officer Hoebel and the Chief for hosting the law enforcement training for Domestic Violence.
Laing thanked Reno and Pastor for attending the event in the evening and everyone that came from the community.
Laing mentioned that last Saturday, Sharpsburg Environmental Advisory Council held a fall cleanup and had approximately 30 students from Pitt that helped.
Laing thanked Reno for Sharpsmeade. She felt it had a really good turnout and a fun time for the community.
Laing thanked the volunteers that came out and helped clean up the community garden.

A.Mack, Junior Council
Nothing

J. D'Ambrosio, Public Works
Nothing

M. Rudzki, Mayor (Absent)

B. Reno, President

Reno thanked everyone who helped with Sharpsmeade and came for the festivities.
Reno thanked the volunteers who helped clean up the community garden.
Reno stated we got a grant from Tree Pittsburgh. We will get 7 trees to plant at the gateway park area on November 2, 2019, at 8:30am.
Reno addressed the trees in the business district.
Reno wanted two changes to the September minutes.
Reno November 8th from 8am- 4pm the Allegheny Together Summit is happening at the Millvale Food and Energy building. Sharpsburg has been part of this program for economic development for energizing the business district.
The Eco District National Conference is coming to Pittsburgh on November 4th and 5th.
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Reno has one for executive session on the borough property acquisition. Reno also stated she cannot make it for the November council meeting date. The new Date is Tuesday, 11/16/19. Reno had Rossey print out a letter that was not in the packets. It's a letter stating our support for the Aspinwall Riverfront Park regarding a grant request that they put into the state for the acquisition of the park and trail property that would be along our riverfront and the Riverfront 47 developer's property. This would allow the property to be maintained by Certified Land Trust which is a non-profit organization and it would be an extension of the Aspinwall Riverfront Park, but they would be gaining the Allegheny Rivertrail park. In looking it over, it would be the most feasible way to get the trail developed in 5 years versus the next 20 years. She does support this and feels it should be sent to Senator Fontana.

Reno said Trick or Treating on October 31st will be from 6pm-8pm.

Reno commended Officer Hoebel, Adrienne Laing, and the Chief for putting together one of the most special events that's happened here in Sharpsburg which was the Domestic Violence Awareness Day.

Reno gave Officer Hoebel an Honor Certificate from the Alle-Kiski Hope Center and Chief Stelitano Sharpsburg Police Department.

T. Stelitano, Chief of Police

Stelitano said that the police participated in Operation Safe Stop through the state.

Stelitano mentioned that he and Officer Hoebel received a letter from the Center for Victims for the Domestic Violence Awareness training.

Stelitano also said that Officer Hussar and K9 Jango participated in another training class and gained another certificate.

Stelitano mentioned that he and Officer Carb went to a Use Force Training and a De-escalation Training for 5 hours.

293 Calls

12 Adult Arrests

0 Juvenile Arrests

2 Drug Arrests

3 DUI's

3 Canine Assists

9 Traffic Stops

Rossey addressed Stelitano because Parkview is now the EMS service. He asked the Chief to contact County 911 and make sure they are aware of the change that was passed.

M. Witherel, Solicitor

Nothing

Executive session only

Consent Agenda:

Reno asked for a motion to approve the following general business by roll call:

- A. Payment of bills due through November 26, 2019.
- B. Minutes from the September 26, 2019 meeting.
- C. Motion to pass Ordinance 19-02 providing for the installation and regulations of fire lanes.
- D. Motion to approve the three-year Sharpsburg Borough Police Contract effective January 1, 2020 thru December 31, 2022.
- E. Motion to pass Resolution 19-12 approving the acquisition and subsequent disposition of numerous parcels of vacant property known as block and lot number 168-F-058 (1527 North Canal Street) which would be in accordance with the comprehensive plan of the borough.
- F. Motion to pass Resolution 19-13 approving the acquisition and subsequent disposition of numerous parcels of vacant property know as block and lot number 167-L-266 (106 1st Street) which would be in accordance with the comprehensive plan of the borough.
- G. Motion to pass Resolution 19-14 approving the CDBG (Community Development Block Grant) application in the amount of \$57,000 for the repair of 13 catch basins throughout the borough.
- H. Motion to pass Resolution 19-15 approving the CDBG (Community Development Block Grant) application in the amount of \$500,000 for the Central Business District Streetscape Project.
- I. Motion to pass Resolution 19-16 approving the CDBG (Community Development Block Grant) application in the amount of \$55,100 for the installation of 15 ADA curb ramps throughout the borough.
- J. Motion to renew the 2020-2021 contract from Hoffman’s Boarding Kennels to provide the borough with an Animal Control Officer at the cost of \$235 per month. This is a \$10 per month increase.
- K. Motion to advertise the following change to November and December council meeting dates to Tuesday, November 26 & Thursday, December 19, both at 6:30pm.
- L. Motion to approve a letter of support to Aspinwall Riverfront Park’s application to the state for funding.

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
 - i. Linda Kasperowski – 221 13th Street

Motion by Reno

2nd by Pastor

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

Refunds – None

Reno asked for a Motion to Adjourn at 8:17pm.

Motion by Jaso

2nd by Domian

All in Favor – Yes

Respectfully Submitted,

William Rossey
Sharpsburg Borough Manager

WR:ck