

**SHARPSBURG BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING  
SEPTEMBER 26, 2019**

Honorable Mayor  
Members of Council

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

Reno spoke to the residents about the difficult conversation about the EMS services we have here in the community and thanked them for coming and hopes they continue to come to future meetings. It's only through people who stay engaged, coming to meetings, staying informed and being proactive about these things that we can succeed as a community and she appreciates again that they came and, again, hopes they will come back next month and every other month.

Reno addressed the issue of a call for low-key violence at last month's meeting. She wanted to clarify to anyone who this is not already clear to that if you have a political disagreement with another person, calling for violence is not acceptable and taking it out back to settle a disagreement is not something she supports and she feels most will agree with that.

**Citizen Comments (Agenda items Only): None**

**Citizen Comments (Registered)**

Joseph McLaughlin – Fair Districts PA

Fair Districts PA is an organization that wants to eliminate gerrymandering in Pennsylvania.

Domian spoke on the amount of misinformation circulating on social media concerning the EMS service issue. He also stated that PA Borough Code requires that municipalities.

**Bill & Vicky Alexander – EMS Services**

Bill asked for Officer Hoebel to elaborate on what Domian has just started and then let us have our time.

**Brian Hoebel – Domestic Violence Awareness Event/EMS Services**

Hoebel spoke about how each officer has an area of operation that they are responsible for. Hoebel's is domestic violence. October is domestic awareness month. He spoke about after making an arrest and just leaving the scene that we can give the victim the resources available to them. We've partnered with the district attorney's office, Alle-Kiski Hope Center (advocacy group for Sharpsburg), Pittsburgh Center for Victims, Crisis Center North, Women's Center & Shelter of Greater Pittsburgh, and Pittsburgh Action Against Rape to present information to the residents on October 17, 2019 at 5pm-8pm on what these groups can do and help you through a domestic crisis.

Hoebel then addressed the issue of the EMS service provided at the present time. He noted that the police also respond to EMS calls. He explained how EMS services work. That there is an ALS crew and a BLS crew and who staffs each crew and who can show up on a call from First Responders, EMT's, and paramedics. The police department has received concerns and complaints and have witnessed the level of service being provided. The question is "Can we do better." Can we do better for our residents, visitors, and employees? Can we get a better level of consistent services?

**Bill Alexander**

Alexander stated he's been a long-time resident of the borough. We have over 500 signatures to support us. We have come a long way and have been here in the borough a long time. We have never received a penny from the borough, but we have gotten generous donations from the Guyasuta Organization. If there was a problem with us here, he felt the borough should have done their due diligence and bring the issues to his attention rather than hearing at last month's meeting that they were going out to bid for EMS services.

Vicky Alexander feels the way everything was handled was ignorant and rude. Reno wants to move forward. Are we going to do interviews or decide tonight?

Reno addressed council members and asked if they were ready to decide tonight and asked for a motion.

Simbari made a motion to keep Seneca EMS, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Trozzo.

Reno asked for a roll call.

Simbari – Yes

Trozzo – Yes

Pastor – No

Jaso – No

Laing – No

Reno – Abstain

Domian – Abstain

Rossey announced – Motion lost.

## **Committee Reports:**

W. Rossey, Manager

Rossey explained each of the items on the consent agenda.

Rossey apologized to Councilwoman Laing for forgetting to put her name on the committee reports.

Rossey apologized to Bill Alexander if he misunderstood the letter. The letter went out to all 4 EMS companies and contained the same verbiage.

Rossey also mentioned the newspaper article about Alcosan and the consent decree from the EPA extension to 2036. Over the last several years, the increase was 10% annually. Due to the extension, the increase will only be 7% over the next several years.

Reno asked for an update from Rossey on the website. Rossey said it is ready to launch however, Misty had personal family problems that had canceled his meeting with her the previous week. Reno said that we are getting our website ready to be ADA compliant.

L. Trozzo, Zoning/Planning/Code

Nothing

G. Domian, Personnel

Nothing

However, wanted to commend Jordan and the DPW. Thank you for doing such a great job for our town.

K. Pastor, Public Safety

28 Calls

October is Fire Prevention Month. There will be an Open House on October 5, 2019 from 10am – 2PM. There will be a lot of activities for the kids.

J. Simbari, Public Works

There are 7 council members and the borough manager asking the director of public works to do tasks. If something needs taken care, he feels it's easier if everyone calls the manager to let him pass on the info to Jordan to handle so there's not 7 people asking Jordan to do tasks.

Simbari publicly apologized to Rossey for an incident where he had an outburst before being on council in Rossey's office about 3 years ago. Rossey accepted the apology.

Simbari referred to the last meeting.

Simbari brought up the issue of the article in the newspaper about the Allegheny County Police Review Board again. Simbari asked Rudzki to admit that he was the one that talked to the press because the writer of the article said it was Mayor Matt Rudzki.

Rudzki said he's glad Simbari brought it up for the 2<sup>nd</sup> time. Many years ago, there were arguments and fist fights at the council meetings. For the past 6 years, we've all gotten along

and we've made progress and have been very effective. But this changed in the last year and a half since Simbari has been on council. At the last meeting, you threatened to take me out back. Simbari said not at all. Rudzki said Jaso? Jaso replied you did Joe.

Simbari said we were talking about something personal and it would have removed us from this area to talk in private. Simbari said again, you still haven't answered the question.

Rudzki said because I'm going to ask one of the council members to make a motion to censure you tonight for threatening to take me out back last meeting.

Reno asked for a motion.

Jaso motioned to censure Simbari. 2<sup>nd</sup> by Laing.

Reno asked for a roll call:

1 – abstained, 1 – no, 5 yes

Rossey – Motion Carried

Simbari – What are the ramifications of the censure?

Solicitor said it's reflected in the minutes.

Simbari – Said okay.

J. Jaso, Health/Safety

Nothing

A. Laing, Finance

Nothing

Laing just reiterated Hoebel's announcement for the Domestic Awareness Night on October 17 and she's hopes to see everyone there.

A. Mack, Junior Council (absent)

Nothing

J. D'Ambrosio, Public Works

We finally got the bat boxes in.

Reno asked, where are they? D'Ambrosio said Maureen will be bringing them down next week and they will be installed.

M. Rudzki, Mayor

Sunday Sara Innamarato's office, Rep Wheatley, and Duquesne University and Duquesne University Veteran's Resource Council are holding a Veteran's Resource Fair for Veteran's and their families at Duquesne Universities Ballroom from 12pm-5pm.

Sharpsburg Historical Commission is offering a free lecture on H.J. Heinz, the Man behind the Food Empire on October 10<sup>th</sup>, 7pm, at the John Paul I Center.

City Purchase Land Trust is looking to work with the residents of Sharpsburg to talk about the real estate market, the affordability, and down payment assistance.

They have a \$30,000 grant available to the residents of Sharpsburg to help purchase a home and cover closing costs.

Thank you again to the police department and Officer Hoebel for everything they do for domestic violence awareness and putting together the presentation on October 17<sup>th</sup> for police and residents.

B. Reno, President

Representative Innamarato's office is moving some office hours to Sharpsburg, every other Tuesday from 11 -1 at the library.

Thank you to everyone who helped and attended the River Festival.

Reno gave a special thank you to Clark Wigginton for all his help organizing volunteers and other various activities for the River Festival.

Reno also thanked Sharpsburg Marina. They offered to pay for and paint the pylons at the dock ramp.

Reno has an opportunity with Tree Pittsburgh to plant trees at the Gateway Park and some at the Heinz Memorial Field in the northwest corner.

Reno thanked everyone who organized and attended the Community Yard Sale. It was a huge success. We had more people attend this year than in the past.

Reno would like to request the use of Kennedy Park for Sharpsmeade on October 12 from 11am-3pm.

Reno is working with the International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives to help acquire readiness plans for Sharpsburg. Some of you have seen the sign at Ryan's Auto Glass that says Sharpsburg Residents Demand a Flood Management Plan. We do need the flood management plan. This organization is going to provide us an intern from Penn State's graduate program to gather baseline data for the emissions generated by our vehicles, traffic through town, and the buildings in town. We sent a letter to our utility company requesting anonymous data on how much electricity is being used as a community to learn how to reduce our impact on the planet.

T. Stelitano, Chief of Police

296 Calls

15 Adult Arrests

0 Juvenile Arrests

1 – Narcotics Arrest

1 – DUI Arrest

3 – Canine Assists  
14 – Traffic Stops

Stelitano received a letter from the Shaler Township Police thanking Officer Hussar and Canine Jango for their assist on a serious call on August 6.

Stelitano recently attended a workshop for Advanced Police Discipline.

Stelitano also noted on October 23, they will be participating in Operation Safe Stop, checking bus stops for anyone running a school bus.

M. Witherel, Solicitor

Nothing for the public meeting

**Consent Agenda:**

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

- A. Payment of bills due through October 24, 2019.
- B. Minutes from the August 22, 2019 Meeting.
- C. Motion to pass Resolution 19-10 supporting County Council bill No. 10781-18 regarding the oil and gas registry ordinance.
- D. Motion to pass Resolution 19-11 supporting a citizen’s commission for legislative and congressional redistricting.
- E. Motion to advertise Ordinance 19-02 providing for the installation and regulation of fire lanes.
- F. Motion to approve the 2020 MMO (Minimum Municipal Obligation) for the Sharpsburg Non-Uniform Pension Plan. There is no contribution needed.
- G. Motion to approve the 2020 MMO (Minimum Municipal Obligation) for the Sharpsburg Police Pension Plan in the amount of \$63,802.00
- H. Motion to approve the proposed property subdivision known as block and lot 168-M-121, 19<sup>th</sup> Street and Chapman Street.
- I. Motion to approve the paving bid from Folino Contracting for \$37,654.55 for the paving of the 600 block of Clay Street. This is through a CDBG Grant.
- J. Motion to grant Kerr Elementary School permission to use Kennedy Park on Friday, October 25 from 11:00am – 7:00pm to hold their annual Fall Festival.
- K. Motion to donate \$300.00 to the Sharpsburg Volunteer Fire Department for their annual Halloween Celebration.
- L. Motion to hold the annual Halloween Door-to-Door Trick-or-Treat on Thursday, October 31, 2019 from 6:00pm to 8:00pm.
- M. Motion to grant permission to the Sharpsburg Community Garden Organization to use the vacant lot at 13<sup>th</sup> Street and Middle Street (block & lot 168-J-336) for a minimum of 10 years to create a Community Market Garden.
- N. Motion to grant Sugar Spell Scoops permission to hold a Vegan Halloween Block Party on Sunday, October 13 from 3:00pm – 9:00pm and to close North Canal Street from 10th Street to Clay Street during this time.
- O. Motion to grant Sharpsburg Neighborhood Organization permission to use Kennedy Park on Saturday, October 12 from 11:00am – 3:00pm for Sharpsmeade.

Motion by Jaso, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Pastor  
All in Favor – Yes

Permits:

- a. Handicap Parking  
Elaine Kolc – 221 9<sup>th</sup> Street  
Motion by Simbari, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Pastor
- b. Use Permits - None
- c. Zoning/Building - None

Refunds – None

Reno asked for a Motion to Adjourn at 8:28pm.  
Motion by Jaso, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Trozzo  
All in Favor - Yes

Respectfully Submitted,

William Rossey  
Sharpsburg Borough Manager

WR:ck