Sharpsburg Borough Council Meeting Minutes
August 14, 2025
6:30pm
Borough Council Chambers

1. Ms. Laing called the meeting to order and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

2. Ms. DeRunk conducted roll call and the following members were present: Mr. Jaso, Mr. Ochai, Ms. Laing, Mr. Breingan, Ms. Ishman, Ms. Pastor, Mayor Portis. Mr. Mason was excused. Also present was Ms. DeRunk.

3. Discussion Topics
    a. Naming of Kennedy Park Basketball Court – Mayor Portis suggested naming the new basketball court after Greg Domian. Mr. Jaso asked if it made sense to name the gym after him. There was support to name the basketball court.

    b. Request from Aspinwall Chamber of Commerce to hang a banner over Main Street – There was a discussion on how long to hang a banner over Main Street for an event in Aspinwall. The applicant did not specify a requested amount of time. Ms. DeRunk will ask the applicant to fill out the Special Events Form and submit to Council at the business meeting.

    c. Trail through Gateway Park – Carolyn Yagle from Environmental Planning Design (EPD) gave a presentation on the proposed bike path through Gateway Park for the Little Pine Creek Connector Trail. There was vigorous discussion on whether to move the locations of the proposed street crossings. EPD explained that PennDOT has already determined the locations for some of them. Concern for safety was universally expressed and it was acknowledges that the whole area is difficult to navigate given Rt 28, the bridge, on and off maps, etc. EPD will do some follow-up to questions asked.

    d. Capital Needs – Ms. DeRunk described the various capital needs that have been identified by the departments over the next five years. She stated that projects for which there was no specified time frame were placed into 2026 as placeholders. She stated if there were additional projects not listed to reach out. Some that were suggested include a street calming project, streetscaping on N Main, and generally stormwater management infrastructure.

    e. Ordinance Change related to changing rental inspections to a three-year cycle – Ms. DeRunk stated the reasons to move the rental inspection program to a three-year cycle instead of a two-year cycle, mostly because the reason that most units fail at this point when the fail is because of a lack of a smoke detector or carbon monoxide detector and not major health and safety violations as when the program was started over a decade ago. Inspections will still occur at tenant change. This is moved to the business agenda to advertise the proposed change.

    f. Ordinance Change re junk cars – Ms. DeRunk stated some of the enforcement issues that exist with the current ordinance. The proposed changes include that no junk cars are allowed on public or private property, removal of the resident exclusion to allow junk cars, and adds some specificity related to classic and

antique cars. This is moved to the business agenda to advertise the proposed changes.

g. Solar resolution – Mr. Breingan stated that he will be working on a resolution related to community solar that can be sent to Harrisburg to encourage changes in legislation at the state level.

h. Junior Council – Ms. Laing stated that she has reached out to the counselors at the high school to post that we are looking for a junior council member. Interviews will be held in October and applicants will be invited to attend the September business meeting to see what the meetings are about and how they are run.

i. Opening bank accounts for capital funds – Ms. DeRunk stated that there will be an agenda item for the business meeting to open bank accounts for the newly formed Capital Reserve Fund and for the Riverfront Capital Reserve Fund.

4. Public Comment
    a. Clark Wigginton suggested that the Junior Council applicants be interviewed in the back room to be less intimidating than on the floor. He expressed some concerns about batteries for solar panels and about enforcement of parking.

Respectfully submitted,

Christine DeRunk

Borough Manager