Sharpsburg Borough Council Meeting Minutes
February 26, 2026
6:30pm
Borough Council Chambers

1. President Laing welcomed the audience and called the meeting to order

2. Pledge of Allegiance and Roll Call: Karen Pastor, Roman Mason, Corey Ochai - excused, Jonathan Jaso, Adrianne Laing, Dave Breingan - excused, Mayor Portis, Sara Ishman, Chief Stelitano

3. Christine DeRunk explained the Consent Agenda Items

4. Public Comments on agenda-related items (3-minute limit)
    a. No public comments

5. Registered Public Comments (3-minute limit)
    a. Sara Mariacher gave the library report – increase in door traffic and circulation this month, the following are some of the upcoming programs for March: Nesting Birds, Orchids 101, Family Saturday Studio, and a history presentation on Irish workers. The Chilli Cook Off will be held this year in April.
    b. Brian Wolovich discussed the public art MOU with MCDC sculpture at community garden. The artist is Orie Cohen.
    c. Motion to approve the art installation at Sharpsburg Community Garden – Ishman 1st, Pastor 2nd, unanimously passed
    d. Mayor Portis presented her proclamation honoring Lou Costanzo for his 50 years with Sharpsburg's Fire Department. Mr. Costanzo's tireless efforts have inspired generations of fire fighters and first responders. His legacy of services reflect very high standards. We give our deep appreciation for his 50 years of faithful and dedicated service!

6. Reports
    a. Reports from Commissions
        i. Mallory Helbling gave the Parks and Recreation update – They will be meeting with the Rotary regarding Funnel Cake Friday and continue to plan for the Halloween and holiday events. A community member suggested revitalizing Gateway Park; more information to come as they develop a plan. Parks and Recs applied for the use of borough property for a music festival to help celebrate the Bicentennial.

    b. Adrianne Laing gave the President's Report – she thanked DPW for all their work with snow removal from the storm and announced Harvest on Main Street is open. Council had one executive session on January 29th regarding personnel.

    c. Junior Council Report - Grace Cooper informed the borough of Fox Chapel's musical, Something Rotten, which will begin this weekend, March 27th.

    d. Public Safety – Karen Pastor and Jonathan Jaso
        i. Chief Stelitano gave the police report – 316 calls for service in December, 8 traffic stops,4 citations – 4 warnings, 4 arrests (3 adult, 1

juvenile), 0 DUI. Mayor Portis stated that the Sharpsburg Police Department received a letter commending Officer Kimmel and, our police social worker, Mary, for their exceptional response on December 22nd of 2025 at the Blawnox High Rise. They saved a life that day.

ii. Mary Bauer's Social Worker Report – 122 interactions for the month of January, 26% were via 911 dispatch, 74% of interactions were non-dispatched services. Areas of concern: mental health, civil concerns (utilities, housing, unemployment, etc.), and medical conditions (falls, cardiac arrest, disorientation, etc.) The following are some community engagements and trainings Ms. Bauer assisted: emergency management, warming centers, welfare checks, and snow disaster, met with Veterans Place for better coordinated services for our veterans, meeting with Parks and Rec commission for involvement with Bicentennial Celebration, and hosted event at the Senior Center on seasonal depression and New Years Resolutions.

iii. Karen Pastor gave the Fire Department Report- 53 total calls in January, 13 calls in Sharpsburg. The weekend of the snowstorm January 24th & 25th, the fire department has 16 members staffing the station from Sunday afternoon through Monday evening to ensure continuous coverage during the storm. Good Friday Fish Fry April 3rd 11:00 am to 7 pm at Camp Guyasuta. March 28th, there will be a smoke detector distribution by the Red Cross - for more Information please visit the website or the Facebook posting.
Congratulations to Lou Costanzo for his 50 years of service!

iv. Jaso gave the EMS report – there were 58 EMS calls in Sharpsburg during the month of January and the response times improved.

e. Communications Committee – Corey Ochai and Roman Mason
   i. Nothing to report currently.

f. Zoning/Planning/Code – David Breingan and Sarah Ishman
   i. Ms. Ishman and Mr. Breingan stated that legislative priorities will be discussed at the March workshop meeting and will determine what items need addressed in terms of priority.

g. Asset Management – Jonathan Jaso and Karen Pastor
   i. Mark Marshall gave the Public Works report - some of their finished projects include preconstruction and design meeting at Kennedy Park, Christmas decorations are down and stored, snow removal emergency plan, and replaced 13 signs that were hit during the snowstorm. Their upcoming projects include installation of ADA and sidewalks at Kennedy Park, restoration of grass at Kennedy Park, manhole replacement on 9th Street, restoration of picnic tables at Kennedy Park and James Sharp Landing and replace brooms on street sweeper and cutting edge on snowplow.
      1. Motion to approve Kennedy Park upgrades not to exceed $30,000 and to be completed in-house per 2026 capital budget. Jaso 1st, Mason 2nd, unanimously passed
   ii. Engineer's Report from LSSE report included in packet

h. Finance – Sarah Ishman and David Breingan
   i. Budget Reports – nothing to report currently

ii. Treasurer's Report from Carleen Kusar is included in the packet

i. Solicitor's Report – Matt Kalina
    i. Nothing for public comment

j. Manager's Report – Christine DeRunk
    i. Resiliency Grid – We now have a fully executed grant agreement and EIS can begin work in earnest.
    ii. Comprehensive Stormwater Management Plan – We were just delivered the draft of the stormwater plan for review. We need to get comments back quickly so we can potentially adopt the plan and work to close out the STMP grant soon.
    iii. PENNVEST - LSSE and I have been pulling together the information that is needed for the PENNVEST application, which was due February 4. The ask is for just under $10M at this time.
    iv. Anti-Displacement/Housing Preservation Work- working with consultants on development of deliverables related to community outreach and a potential rehab program
    v. Active Transportation Plan – We were awarded $50,000. The grant kick-off meeting occurred, and we will need to form a steering committee for the ATP, which will be a workshop topic.
    vi. Allegheny Shores – Ongoing PA SITES money was not awarded to R47.
    vii. STMP – We were granted the scope change for the STMP funds and have contracted with Tracey Holst to revise the employee handbook and to include policies as recommended by labor counsel and our insurance carriers. The draft is expected in early February.
    viii. Allegheny Shores RAISE - Lots of ongoing meetings and coordination with PennDOT and FHWA.
    ix. Allegheny Shores PENNDOT – Finalizing bid specs with PennDOT.
    x. FEMA – Ms. DeRunk submitted the requested paperwork to FEMA to close out the CAV. Awaiting a response to see if the paperwork is sufficient to close the files.
    xi. Day-to-Day – These are typical day-to-day items such as work associated with grants on the engineer's report, meeting with and supporting staff, emails, scheduling ZHB, Planning Commission, Right-to-Know Requests, working with parks and rec., etc.

7. Consent Agenda – motion
    a. Motion to approve the following business:
        i. Payment of bills through January 31, 2026
        ii. Adopt minutes from January 22 and February 12 meetings
        iii. Ratify hiring of Josh Sullivan as DPW Laborer at rate of $25/hr
        iv. Campbell Durrant for legal review of personnel manual not to exceed $4,935 and partially funded by STMP
        v. Approval of the use of Kenndy Park for Soccer Shots fall dates Aug 19 to Oct 14 from 5pm to 7:25pm with make-up dates of Oct 21 and Oct 28
        vi. Approval for the use of Kennedy Park for a Pet Vaccination Clinic and Resource Fair on July 10 from 8:30am to 4:30pm
        vii. Approval of the use of Kennedy Park by P&R for Music Festival and Bicentennial Celebration on September 19 from noon to 8pm (with set up and breakdown 8am to 10pm)

Motion to approve the above listed business items – Mason 1st, Jaso 2nd, unanimously passed.

8. Other Reports
    i. Zoning/Building – see monthly BIU report
    ii. Inspection Report from Code Officer, Andrea McCord, is included in packet

9. Adjourn 7:33 pm

Respectfully submitted,

Christine DeRunk

The next workshop meeting will be on March 12, 2026 at 6:30pm.
The next business meeting will be on March 26, 2026 at 6:30pm.