

SHARPSBURG BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING

January 27, 2022

Honorable Mayor
Members of Council

The Regular Business Meeting of the Sharpsburg Council was held January 27, 2022, at 6:30pm.

President Laing called the meeting to order and led in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Roll call found the following members present: Jonathan Jaso, Kayla Portis, Karen Pastor, Carrie Tongarm, Sarah Ishman, Adrienne Laing, Mayor Reno, Chief Stelitano

Citizen Comments (Agenda items Only):

Citizen Comments (Registered):

President Laing announced there was an executive session prior to the council meeting.

Sara Mariacher – Sharpsburg Library Update

Mariacher gave her monthly statistic report and updates on programs and needs for the pantry.

Fire Chief Lou Costanzo – Parking Issues

Costanzo expressed his concerns with the beer and Pepsi trucks that deliver to Guyasuta Lounge on N. Canal Street. You can not get a fire truck through when the truck is there. Stelitano said he has spoken to the owner. Stelitano suggested that we give her a loading zone in the rear with a sign stating the day and the time that area is to be designated a loading zone. Costanzo is also asking to add a red fire line on N. Canal Street because of the narrowness of the road.

Costanzo also asked about getting the snow removed from the parking spots on N. Canal Street. D'Ambrosio said they can do that, but the road needs to be clear of cars and they can shut the road off to do the removal.

Costanzo also asked if the fines on a parking ticket can be increased. Costanzo said they have not been raised since the 1980's. The Solicitor replied and said the ordinance would need to be amended to reflect the changes. Costanzo would like to see the fine for yellow lines increased from \$15.00 to an amount agreed upon by council.

Costanzo made a complaint about 9th Street and parking. There is a specific vehicle that gets tickets, he pays the fines but still parks on a yellow line.

Luke Borowy – Venture Outdoors – Kayak Pittsburgh

Borowy explained that they are a non-profit organization. Borowy said they like to offer wellness through the outdoors. Borowy would like to run a year pilot program of rental concessions using James Sharp Landing at the far left of the parking lot to make accessible kayaking available to the community. They offer seasonal employment opportunities. They will need at least 2 trailers and access to electricity. Operation would be from Memorial Day through the end of September, weather permitting.

A discussion ensued and no decision was made as it needs to be determined if we can get electric to that area.

John Barbour – Mobil Sauna at Sharps Landing

Barbour talked about Mobil Sauna and its benefits. Barbour said he would like to set up the sauna at James Sharp Landing on Saturdays for the 8 weeks, starting February 12th through April 8th.

Jaso made a motion to allow John Barbour to set up his Mobil Sauna at James Sharp landing February 12th through April 8th on Saturdays as long as he listed the borough as an additional insured.

2nd by Portis

All in Favor

Roll Call:

Jaso – yes

Pastor – yes

Tongarm – yes

Ishman – yes

Portis – yes

Laing – yes

Motion carried

Kelly Strain – Marijuana Ordinance

Strain spoke about her concerns on passing this ordinance. Strain feels that the police use proper discretion when it comes to marijuana arrests and possession. Strain said she does not want to see this ordinance passed when it will eventually be passed at the state level.

A discussion ensued and a motion was made by Ishman to not to advertise ordinance 22-02.

2nd by Pastor

Another discussion took place.

Ishman then amended her motion to advertise ordinance 22-02.

2nd by Jaso

All in Favor, no.

Roll Call:

Pastor – no

Tongarm – yes

Ishman – no

Portis – yes

Jaso – yes

Laing – no

Mayor Reno had to make the tie vote. Reno voted yes to advertise.

Motion Carried

Committee Reports:

W. Rossey – Absent

Laing said Rossey gave her a few updates.

Laing said Main Street is scheduled to close around February 14th. Port Authority will advertise the shuttles. Chief Stelitano said they will let everyone know of the new route.

Laing said Rossey asked for a list from council on their recommendations on the streets that they would like to see repaved.

C. Tongarm – Zoning/Planning/Code

Tongarm said she has an aggressive agenda.

Tongarm would like to hear from the residents on issues, ideas, and concerns.

Tongarm would like to revitalize the zoning ordinance for the business district.

Tongarm would like to meet with Lou Deluca and Dave Komora, code enforcement officers. Tongarm commended the DPW on their snow removal for the past two snowstorms. Tongarm would like to find a way to motivate the vacant store front owners to rent their commercial spaces.

Tongarm would like to form a parks and recreation commission. Pastor asked Jaso did he try and put together a committee in the past? Jaso said yes, and no one wanted to volunteer.

K. Portis – Personnel
Nothing currently.

K. Pastor – Public Safety
260 calls in 2021

Pastor said the fire chief made it to 97% of all calls.

Pastor listed the calls by borough and township:

Aspinwall – 40

Blawnox – 10

Etna – 19

Fox Chapel – 1

O'Hara – 53

Shaler – 1

Millvale – 9

Sharpsburg – 127

Pastor said that is about 2000 hours they responded to in calls and training.

Pastor mentioned federal grants. They applied for a federal grant for radios. The radios are in and being programmed. They have applied for another federal grant for new hose lines.

Tongarm asked Pastor if there was any follow up on the accidents on Main Street. Pastor replied that the FD does not get updates on car accidents. Chief Stelitano said he cannot disclose that information.

S. Ishman – Public Works

Ishman said she has a meeting set up the D'Ambrosio to get familiar with how the DPW operates.

Open Chair – Health/Property

J. Jaso – Finance

Jaso said he made a phone call to HSWA about the \$2.00 charge per month on the bill to cover the cost of replacing the lead pipes. He asked how long the charge will stay on the bill? He was told there is no timeline as to when the fee will be removed. The fee is specific to Sharpsburg because of all the lead pipes in town.

Jaso mentioned the junior council seat. Jaso had a potential prospect, but it fell through.

Tongarm asked what is the age that they can apply. Jaso said 15 or older.

J. D'Ambrosio – Public Works Director

D'Ambrosio said they have been busy with snow removal and salting.

All of council thanked the DPW for their hard work.

B. Reno – Mayor

Reno read a proclamation to Animal Friends.

Reno mentioned the Shade Tree Commission and Bike Ped Committee. Reno encouraged people to join. Reno said that we will be getting a dozen of trees to plant.

Reno talked about the riverfront trail. Allegheny River Trail acquired 6 additional acres. They were granted permission for an easement to connect the trail to James Sharp landing. Eventually we will be connected to the Three Rivers Heritage Trail. Reno said there is massive fundraising to connect the trails. You can make a \$10 donation at www.alleghenyrivertrailpark.org to show your support. This shows community support of the trail.

Reno said she has been selected to be the representative for Sharpsburg for the program CONNECT (Congress of Neighboring Communities).

Reno talked about the Riverfront Development. Jaso, Brad Truman and she have been meeting with them for the past couple of years, meeting every other week. Reno said the meetings are going to get going again and said we can have 3 council members at the meetings if any one is interested. Tongarm, Laing, and Ishman said they were interested.

Reno mentioned we have been talking about the accidents that happened in front of Volunteers of America. Reno said she was able to get 2 solar powered crosswalk signs that light up and blink when activated. Reno said we need to figure out where we would like to put them. If we put them on Main Street, we will have to do that through resolution to obtain an authorization for a highway occupancy permit because it is a PennDOT road. A discussion ensued on the placement of the signs. No decision was made at this time. Sixth Street and 16th Street were mentioned as possibilities.

Reno talked about the Slippery Rock University social work internship. Reno said she has started the application process. A discussion continued.

Motion by Jaso to enter into an agreement with Slippery Rock University police social work intern.

2nd by Pastor

All in Favor – Yes

Reno thanked Officer Carb for all his hard work keeping us current with I.T.

A. Laing – President

Laing said Sharpsburg Neighborhood Organization had a virtual meeting about the riverfront project. Laing said it was an opportunity to hear updates and feedback.

Reno said the meeting and slide show will be posted on the borough website.

Laing thanked the DPW for the hard work removing snow during the recent snowstorms. It was appreciated.

Laing addressed the issue of when should snow be removed from sidewalks. It should be removed 24 hours after the snowfall ends for residents and 2 hours or 24 hours whichever is sooner. Laing said it goes straight to fine for snow removal.

Laing said there needs to be a motion to amend the consent agenda to extend the amended contract offer to the borough manager.

Tongram made the motion to amend the consent agenda to extend the amended contract offer to the borough manager.

2nd by Ishman

All in Favor – Yes

T. Stelitano – Chief

Stelitano addressed the speed on Main Street. Stelitano said he has spoken with Aspinwall PD, and we are going to borrow their speed flashing signs. The signs will records speed and other traffic information. Stelitano said we will also borrow from Etna an ENRADD machine. Once the weather breaks, Officer Carb will start to run speed traffic. Stelitano also said once the weather breaks, D'Ambrosio will be painting calibration lines and we can start to use the stopwatch to enforce speed.

252 Calls

6 – Traffic stops – 3 citations – 3 warnings

27 – Assists

8 – Domestic

4 – Arrests – 3 Adult – 1 juvenile

Stelitano addressed the issue of the proposed increases in the parking ticket fines. There is a limit set by state.

Stelitano said to Tongarm he called Sara Innamarto's office to get a new state code book.

Stelitano said he and Sandy have been going through the book.

M. Witherel – Solicitor

Nothing currently.

Consent Agenda:

- a. Payment of bills due through February 24, 2022.
- b. Minutes from the December 15, 2021, meeting.
- c. Motion to vacate the council seat of Brian Kozara for failure to qualify as an elected official.
- d. Motion to advertise open council seat. (This will be a two-year term)
- e. Motion to extend the amended contract offer to the borough manager.

Motion by Jaso

2nd by Portis

Roll Call:

Portis – yes

Jaso – yes

Pastor – yes

Tongarm – yes

Ishman – yes

Laing – yes

Tongarm abstained from item b on the consent agenda.

Motion carried.

Permits:

A. Accessible Parking

i. Evelyn Troyan – 918 Penn Street

Motion by Pastor

2nd by Portis

All in Favor – Yes

Refunds – No

Executive Session – No

Laing asked for a motion to adjourn at 8:50pm.

Motion by Jaso

2nd by Portis

All in Favor – Yes

Respectfully Submitted,

William Rossey
Sharpsburg Borough Manager

WR:ck