

SHARPSBURG BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING February 24, 2022

Honorable Mayor
Members of Council

The Regular Business Meeting of the Sharpsburg Council was held February 24, 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, Peter Adams, Mayor Reno, Chief Stelitano - excused

Laing stated that Bill Rossey would like to read a statement.

Rossey said:

To Council, Mayor, Borough Residents and Business Owners:

I have been employed by the Sharpsburg Borough since 2015. During my time as Borough Manager, I have accomplished major undertakings and projects. Some of the highlights are as follows:

- Budget costs have been reduced by \$86,000. This includes the costs of the Solicitor, Auditor, Engineer, Waste Management, Workers Compensation and PNC refinance. There has NEVER been a tax increase.
- \$8.4 million in grants have been secured for the borough for streetscape, water and sewer and recreation projects along with catch basin replacements and ADA ramps.
- Police vehicles have been upgraded along with a K-9 Unit, new computers in police vehicles and station, along with surveillance cameras.
- Sales and purchase of property for the public works department, including building, salt storage shed, vehicles and equipment.
- Transitioned from Sharpsburg Water Department to Hampton-Shaler.
- Received the Banner Community Award from Allegheny County for 7 years.
- As President of the PSAB, statewide recognition was brought to Sharpsburg via MY connections. We were highlighted in a PCN edition of Boroughs Across Pennsylvania.
- The staff and I diligently worked through the entire Covid pandemic.

Due to personal medical reasons, I am announcing my retirement effective March 25, 2022.

On January 3rd, I was blind-sided by council and have never felt so embarrassed, humiliated, and dejected in my life. I have worked for YOU as if this were MY community. I will never get over the sick feeling I have over what has transpired.

My contract has been the same for the past 6 years and suddenly you want to change the stability of me and my partner's future in one fell swoop. I personally feel you want a younger person in my position, and I will be seeking legal advice from my attorney on an Age Discrimination Lawsuit against this Council and Sharpsburg Borough.

At this time, I will excuse myself from this meeting and would like to thank everyone who has supported me over the years.

Citizen Comments (Agenda items Only):

Kathy Mercer asked to speak on item F Ordinance 22-02, the decriminalization of marijuana. Mercer said she is against the ordinance.

Mike Daniher asked to speak on item F Ordinance 22-02 the decriminalization of marijuana. Daniher said he is against the ordinance.

Citizen Comments (Registered):

Sara Mariacher – Sharpsburg Library Update
Mariacher gave her monthly report on the library.

Lydia Morin – Connect Executive Director
Morin gave an overview of what Connect is about and what they can do for the borough.

Kelly Strain – Decriminalizing Marijuana Ordinance
Strain again said she is against the ordinance.

Mike White – HRC Commission
White said that they have an open seat on the human rights commission. The seat is a 4-year term. White said they are almost done writing the by-laws.

Luke Borowy – Venture Outdoors – Kayak Pittsburgh
Borowy said they revised the storage container layout and reduced their electrical needs. Borowy said the residents of Sharpsburg will get a 15% discount on rental.

Jim Wetzel – Ordinance 22-02
Wetzel spoke against the ordinance.

Chris Minnerly – Allegheny Shores – R47
Minnerly gave the floor to Lynn Colosi. Colosi gave a presentation on the project at the riverfront at 19th Street. Colosi asked the borough to be the applicant for a federal grant MOU. Colosi said they are seeking approval for the borough to be the applicant for the Economic Adjustment Assistance Grant which is a program with the economic administration contingent upon execution of a mutually agreeable memorandum of understanding. A discussion ensued.

Committee Reports:

W. Rossey – Manager – Absent
Reno read Rossey's notes.

Laing asked Jaso if there was anything more, he would like to discuss about the decriminalization of marijuana ordinance. A discussion ensued.

Jaso made a motion to remove ordinance 22-02 from the consent agenda.

2nd by Pastor

All in Favor – Yes

Roll Call:

Tongarm – Yes

Ishman – Yes

Adams – Yes

Portis – Yes

Jaso – Yes

Pastor – Yes

Laing – Yes

Motion carried

C. Tongarm – Zoning/Planning/Code

Nothing currently.

K. Pastor – Public Safety

19 fire calls – January

Pastor said all members of the fire department are all recertified in CPR, first aid, and stop the bleed. Pastor said the new council members met with the fire department and got a presentation on what they do, how they do it and why. The fire department also gave them a ride along so they could see how narrow the streets are and how people park on the yellow lines which is what makes it hard to get around the corners with the trucks. Pastor said their fish fry will be Friday, April 15th from 11am-7pm, it will be take-out and delivery only. Pastor asked Daniher to talk about the new sign the department has. Daniher said it took 5 years to get it and it was funded by donations.

S. Ishman – Public Works

Ishman said she is working on getting information from PennDot on the Main Street closure. Ishman said she is going to put a map together with the detour. The map will be available at the police department and the administration office and will be on the website as well. Ishman also said she is working on a list of what the DPW department is responsible for, and it will also be available on the website. Ishman said she is working on a list of active businesses.

P. Adams – Health/Property

Nothing currently.

J. Jaso – Finance

Nothing currently.

J. D'Ambrosio – Public Works Director

D'Ambrosio said the James Sharp landing is still closed due to the debris left from the river flooding. He said that all the ice has been removed, however there is about 4" of mud. It is going to be at least another week before it will be able to open safely.

Tongarm and Reno thanked the DPW for their hard work.

B. Reno – Mayor

Reno said that we have moved the mobile sauna to the borough buildings parking lot until James Sharp Landing is cleared. The sauna is booked solid.

Reno talked about the 2 crosswalk signs that she was able to get and their locations. One location is at 16th and Main and the second location is to be determined. Reno said there needs to be a resolution passed to be able to apply for the highway occupancy permit. Jaso asked what the cost of the signs are. Reno said between a \$1000 and \$3000. Jaso would like to see if there is a grant available to get additional signs. Jaso feels that signs need to be put at 6th Street and Main and 23rd Street and Main.

Reno would like to start putting out a quarterly newsletter. Reno has been talking to other smaller municipalities and they have newsletters online that you can subscribe to and there would also be paper copies available at the borough office. Reno said that Sharpsburg Neighborhood Organization is launching a home repair fund for low-income homeowners and renters. You can get up to \$250 to do repairs to help save on energy costs.

T. Stelitano – Chief

Stelitano was absent and Reno read his notes.

A.Laing – President

Laing asked for an update on N. Canal and the delivery trucks at Guyasuta Lounge. Reno said they are using the loading zone. Officer Carb said that this week a smaller truck came and parked on Main Street and walked the supplies over to the lounge. Reno said we will continue to monitor. Laing said the Environmental Council is talking about its next clean up in town. Laing will have more information at the next meeting. Laing said that the borough was named again a Banner Community for 2022. Laing mentioned the Energy Fair at the library March 7th, from 4:30-6:30. It is being sponsored by Sara Innamorato's office, Duquesne Light, and Roots of Faith.

M. Witherel – Solicitor

Kalina addressed the fire chief about an ordinance (red lines) that was previously discussed. Kalina said it must be amended by ordinance this time and verbiage can include that any future changes will be amended by resolution.

Consent Agenda:

- a. Payment of bills due through March 24, 2022
- b. Minutes from the January 3rd and January 27, 2022, meeting.
- c. Motion to grant Art in Motion Pittsburgh permission to use Kennedy Park on Saturday, June 11th from 12:00 noon to 5:00 pm to hold their recital event.
- d. Motion to approve the submission of an EAA grant application on behalf of Allegheny Shores contingent upon execution of a mutually agreeable Memorandum of Understanding.

Motion by Jaso

2nd by Ishman

All in Favor – Yes

Roll Call:

Pastor – Yes

Tongarm – Yes

Ishman – Yes

Adams – Yes – Abstains from item b

Portis – Yes

Jaso – Yes

Laing – Yes

Motion carried.

- e. Motion to give Sharpsburg Family Worship Center permission to use Kennedy Park on Saturday, April 9, 2022, from 10:00am to 4:00pm to hold their annual Easter Egg Hunt Extravaganza and to close North Canal Street during this time.

Motion by Jaso

2nd by Portis

All in Favor – yes

Permits:

- a. Accessible Parking

Marilyn Robinson – 1106 Penn St.

Reno wanted to table it so that she and the Chief can revisit.

Motion by Laing

2nd Tongarm

Use Permits – None

Zoning/Building – None

Refunds – None

Executive Session – Yes

Laing asked for a motion to adjourn at 8:55pm.

Motion by Jaso

2nd by Portis

Respectfully Submitted,

Jason Dailey

Interim Borough Manager

JD:ck