

SHARPSBURG BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING

April 28, 2022

Honorable Mayor
Members of Council

The Regular Business Meeting of the Sharpsburg Council was held April 28, 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

Presidents Statement:

Laing said there was a late item added to the agenda. Roots of Faith – Block Party request. Laing asked if there was any concerns or discussion needed. Pastor said it fan be discussed later. The item was added to the agenda.

Laing asked for a Roll Call:

Portis – Yes

Jaso – Yes

Pastor – Yes

Tongarm – Yes

Ishman – Yes

Adams – Yes

Laing - Yes

Laing mentioned that the Allegheny League of Municipalities awarded the borough the Banner Community of Recognition for 2022.

Laing thanked all the volunteers that helped with cleanup on Earth Day.

Citizen Comments Agenda Items Only:

Citizen Comments (Registered)

Sara Mariacher – Sharpsburg Library Update

Mariacher gave her monthly report on the library.

Mike White – Human Rights Commission

White said that the Pride Event will be held on June 11th at Kennedy Park from 12pm-6pm.

White said that the commission interviewed several applicants and Nancy Goldberg was chosen to fill the vacant seat.

Reno said a motion needs to be made for her to be able to administer the oath of office.

Tongarm made a motion to have Nancy Goldberg fill the vacant seat on the Human Rights Commission.

2nd by Portis

All in Favor – Yes

Roll Call:

Pastor – Yes

Tongarm – Yes
Ishman – Yes
Adams – Yes
Portis – Yes
Jaso – Yes
Laing – Yes

Reno administered the Oath of Office to Nancy Goldberg to fill the vacant seat.

Nancy Goldberg – Sharpsburg Business Group
Goldberg said their motto is “You Belong in Sharpsburg.”
Goldberg mentioned there will be website www.sharpsburg.org. They are working on it and is not up and running at this current time.
Goldberg said that their mission is to increase desirability for businesses, increase foot traffic, increase communication, and marketability.
Goldberg mentioned there will be an Art and History Stroll on June 4th from 11am-4pm. There will be maps available.

Committee Reports:

C. Tongarm – Zoning/Planning/Code

Tongarm said the Tow Away Ordinance was advertised and she received no feedback on it.
Tongarm made a motion to adopt Ordinance No. 22-02 approving the changes to the tow away ordinance.

2nd by Jaso

All in Favor – Yes

Roll Call:

Tongarm – Yes

Ishman – Yes

Adams – Yes

Portis – Yes

Pastor – Yes

Jaso – Yes

Laing – Yes

Tongarm talked about the creation of the Parks and Recreation Commission.

A discussion ensued.

Tongarm also mentioned all the vacancies on the zoning, planning, and shade tree commissions.

A discussion ensued.

Tongarm made a motion to advertise as amended for the Parks and Recreation Commission ordinance that creates this commission and the duties and responsibilities of the members and commission.

2nd by

Adams

All in Favor – Yes

Roll Call:

Ishman – Yes

Adams – Yes

Portis – Yes

Jaso – Yes

Pastor – Yes
Tongarm – Yes
Laing – Yes

Tongarm spoke with Greg Domian about the Fall Festival. Tongarm said Domian's organization paid for all expenses last year which was \$3,500.00. Tongarm would like to request that the borough contribute to that amount. Tongarm suggestion is to approve borough contributions not to exceed \$3,500.00.

A discussion ensued.

Tongarm would like to put on next month's agenda for approval.

K. Portis – Personnel

Portis said she has an employee recognition.

Portis said we are fortunate to have dedicated and hardworking employees. We are especially fortunate to have Carleen as the office assistant for the borough who is a wealth of knowledge and keeps the office running smooth. Thankyou so much for your 3 years of service.

K. Pastor – Public Safety

Chief Stelitano gave his report.

347 – Incidents

88 – Traffic stops

44 – Citations

42 – Warnings

23 – Assists

1 - DUI

Jango was involved in one of those assists in Ross Township and a person was apprehended.

Pastor gave her fire department report:

23 – Fire Calls for March

90 – Year to Date

Pastor said the fish fry was a great success and thank you all that came out and supported us and came and purchased food.

Pastor mentioned the Aspinwall/Sharpsburg Fire Department mergers are going along smoothly. On Sunday we will be answering fire calls as one department. The station numbers are now 101 and 102. The actual merger will be complete January 2023.

Pastor said that there was a meeting with Aspinwall about all the accidents on Route 28 due to the ongoing road construction. The fire chiefs, police chiefs, and Mayors met and talked about helping each other out because there has been so many accidents. They asked that we all share the responsibility in going up. That includes Aspinwall, O'Hara, and Sharpsburg.

A discussion ensued.

Pastor said we need to add an Accessible parking space at the entrance to the 16th Street Park. Pastor made the motion to add a handicap parking space across the street from the entrance to the 16th Street Park.

2nd by Portis

All in Favor – Yes

Adams – Yes

Portis – Yes

Jaso – Yes

Pastor – Yes

Tongarm – Yes

Ishman – Yes
Laing – Yes

Pastor said that St. Mary's Church has 2 accessible parking spaces right now. They are asking to add 2 more spaces on Penn Street across the street from the doors.

A discussion ensued and the request will go before the Accessible parking committee.

Tongarm said by ordinance there as to be an accessible parking committee. That committee consists of herself, Pastor, Laing, Borough Manager, and the police chief. Tongarm explained the ordinance.

Laing asked for the request to be discussed with the committee. All accessible parking spots will now be handled by the committee and not at board level.

S. Ishman – Public Works

Ishman thanked the DPW for their hard work at the 16th Street playground for the ribbon cutting for the new playground equipment.

Ishman also mentioned that D'Ambrosio has just finished some training. D'Ambrosio said he attended PennDOT's safety symposium.

Ishman said that there was a borough road tour to assess road conditions. Everyone's list was also reviewed. Ishman listed the roads that have been considered and going to go out for bid.

Ishman also noted that she and Jaso will be revising the street opening application.

A discussion ensued.

Ishman made a motion to authorize the borough engineer to prepare the bid packet and advertise for the section of Chapman and all of Harding Way to be resurfaced, and for base repair locations to be listed as an additional alternate in the bid packet.

2nd by Portis

All in Favor – Yes

Roll Call:

Portis – Yes

Jaso – Yes

Pastor – Yes

Tongarm – Yes

Ishman – Yes

Adams – Yes

Laing – Yes

Reno brought attention to the new playground structure, that children are climbing the outside of the structure to the top. This is not allowed.

A discussion ensued.

Need to get signs posted.

P. Adams – Health/Property

Adams said the borough was successful in attaining the County Act 152 grant funds for the demolition of 1833 Main Street and 915/917 Clay Street.

Adams made a motion to authorize the borough engineer to prepare the bids and advertise for the demolition of 1833 Main Street and 915 and 917 Clay Street.

2nd by

Portis

All in Favor – Yes

Roll Call:

Pastor – Yes

Tongarm – Yes

Ishman – Yes
Adams – Yes
Portis – Yes
Jaso – Yes
Laing – Yes

Adams said the borough staff is recommending the borough apply for grant funds through Allegheny County's Act 152 Blight Program for two structures, one at 1527 N. Canal Street and the second at 207 Altmeyer Street. These two structures were applied for previously and not funded.

A discussion ensued.

Adams made a motion to adopt Resolution R-4-22 for the grant application to the County for demolition of 207 Altmeyer Street.

2nd by Jaso

All in Favor – Yes

Roll Call:

Pastor – Yes

Tongarm – Yes

Ishman – Yes

Adams – Yes

Portis – Yes

Jaso – Yes

Laing – Yes

Adams made a motion to adopt Resolution R-5-22 for the grant application to the County for demolition of 1527 North Canal Street.

2nd by Pastor

All in Favor – Yes

Roll Call:

Jaso – Yes

Pastor – Yes

Tongarm – Yes

Ishman – Yes

Adams – Yes

Portis – Yes

Laing Yes

J. Jaso – Finance

Nothing currently.

Jaso said that the borough has been introduced to a grant program for technical assistance through the Local Government Academy to evaluate the Borough's financial condition and make recommendations for long term sustainability.

Jaso made a motion to approve Resolution R-7-22 to participate in the LGA Technical Assistance Program for the Community Financial Health Assessment.

2nd by Portis

All in Favor – Yes

Roll Call:

Ishman – Yes

Adams – Yes

Portis – Yes

Jaso – Yes

Pastor – Yes
Tongarm – Yes
Laing – Yes

Jaso said we have someone here from Keystone Collections to talk about them collecting our business privilege and mercantile tax.

John Pinkerton from Keystone Collections spoke about the proposal sent to the borough and how they collect these taxes.

A discussion ensued.

Jaso made a motion to authorize an advertisement for the ordinance to make Keystone Collections the collector of business privilege and mercantile tax.

2nd by Pastor

All in Favor – Yes

Roll Call:

Adams – Yes

Portis – Yes

Jaso – Yes

Pastor – Yes

Tongarm – Yes

Ishman – Yes

Laing – Yes

B. Reno – Mayor

Reno thanked Jason Dailey and the DPW crew for their hard work to get the 16th Street Park ready for the ribbon cutting.

Reno thanked everyone that came out to pick up trash on Earth Day.

Reno said it was brought to her attention about the rat problem on Middle Street. A discussion ensued.

Reno mentioned the quarterly newsletter. She sent out a survey to everyone for review. She would like to get the first quarterly newsletter this summer.

Reno said SNO has been awarded a grant to help with flood things but cannot talk about yet.

Reno also said SNO has been gathering up funds from foundations for a comprehensive study for affordable housing across the municipality.

Reno said she has an opportunity from the Department of Environmental Protection to apply for a free feasibility study for creating a microgrid system in the borough and also looking at solar feasibility here at the borough building, DPW building, and the Linden Gym.

Reno mentioned the Memorial Day parade.

Reno was approached by the library to see if the borough can help in stall two poles and no parking signs. There is no problem with helping.

M. Witherel – Solicitor

Nothing currently.

Consent Agenda:

- a. Payment of bills due through May 26, 2022
- b. Minutes from March 22, 2022, Regular Meeting and April 9, 2022, Special Meeting.
- c. Approve Resolution R-6-2022 approving the Act 537 Plan for Alcosan to begin design of the Allegheny River tunnel.
- d. Approve the following park requests:
 1. Juneteenth Celebration at Kennedy Park w/alcohol June 25, 2022, 4 -8pm.
 2. Pride Event at Kennedy Park w/alcohol June 11, 2022, from 12-6pm.

Motion by Jaso
2nd by Tongarm
All in Favor – Yes
Roll Call:
Portis – Yes
Jaso – Yes
Pastor – Yes
Tongarm – Yes
Ishman – Yes
Adams – Yes
Laing - Yes

Laing brought up Item E for discussion – Roots of Faith block party on certain dates.
A discussion ensued.

Jaso made a motion approve Faith United Methodist 8th Street Road closure May 26th, June 23rd, July 23rd, August 25th, and September 22nd contingent upon the recommendation of the fire chief and conveyed to the borough manager.

2nd by Tongarm
All in Favor – Yes
Roll Call:
Pastor – Yes
Tongarm – Yes
Ishman – Yes
Adams – Yes
Portis – Yes
Jaso – Yes
Laing – Yes

Permits:

- a. Use Permits – None
- b. Zoning/Building – See Monthly BIU Report

Laing asked for a motion to adjourn to executive session at 7:51pm.

Motion by Jaso
2nd by Portis
All in Favor – Yes

Respectfully Submitted,

Jason Dailey
Interim Borough Manager

JD:ck