

Honorable Mayor
Members of Council

The Regular Business Meeting of Sharpsburg Borough Council was held on May 24, 2018 at 6:30 pm.

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

Roll Call found the following Members present, Matt Brudnok, Greg Domian, Karen Pastor, Jonathan Jaso, Joe Simbari excused, Larry Trozzo, Britany Reno, Jordyn Helgert excused, Mayor Rudzki, and Chief Stelitano.

Mayor Rudzki introduced and conducted the swearing in of K-9 Jango and introduced his handler, Officer Hussar representing K-9 Jango.

Mayor Rudzki asked for a motion to hire Shane Brunner as a part time police officer per the recommendation of the Public Safety Committee and Chief Stelitano. Motion made by Councilwoman Pastor and second by Councilman Jaso resulting in a unanimous vote. Mayor Rudzki conducted the swearing in of Officer Shane Brunner.

Citizen Comments (Agenda Items Only)
None

Citizen Comments (Registered)

Richard O'Toole asked for Councils permission to close Altmeyer Street for a Block Party on Sunday, May 27, 2018. Chief Stelitano acknowledged the closure and public works will provide hoses as well as Officer Carb will supply no parking signs.

Paul Brayer discussed his concerns regarding Kennedy Park's playground maintenance. He addressed the condition of the playground equipment and the safety concerns which include the equipment, the paint on the equipment, the entrance fence and the chemicals used to control weeds. He asked Council to take a more proactive position with playground equipment and maintenance. Rossey mentioned that he recently worked with a playground specialist who did review all the playground equipment. Replacement parts have been ordered along with other recommendations that he made to make the playgrounds safer.

William Ramsey addressed concerns regarding parking, parking permits, speed limit and stop signs. Ramsey was unhappy that he has paid for a permit but the enforcement is now only from 6:00 am to 6:00 pm therefore permitting the public to use the street more hours than his permit allows. Ramsey also mentioned that too many cars do not stop at stop signs on N. Canal as well as speeding.

Vicky and Bill Alexander addressed their concerns regarding barking dogs and also property maintenance. Attorney Kalina mentioned that it is not the Borough's Police force's requirement to enforce a criminal court order that prohibits the property owner of this dog to permit incessant barking. Councilman Domian acknowledged that Council has limited powers when it comes to enforcement of this issue. Rudzki commented that both the civil and criminal recourse has been exhausted and stated it is not illegal for the dog to be barking.

Reno mentioned that SNO recently received a grant from the Heinz endowment to do a project honoring women in Sharpsburg. Pulitzer Prize winning photographer, Martha Rial will be creating 5 photography murals throughout Sharpsburg over the next year honoring the local women.

Committee Reports:

L.Trozzo, Chairperson
Zoning Planning
No Report

G.Domian, Chairperson

Personnel

Domian expressed gratitude to Mayor Rudzki for intervening with Penn Dot and Port Authority and succeeding at having his request for additional shuttle stops during the bridge replacement approved.

Domian discussed the successful response of participation from vendors and business owners for the Open Streets event being held on June 2 and welcomed the public to attend.

K. Pastor, Chairperson

Public Safety

Pastor addressed the fire department's April report which states 19 fire calls for the month of April with 103 fire calls year to date.

Pastor reminded all of the Fire Department Spaghetti dinner being held Sunday, June 24th 11:00 am – 6:00pm at the rec center of Camp Guyasuta.

Pastor acknowledged that the Fire Department volunteers both veteran and new comers completed their "Essentials Program" with the final class to be completed on June 2, 2018 when they will enter a burning house in Westmoreland County and put out the fire. Some of the firefighters will continue training to complete "Firefighter's 1 and will test in July. Each Firefighter 1 will increase the grant money eligibility by \$500.00 per person.

Pastor asked volunteers for the Open Streets event to assist with traffic control.

Public Works

Bill Rossey commented on behalf of J. Simbari

Rossey mentioned that advertising is in place for Rich Aluise's current Public Works Director position as Aluise is retiring at the end of June. So far, approximately 10 applications have been received.

Interviews will be conducted at the beginning of June.

Rossey mentioned that a pickup truck with a salt spreader and a plow for public works was purchased this past year for public works to replace the 1997 utility dump truck. He is seeking Council's permission to scrap the old dump truck.

J.Jaso, Chairperson

Health/Property

Jaso announced that Penndot will be tar and chipping roads North Canal Street to Kittanning Street to begin after Memorial Day.

Jaso and Reno attended a presentation held by Solar United in reference to those who are interested in a solar panel co-op which will comprise of approximately 30 homes in the area. Solar panels have an

additional incentive of offering huge tax breaks. An investment can be recovered in approximately 7 years as well as helping the environment. Literature can be obtained from Reno or Jaso.

Jaso discussed his attendance at the Sharpsburg Environmental Action Committee with presentation from Doug Shields of Western Pa Outreach in reference to fracking for natural gas in the state and the desire for fracking companies to move into Allegheny County. Fracking cannot be banned in this area but Jaso proposed ordinances to be written to limit where fracking can occur.

The volunteer fireman will be hosting a table at Open Streets with the theme being about recycling.

Jaso asks all to think about new, renewed, reused, and recycling.

Jaso met with the group of the Lions organization who desire to form a charter here in Sharpsburg. See Jaso if interested in joining this worthwhile organization that is service oriented for the community.

Jaso will be reviewing the town to see the progress with park maintenance and public areas and also acknowledge to date that public works is doing a fantastic job.

Regarding the opioid epidemic, Jaso is promoting the utilization of social workers at St. Margarets to work with the addict and family members providing resources that may be helpful in coping and recovery from addiction.

Jaso comments that recycling overages are excessive again this month and asks the public to be mind set of this issue and reviewed the possibility of receiving bigger dumpsters to reduce the overage fee.

Jaso inquired if the lights were on all night at 10th and Main as the bill was substantial for just that area.

Rossey commented that street lights may be included in that bill. Jaso suggested a timer on the monument lighting. Rossey commented that many of the various Duquesne Light bills were billed at a bulk rate as some locations are not metered.

Domian asked if public works could be called during Open Streets to empty garbage cans to minimize the overflow of the volume of garbage.

Pastor commented and welcomed the public to come out for the Memorial Day Parade and applaud the service that the various departments contribute to the community.

M. Brudnok, Chairperson

Finance

Brudnok commented that he attended the NH COG Meeting this past week and mentioned that various organizations now want to join the COG as the bulk rate for various services is attractive. He acknowledge that the public be informed of how taxpayer's monies are spent.

J. Helgert, Junior Council Member

No Report

M. Rudzki, Mayor

Rudzki thanked SNO and Janice Smith for a successful town wide yard sale.

Rudzki congratulated the FCAHS on their receipt of the Governor's Engagement Award for acquiring over 85% of eligible seniors to register to vote.

Rudzki acknowledge that Kristen Postava received 2018 teacher of the year award in the Penn Hills School District for special services.

Rudzki thanked Brother Ken as the flag pole that was donated by the Curley family was installed at Curley Park at 8th and Clay and will be illuminated.

Rudzki submitted a letter to Council in reference to the Pennsylvania and Borough Code that Mayors can now officiate weddings. Borough Code permits Mayors to collect up to \$150.00 in fees. Mayor Rudzki

acknowledges that he will not be collecting any fees but suggested donations to the Sharpsburg Volunteer Fire Department, the Community Library, or SNO and handed his letter to Rossey. Rudzki stated that he also submitted a letter to Eric Walker from National Church On behalf of Sharpsburg Towers Rudzki's letter expressed Sharpsburg's gratitude for the services the Towers offers to the senior citizens in the community.

Rudzki and Jaso composed a letter to the Rotary asking the organization for \$1000.00 to purchase trigger locks or cable locks for firearms to be kept in the police station.

Rudzki made a request of Council for \$5000.00 from the Recreation Fund, to make the log at the boat ramp that survived the high waters during the winter and flooding a work of art.

Animal Friends is will be bringing their mobile spay and neutering unit to town on Friday, June 29th from 8:00 am to 4:00 pm.

On May 30th the Police and Rudzki held their quarterly meeting and complimented officers on an excellent job. Rudzki and Hoebel are beginning a "coffee with a cop" program to be held on the fourth Thursday of every month prior to the Council meeting. He also acknowledged the training that various officers have completed in the past month as well as the 5 officers who are now certified to carry patrol rifles and expressed his thanks to all the officers.

B.Reno, President

Reno mentioned that SNO has been working with New Sun Rising in Millvale and Etna Economic Development Corporation involving sustainable community planning and announced an event which will be held at the Etna Community Pool on June 23rd open free to the public to come and be educated on all the community projects that are in motion throughout the communities while enjoying food and music.

W.Rossey, Manager

Rossey mentioned that Waste Management trash pickup will be delayed one day this coming week due to Memorial holiday.

He expressed thanks to public works for the great job of installing the flag pole at Curley Park. He acknowledged that one concern in the park is that dog waste receptacles were placed in the park and now the sod is dying because of dog waste. Rossey is asking that Council approve that no dogs be allowed in Curley Park as is in Kennedy Park and Heinz Field.

Rossey thanked his wife and Cathy Mercer for their help in planting the rose bushes. Rossey also asked the Fireman if he could remove one tree on the property to plant a community Christmas Spruce tree.

Rossey mentioned that on behalf of the State Boroughs Association and Sharpsburg Borough he attended meetings in Washington, D.C. where he met with the state U.S. Senators and discussed the importance of continued funding to fight the opioid epidemic. Rossey acknowledge the importance of educating the next generation on opioid addiction and utilizing the resource officers that are in the schools patrolling that they spend some of their time educating the children and that hopefully federal monies will be allocated toward this purpose. DARE funding has been eliminated for the schools.

Rossey also mentioned the fight against tractor trailer trucks increasing the weight that can be transported and size of their truck and the effects on our state roads.

He stated that the President talks about cutting CDBG funds and that Rossey also fought against these cuts while in D.C. as these monies help the communities and the residents.

Rossey was honored that he could attend and represent Sharpsburg and the State.

Reno mentioned that Allegheny County Health Department has received monies from Heinz Endowment and Hillman Foundation to hire a temporary staff person to do intensive research as to what resources

are available for communities like our being outside the city but still within the County for residents and their families dealing with the opioid epidemic. They are interacting with students in the high school and obtaining their input as to what could be improved upon with education and peer pressure. At the end of this process Reno hopes to have a lot of resources to share with Sharpsburg community.

Rudzki mentioned to proceed with caution regarding the tree being considered for removal and replaced with a spruce tree as both trees in front of the municipal building were donated by a former Noble Street resident, Melanie Klaus in honor of her mother. Rudzki suggested reaching out to Melanie to see if she will accept the pine tree or place another tree, or replant the existing tree somewhere else.

T. Stelitano, Police Chief

Stelitano thanked the Mayor for swearing Jango and Shane Brunner. Officer Kimmel completed his firearms instructor course. Officers are looking to go to Hampton firing range in 2018 for training. Officer Carb attended Ticket to Ticket enforcement training. Chief stated that any type of enforcement training will be attended by the officers.

Stelitano mentioned that officers will be present during the Memorial Day Parade and Open Streets.

Pastor inquired if a DUI checkpoint can be reinstated and the Chief mentioned that West Deer Twp. will be a returning call regarding the possibility of a check point.

Reno acknowledged that dogs are not permitted in any of the parks and stated that residents are asking for doggie bag receptacles and they should be placed other places than in the parks. Rossey acknowledged that it will be removed and placed in another location and not be used for scrap.

Rudzki stated to the public to please pick up after your dog if you walk your dog and respect other resident's property.

Pastor stated she witnessed a van drive into the 16th Street Park straight through the grass over to the picnic table area and stop to load their van and turned around and left. The police were called but on another call and van was gone by the time an officer was available. Rossey mentioned that June 4th the surveillance cameras will be installed throughout the community and all of the parks.

He also mentioned that June 1st the spray park will be activated for the summer season and will be on a timer.

M. Kalina

Solicitor's Report

None

Consent Agenda

Reno made a motion to approve the following general business by roll call:

- a. Payment of bills due through June 28, 2018.
- b. Minutes from the April 26, 2018 Meeting.
- c. Motion to accept proposal from Mackin Engineering Company in the amount of \$3600 to provide necessary documentation in support of the borough's Multimodal Transportation Fund Grant application to DCED for the Central Business District Streetscape improvements.
- d. Motion to pass Resolution 18-06 requesting a \$3,000,000 Multimodal Transportation Fund Grant through DCED for the Central Business District Streetscape Improvements.
- e. Motion to accept proposal from Cohen Law Group for the negotiations of the upcoming Comcast and Verizon Franchise Agreements with an estimated cost to the borough of \$3,650.00. This engagement is made pursuant to the Proposal to Perform Cable Franchise Renewal Services submitted to the North Hills COG.

- f. Motion to purchase a full page ad for the 2018 Guyasuta Days August 6th thru 11th in the amount of \$200.00.
- g. Motion to grant Janice and Daniel Kerr permission to use the pavilion and kitchen at Kennedy Park on Sunday, July 29th at 11:00 am until 4:00 pm for a special ceremony dedicating a park bench in honor of the late Diane D'Amico.
- h. Motion to pay for half of the estimated cost of the driftwood public art out of the Rec Fund.

Jaso questioned the details of the Franchise Renewal contract. Rossey acknowledged that the current franchise agreement expires at the end of 2019. Cohen Law Group are experts in negotiating cable agreements. Rossey mentioned that the Borough receives 5% of the subscriber's cable billed from Verizon and Comcast. The contract will be written for 4 or 5 years and to include all members of COG. Also being fought in Washington D.C. is to have the cable companies reach to the rural areas so children can benefit in their education.

Motion by Councilman J. Jaso and second by Councilman M. Brudnok. Roll call resulted in a unanimous vote.

Permits:

Handicap Parking

Raymond Mager, Jr. – 106 18th Street Apt 2.

Use Permits: { None}

Zoning/Building {None}

Reno asked for motion to adjourn and made by Pastor with second by Domian.

Respectfully submitted,

Bill Rossey, Manager

BR/br