

SHARPSBURG BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING

May 26, 2022

Honorable Mayor
Members of Council

The Regular Business Meeting of the Sharpsburg Council was held May 26, 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 (absent), Chief Stelitano

Citizens Comments (Agenda Items Only):

Citizens Comments (Registered):

Joe Simbari – Public Works Event

Simbari said the event is going to be June 17th at 1pm for the dedication of the new public works building. The keynote speaker will be Cyril Wecht. Mayor Reno will speak, and Steve Mosites from Allegheny River Trail (the property that was acquired from the borough). The event will be catered with Pittsburgh BBQ. Simbari said there is a plan B if the weather does not cooperate.

Sara Mariacher – Sharpsburg Library Update

Mariacher gave her monthly library report.

Aaron Thomas – Southwest PA Area Director for Volunteers of America Presentation.

Thomas explained that the students have a presentation that they put together about some of the parks here in the borough. The students gave their presentation about getting the basketball courts repaired because they are tripping and falling hazards to the kids playing. The students are asking the borough to make repairs to the courts.

Committee Reports:

Carrie Tongarm – Zoning/Planning/Code

Tongarm said the borough has duly advertised Ordinance 22-03 creating the Parks and Recreation Commission.

Tongarm made a motion to adopt Ordinance 22-03 creating the Parks and Recreation Commission.

2nd by Adams

All in Favor – Yes

Roll Call:

Jaso – Yes

Pastor – Yes

Tongarm – Yes

Ishman – Yes

Adams – Yes

Portis – Yes

Laing – Yes

Motion carried.

Tongarm talked about revising the Riverfront zoning overlay district and why it is necessary to make the changes. Tongarm will be bringing more information to the next meeting. A discussion ensued.

Tongarm said the fall festival committee has requested consideration for expense reimbursement not to exceed \$3,000 for the event for eligible expenses. A discussion took place.

Jaso made a motion to table the discussion until the Parks and Recreation Commission is formed.

Motioned failed for lack of a 2nd.

Ishman made a motion to approve \$1500 be allocated for the Fall Festival to be managed by the P&R Commission Board, who will manage the reimbursements of funds through receipts.

2nd by Pastor

All in Favor – Yes

Roll Call:

Pastor – Yes

Tongarm – Yes

Ishman – Yes

Adams – Yes

Portis – Yes

Jaso – No

Laing – Yes

Motion Carried.

Kayla Portis – Personnel

Nothing Currently.

Portis thanked everyone who came out for the Art & History stroll. Portis said it was an awesome event.

Karen Pastor – Public Safety

23 Calls for April

Pastor said that the bullet proof vests for the officers must be replaced every 5 years.

Pastor said the Chief has researched and found a grant that reimburses the Borough for 50% of the costs of the bullet proof vests, which the borough purchases for its officers. Chief Stelitano said that there is Fugh funds that can be used for the balance.

Pastor made a motion to approve the application for reimbursement for the bullet proof vest grant for reimbursement.

2nd by Portis

All in Favor – Yes

Roll Call:

Tongarm – Yes

Ishman – Yes

Adams – Yes

Portis – Yes

Jaso – Yes

Pastor – Yes

Laing – Yes

Motion Carried.

Pastor said the merger with Aspinwall is moving along nicely.
Chief Stelitano said he is glad the students from Volunteers of America came down and asked for the basketball courts to be repaired. Stelitano said those courts have been used since he was a kid and are important to the kids that live in the community.

Stelitano gave his police report.

32 Traffic Stops; 17 resulted in citations, 15 resulted in warnings

30 – Assists to other departments

6 – Domestic

7 – Adult Arrests

0 – Juvenile

22 – Citations – 19 Traffic, 3 – non-traffic

Sarah Ishman – Public Works

D'Ambrosio read the public works report.

Ishman reviewed the Engineering report.

Ishman said the borough has been made aware of funding that is currently available for accessible ramps and crosswalks. The intersection of First Street and South Main Street is an ideal candidate for this funding. A brief discussion ensued.

Ishman made a motion to approve the grant funds made available to the borough utilized for the accessible ramps and crosswalk at First and South Main Street with the contract to be managed by the borough.

2nd by Adams

All in Favor – Yes

Roll Call:

Ishman – Yes

Adams – Yes

Portis – Yes

Jaso – Yes

Pastor – Yes

Tongarm – Yes

Laing – Yes

Motion carried.

Ishman said the borough has been made aware of the Trail Development Fund Grant through Allegheny County. The deadline to apply for this grant is June 15th. This grant could be used to begin funding the Trail Route through town along with bike racks, markings, signage, and engineering services to more develop the trail. A discussion ensued.

Ishman made a motion to approve the borough applying for the Trail Development Fund Grant due June 15th.

2nd by Portis

All in Favor – Yes

Roll Call:

Adams – Yes

Portis – Yes

Jaso – Yes

Pastor – Yes

Tongarm – Yes

Ishman – Yes

Laing – Yes

Motion carried.

Peter Adams – Health/Property

Adams talked to Matt from Sharpsburg Neighborhood Organization about a program for public information for the community rating system which is a flood mitigation program through FEMA. By doing a program for public information it will reduce our rating by a significant amount of points and help bring down everyone's flood insurance premiums. They are reaching out to anyone interested for the public information committee. The committee will meet 2-3 times the first year to meet the communities needs and initiatives. The committee must be approved by council and then meet 1-2 times a year to implement and monitor the program. If you are interested in being part of the committee, please reach out to Adams.

Adams said the borough has received and reviewed a complete application for vacant property at 1324 Main Street by the adjacent property owner at 1326 Main Street. The application meets the requirements for the program and requires Council to approve by Resolution.

Adams made a motion to adopt Resolution 22-08 approving the vacant property application for 1324 Main Street.

2nd by Jaso

All in Favor – Yes

Roll Call:

Portis – Yes

Jaso – Yes

Pastor – Yes

Tongarm – Yes

Ishman – Yes

Adams – Yes

Laing – Yes

Motion Carried.

Jon Jaso – Finance

Jaso said the borough has duly advertised the Ordinance for the Business Privilege and Mercantile Tax Collection.

Jaso made a motion to adopt Ordinance 22-04 that amends the Business Privilege and Mercantile Tax Collection Ordinance.

2nd by Adams

All in Favor – Yes

Roll Call:

Jaso – Yes

Pastor – Yes

Tongarm – Yes

Ishman – Yes

Adams – Yes

Portis – Yes

Laing – Yes

Motion carried.

Jaso said now that the borough has amended the Business Privilege and Mercantile Tax Collection Ordinance, a new collector needs to be appointed an agreement made to do so. Keystone Collection's agreement has been provided for Council's review last month.

Jaso made a motion to approve the agreement with Keystone Collections for Business Privilege and Mercantile Tax Collection.

2nd by Portis

All in Favor – Yes

Roll Call:

Pastor – Yes
Tongarm – Yes
Ishman – Yes
Adams – Yes
Portis – Yes
Jaso – Yes
Laing – Yes
Motion carried.

Jaso said he had spoke with Nancy Goldberg about the fencing around the park at 16th Street. Goldberg would like to create patterns of color to brighten up the fencing. Nancy Goldberg created a non-profit Artspiration. The mission is to restore passion in the community and connect Sharpsburg through the arts. They are going to work with the Youth Empowerment project and Allison and KiKi from the library. Second Harvest has donated the materials and the labor is free.

Jaso made a motion to let Nancy Goldberg under Artspiration to decorate the fencing at 16th Street Park.

2nd by Portis
All in Favor – Yes

Roll Call:
Ishman – Yes
Adams – Yes
Portis – Yes
Jaso – Yes
Pastor – Yes
Tongarm – Yes
Laing – Yes
Motion carried.

Jaso spoke about the recent tragedy in Texas. Jaso would like to address policy and change with the state through a resolution. Jaso is hoping he has the support of council. Jaso is also going to donate his pay from the borough to be able to purchase gun locks for the police department to have if any resident would like a free gun lock.

Brittany Reno – Mayor
Absent

M. Witherel – Solicitor
Nothing Currently.

Consent Agenda:

- a. Payment of bills due through June 23, 2022
- b. Minutes from April 28, 2022, Regular Meeting
- c. Approve the following Park Use Requests
 1. Rotary Use of Kennedy Park July 1,8,15,22, & 29 for 5 Fridays in July Events
 2. Soccer Shots, Kennedy Park, Every Weds 5-6:30pm, August 24-Oct 12, with makeup dates Wednesday, October 19, and October 26.

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

Adams – Yes
Portis – Yes
Jaso – Yes
Pastor – Yes
Laing – Yes

Permits:

- a. Use Permits (NONE)
- b. Zoning/Building – See Monthly BIU Report

Laing asked for a motion to adjourn at 8:00pm.

Motion by Jaso

2nd by Pastor

Respectfully Submitted,

Jason Dailey
Interim Borough Manager

JD:ck