

# TOWN OF SHARPSBURG

## TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

A & O Bridges Community Center  
105 Main Street, Sharpsburg GA

November 8, 2021

### MINUTES

#### Call Council Meeting to Order

Mayor Cole called the November 8, 2021, Town Council Meeting to order at 6:09 p.m.

#### Pledge of Allegiance

Mayor Cole led the room in the Pledge of Allegiance.

#### Establish Quorum

Town Clerk Jones stated a quorum was established with the mayor and Council Member Parten in attendance and Council Member Teagle participating via phone call.

**Present were the following:** Blue Cole- Mayor; Standley D. Parten- Post 1; Tom Teagle- Post 3 (via phone call)

**Absent were the following:** Cynthia Puckett-Pike- Post 2; Elizabeth Good- Post 4

#### Review/Approval of Minutes:

##### **Council Meeting Minutes - October 4, 2021**

Council Member Parten moved to approve the October 4, 2021, Minutes. Council Member Teagle seconded the motion. The motion passed 3-0-2 with Council Members Puckett-Pike and Good not present.

#### New Business:

##### **1. Back Parking Lot Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) with Coweta County**

Mayor Cole briefed the Council on the Intergovernmental Agreement between Sharpsburg and Coweta County. He stated the estimated cost of paving the back parking lot is \$279,992 and that estimated costs includes material and labor. He added there will be some flexibility of approximately five percent (5%). Mayor Cole added that the work would extend to the Beckham's property and would include sidewalk repair. He further explained work was slated to begin in January 2022 and that it would take about two to three weeks until completion. Mayor Cole explained that the parking lot project is funded utilizing money from both the 2013 Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax (SPLOST) fund and the 2017 SPLOST fund.

Council Member Parten moved to approve the Intergovernmental Agreement with Coweta County. Council Member Teagle seconded the motion. The motion passed 3-0-2 with Council Members Puckett-Pike and Good being absent.

## **2. Norfolk Southern Railroad Repair- Main Street**

Town Clerk Floyd Jones briefed the Council stating that based on a series of phone calls, he has been informed that Norfolk Southern plans to make repairs to the railroad starting in Senoia and moving toward Sharpsburg. He stated that the initial plans called for the repairs to be made during the same week of the Town's 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary, however, the railroad has amended their plans and believes- without guarantees- that the work will be completed in Sharpsburg the week prior to the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary. He added that the work will affect Main Street but not Church Street, and he stated that the understanding is the work will take about one week to complete.

No action was taken on this item.

## **3. October 2021 Budget Report**

Mayor Cole briefed the Council stating the town is taking in more than it is spending. He explained where the income and savings were coming from and how they worked to making a great budget. He concluded that the budget is in great shape.

Mayor Cole discussed the proposed 2022 budget stating the main expense in the budget is in personnel. He stated the Town Clerk would be relocated to a Town Administrator, the Community Coordinator would be paid from the funds received from the Community Center, and that other fund would be reallocated for the proposed Public Works employee. He said the increase to budgets would be covered from the projected Local Option Sales Tax increase. He stated that the budget is based on a basic five percent (5%) increase and then adjusted as needed. He said the increase is where it is most important- the employees. Discussion followed on how to fund the Public Works employee. There was also brief discussion on how to provide benefits to town employees and the challenges involved.

Polly Garlington: Ms. Garlington asked what would happen if the proposed Public Safety employee did not work out. Mayor Cole stated a contingency plan would be in place. It was also mentioned that if the position did not work out as planned then other actions could be taken such as reducing hours or finding another employee.

No action was taken on this item.

## **Old Business:**

### **1. Alcohol Ordinance Amendment**

The discussion concerning Old Business 1 followed immediately after New Business 1.

Mayor Cole explained that the amendment to the alcohol ordinance allows Dollar General or another entity outside Sharpsburg to do business in Sharpsburg.

Attorney Sears clarified that the amendment says if the licensee is not a resident of the State of Georgia that the license representative needs to be a resident of the State of Georgia. Mr. Sears explained that the current ordinance reads that both the licensee and the license

representative must be residents of the Town of Sharpsburg. He said there was an attempt in 2011 to change part of those requirements, but the change did not strike all those requirements. Mr. Sears suggested that the ordinance be voted on this meeting, and if the Council has different ideas, then those can be brought at the next council meeting.

Mayor Cole read into the record where the changes to the ordinance were located and how they were changed. He added that since the package sales referendum did not pass on November 2<sup>nd</sup> this amendment would only apply to beer and wine- not to spirits.

Council Member Parten moved to approve the Alcohol Ordinance Amendment. Mr. Teagle seconded the motion. The motion passed 3-0-2 with Council Members Puckett-Pike and Good not present.

Mr. Teagle left the meeting at 6:21 p.m.

## 2. 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

Community Center Coordinator Angie Moore updated the Council on the 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary preparations. She said she is more than excited to be part of the community. She stated she is finding more individuals desiring to come to the Community Center and teach, and that the word is starting to spread through social media. She explained her work in preparing for the 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary and talked about how the plans and events are forming for the week-long celebration. She stated that with the word being spread, she anticipated a large turnout.

Mayor Cole stated the preparations had been a lot of work, and he stated that *Newnan Coweta Magazine* had recently published a large spread about Sharpsburg and its history. He anticipated other articles would also be printed promoting the town and its activities.

Mrs. Moore encouraged the Council Members to participate with the events and to provide help where needed. She stated she can provide an itinerary and information on the events.

Mr. Parten asked when the next Council meeting will be held. Mayor Cole stated that December will have two meetings- one on Monday, December 6 and the other on Monday, December 13. He explained that the December 6 meeting will be a normal Council Meeting where the budget and other items are brought up. The December 13 meeting will be more ceremonial since it is the actual anniversary date of the Town of Sharpsburg in 1871- so the Council will meet to pass a resolution in honor of the birthday before adjourning and allowing all to enjoy each other's company.

Mrs. Moore added that the funds from the community classes will be reinvested back into the community center for its upkeep and improvement.

### **Public Comments:**

**Alex Edge:** Mr. Edge stated he was excited to win the November 2, 2021, Election and look forward to serving on Council in January.

## **Polling of Council:**

**Stan Parten:** Council Member Parten mentioned that the port-a-potty is still outside of the Dollar General. He also asked what it would take to get another cable service other than AT&T and Charter to come to Sharpsburg. He said there is no competition between the two and the cost is high. Discussion between Attorney Sears and Council followed regarding what other providers can provide the service, and whether they would be able to lease the existing lines and capability. The discussion involved how to get "gig-speed" internet to the town.

**Tom Teagle:** Mayor Cole reported that Council Member Teagle mentioned he had been looking at a rain-catcher system for the Community Center and the restrooms that would help provide irrigation for the grass. He stated that Mr. Teagle reported that the system was cost prohibitive at around \$100,000 and that Mr. Teagle would send his findings in writing to the Council.

## **Clerks Minutes:**

**Ethics Filings:** Town Clerk Floyd Jones stated that he will need to meet with those candidates who were on the November 2, 2021, ballot to make ethics filings on their behalf. He stated that a new Elections cycle began on November 3, 2021, and that the new cycle necessitated new filings for those candidates on the ballot. He added that the Georgia Government Transparency & Campaign Finance Commission requires that all election results pertaining to candidates be provided to them no later than ten (10) days after the Election- and he reported that the information had been provided prior to the deadline.

**Holidays:** Town Clerk Floyd Jones informed the Council that Town Hall would be closed on Thursday, November 11 in observation of Veterans Day and then would also be closed on Thursday, November 25 for Thanksgiving Day. When asked if Town Hall would be open on Friday after Thanksgiving, he replied that it would not be open that day either.

## **Mayor's Updates:**

**Mayor's Project List:** Mayor Cole stated that the Mayor's Project List is available and if there is a project someone feels they want to do or is drawn to do then let him know. He said each project is ready to be picked up and carried on. He thanked staff for their day-to-day work, for integrating new staff, and for taking on the large Anniversary project that will bring a lot of positive energy to the town. Discussion followed on how word is getting out about the Anniversary and how upcoming events will be planned beginning January 2022.

## **Executive Session:**

There was no Executive Session.

**Adjournment:**

Council Member Parten moved to adjourn the November 8, 2021, Town Council Meeting. Mayor Cole seconded the motion. The motion passed 2-0-3 with Council Members Puckett-Pike, Good, and Teagle not present for the vote.

The November 8, 2021, Town Council Meeting adjourned at 6:54 p.m.

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Floyd L. Jones, Town Clerk

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Blue Cole, Mayor

The foregoing minutes were duly approved at an official meeting of the Sharpsburg Town Council, in Sharpsburg, Georgia, on the 6<sup>th</sup> day of December 2021.

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Floyd L. Jones, Town Clerk