

TOWN OF SHARPSBURG

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

July 11, 2022

MINUTES

6:00PM

Call Council Meeting to Order

Mayor Cole called the July 11, 2022, Council Meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance

Mayor Cole led all in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Establish Quorum

Town Clerk Floyd Jones reported there was a Quorum of Council present.

Present were the following: Blue Cole- Mayor; Standley D. Parten- Post 1; Elizabeth Good- Post 4

Absent were the following: Alexander Edge- Post 2 and Tom Teagle- Post 3

Staff Present: Floyd Jones- Town Clerk; Brad Sears- Town Attorney

Executive Session:

Mayor Cole asked the Board if they would be willing to go into Executive Session to discuss a personnel matter.

Councilmember Good moved to go into Executive Session to discuss a personnel matter. Councilmember Parten seconded the motion. The motion passed 3-0-2 with Councilmembers Edge and Teagle not present.

Council recessed into Executive Session at 6:01 p.m. to discuss a personnel matter. Council exited Executive session at 6:10 p.m.

Councilmember Parten moved to return to Official Session. Councilmember Good seconded the motion. The motion passed 3-0-2 with Councilmembers Edge and Teagle not present.

Council resumed Official Session at 6:10 p.m.

Review/Approval of Minutes:

1. Council Meeting Minutes- June 6, 2022

Councilmember Parten moved to approve the June 6, 2022, Council Meeting Minutes. Councilmember Good seconded the motion. The motion passed 3-0-2 with Councilmembers Edge and Teagle not present.

2. Council Work Session Minutes- June 27, 2022

Mayor Cole stated that the June 27, 2022, Work Session Minutes needed a slight correction by amending a sentence on page three from reading “. . . shared his concerns on the matter the last time they discussed the matter” to “. . . shared his concerns on the matter last week when they discussed the matter.”

Town Clerk Floyd Jones added that the last line on page three had an error since the word provided was “no” when it should have been “not.”

Councilmember Parten moved to approve the July 27, 2022, Work Session Minutes with the noted corrections. Councilmember Good seconded the motion. The motion passed 3-0-2 with Councilmembers Edge and Teagle not present.

Public Hearing:

There was no Public Hearing.

New Business:

1. Street Signs

Mayor Cole stated the town needs more street signs stating no trucks over 6,000 pounds or with six wheels. He stated the previous signs have already faded away. It was explained that signs were 24' x 30' and that it would take about nine working days to ship once ordered. Mayor Cole added that the quote is above his authorized spending amount, and he asked the Council to approve the purchase of the signs at \$744.25.

Councilmember Good moved to approve the purchase of the signs. Councilmember Parten seconded the motion. The motion passed 3-0-2 with Councilmembers Edge and Teagle not present.

2. GFL Environmental

Town Clerk Floyd Jones reported that GFL had serious issues picking up garbage and recycling over the past several weeks. He stated this recent matter began on Thursday, June 30 when he was notified by GFL at close of business that they were experiencing unexpected circumstances and that garbage would be picked up on Friday, July 1. He reported that he did not receive any complaints of missed garbage service on Friday, July 1, but by Sunday, July 3 he was starting to hear complaints. He continued that on Tuesday, July 5, he was in communication with GFL and by end of day there were no solutions provided.

Mr. Jones stated that on Wednesday, July 6, he was able to reach the General Manager of GFL who informed Mr. Jones that there was essentially an operational meltdown. He was informed that 13 of 23 GFL trucks had broken down, that the driver that works the town was out sick, that GFL did not have enough drivers and mechanics or parts for their trucks. The General Manager also stated he had been in his position for four weeks and was doing

all he could to rectify the situation. Mr. Jones stated that the General Manager called to explain his situation and solution which included taking personnel out of the front office and sending them with garbage trucks to pickup the trash. Mr. Jones stated that GFL trucks were picking up garbage on Wednesday, July 6 with an understanding they would return on Friday, July 8. Mr. Jones stated that since last Wednesday he has received some calls for garbage pickup but that most are from out of jurisdiction residents who have Sharpsburg mailing addresses. Attorney Brad Sears added that other jurisdictions are having serious problems with GFL's garbage service.

Council discussed the possibility of revisiting the contract with GFL. Council understood there were issues with GFL's service, but also expressed concerns that revisiting the contract may inadvertently cause the rates for garbage service to increase.

Council decided to revisit this matter at the next Council meeting to determine if these issues were ongoing and if, at that time, the contract should be revisited.

Council did not vote on this matter.

3. June 2022 Budget

Mayor Cole stated that the budget is strong with revenues exceeding expenditures over halfway through the year. He congratulated staff for the strong budget. He said the budget is where it should be, and staff is doing a great job with it.

Council did not vote or provide direction on this matter.

Old Business:

1. Back Parking Lot and Playground

Mayor Cole stated that the County is still running against supply and logistical issues. He stated that the latest information is that the back parking lot and playground project is tentatively scheduled to start next week. He said if the project is not started then Council would have to be patient. He thought that the wait to get the project done would be worth it in the long run.

Council did not vote or provide direction on this matter.

2. Intergovernmental Agreement- Twelve Parks

Mayor Cole stated that the Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) with Twelve Parks is the same agreement that was approved by Council a couple of years earlier, and that the only changes were the pay amount increased to \$50,000 and that Attorney Sears made an adjustment to the language so that sewer is not impacted by the agreement. Mayor Cole said the developer has paid or will pay Turin. He stated the differences were slight and that the Town of Turin has agreed to sign the IGA. Attorney Sears added that this item was on the Agenda for the Council to ratify the signed agreement. Mr. Sears clarified that the developer, Town of Turin, and the Coweta County Water and Sewer Authority had already agreed to the IGA. He stated that Sharpsburg needs to ratify the agreement and then it would go to the Coweta County Board of Commissioners for their approval.

Councilmember Good moved to ratify the Twelve Parks Intergovernmental Agreement. Councilmember Parten seconded the motion. The motion passed 3-0-2 with Councilmembers Edge and Teagle not present.

3. FY2023 Local Maintenance & Improvement Grant Program

Mayor Cole stated that each year the town received around \$5,000 from the Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT) that requires a 30% match for local maintenance and improvements such as signs and other needs. He stated that the agenda packet provides the eligible uses for the money. He stated that the town needs to spend some of the money down and he proposed the money could be used for sidewalks from Main Street to Highway 54. He said there was about \$17,730 of Local Maintenance and Improvement Grant (LMIG) funds received since Fiscal Year 2019 with some expenditures through the years. He stated that about \$5,000 or \$6,000 needs to be spent this year and that the Council will need to be ready to make decisions quickly given the amount of time left in the year. Mayor Cole stated he wanted to spend some of the money on the parking lot and sidewalk repair, and he said if enough money is not spent then some of it will have to be returned to GDOT. Some discussion was given to providing striping and that quotes were provided some years ago. Discussion occurred about the Beckom House and what to do with it. Mayor Cole stated he needed someone who could come in and assist the town and staff with the bigger projects since staff is time-constrained with the day-to-day activities. He said he needed someone who could come to the town on a weekly basis to provide the extra lift on some of the bigger projects.

Council agreed to wait until the next meeting- after the back parking lot is completed- to consider further options. Mayor Cole added the good news about LMIG money is that it is available every year.

The Council did not vote or provide direction on this matter.

Public Comments

There were no Public Comments.

Polling of Council

Stan Parten: Councilmember Parten stated he had conversations with Mr. Chris Key about the damages done to his water meter by Arbor Valley as they were cutting the Right of Way. He stated that the water meter is positioned now so that there would be no more damages. Mayor Cole added that there had been discussions with Mr. Key and with Arbor Valley and that the town would make the situation right with Mr. Key. Mr. Jones stated that Mr. Key had reported no other damages had been made to his water meter, but he did provide the town with a \$200 water bill while explaining that his normal water bill is about \$25.00. Mayor Cole concluded that the town would make Mr. Key whole in this matter.

Clerks Minutes

Haines Trail: Mr. Jones reported on a call he received from a resident on Haines Trail. The resident informed him he had lived on Haines Trail for nine years. He said the resident complained about GFL not picking up his garbage. He stated the resident also stressed that Haines Trail was not being maintained since it has brush growing along the sides of the road scratching his vehicles and there are large potholes on the road. He stated that Haines Trail is a dirt road, but to the resident's recollection, the last time the road was maintained was over two years ago when prisoners cut down brush along the road. He stated the resident was questioning when there was going to be maintenance on the road. Mayor Cole stated that the resident is correct about the maintenance on Haines Trail and that the town would reach out to the County about getting the road maintenance. Mayor Cole added that a problem with Haines Trail is it has a very narrow right-of-way so even if the town does the best it can do, there is not much that can be done until more right of way is obtained. He added that the road could be considered for paving and that steps could be taken to prepare for its paving. He said he would like to have steps prepared to pave Haines Trail so it could be maintained better. Mr. Jones stated that the County would

charge the town for maintenance but there was no number available to him on the cost. Discussion followed on the amount of right of way on Haines Trail. Council agreed the road needed to be maintained and that they understood there would be a cost to do the maintenance.

Sunset Drive: Mr. Jones stated there were large potholes on Sunset Drive and the County was contacted to make the repairs. He stated that since the repairs were made the town has received two invoices in an aggregate amount of \$1,038.00. Mayor Cole stated that one invoice was for \$800 was for 13 tons of asphalt and the \$200 invoice was unclear. He stated that the town looking into this matter.

Cancel Work Session Meeting and Potential Called Meeting: Mr. Jones stated the next meeting was on the following Monday for a Work Session Meeting. He recommended to Council to cancel the July Work Session Meeting but to be ready to hold a called meeting, if necessary, since information on the 2022 Millage Rates were coming soon. Mayor Cole stated that the millage rates are difficult due to the hard deadlines. Councilmembers Good and Parten stated they would be out of town next week so the Work Session Meeting could be cancelled. Attorney Sears added that timing is everything since millage rate meetings must be timed with advertisements. Mr. Sears stated that the unfortunate part is the timing is strict and limited based on whether the Council wants a full rollback, partial rollback, or any rollback. Mayor Cole asked the Councilmembers how they feel about the millage rate, and he added he could go either way on the matter. He stated that the amount received by the town would not go up much at all. Councilmember Good stated she did not want to raise the millage rate since all taxes are rising. Mayor Cole added the income from taxes is rising based on the tax assessments- not because the town has raised taxes.

Council agreed to cancel the July 18 Work Session Meeting and be available for a called meeting if needed. Council did not vote on this matter.

Community Center: Mr. Jones stated one thing he has noticed is that the town receives many calls about renting the Community Center and it is a desired facility. He stated, however, that over the past several weeks he has continued to receive inquiries about renting the Community Center but the increasing feedback from interested renters is that the Community Center costs too much. He stated that the perception he is getting is that with the costs of everything rising potential renters are having to decide how to spend money- and that with the responses he is getting there is indication that people may not be a ready to rent a Community Center. Discussion followed about how the Community Center is the only one that allows alcohol and that its rental rate is lower than other similar centers. Mr. Jones concluded that he was not looking for a decision but thought it should be mentioned since a decline in rentals would affect the town's income.

Mayor's Updates

Mayor Cole stated that the issues he had to discuss were already addressed through the meeting.

Adjournment

Councilmember Parten moved to adjourn the July 11, 2022, Council Meeting. Councilmember Good seconded the meeting. The motion passed 3-0-2 with Councilmembers Edge and Teagle not present.

The July 11, 2022, Council Meeting adjourned at 6:54 p.m.

Floyd L. Jones, Town Clerk

Blue Cole, Mayor

The foregoing minutes were duly approved at an official meeting of the Sharpsburg Town Council, in Sharpsburg, Georgia, on the eighth day of August 2022.

Floyd L. Jones, Town Clerk

