

TOWN OF SHARPSBURG

TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

A & O Bridges Community Center

105 Main Street, Sharpsburg GA

February 7, 2022

MINUTES

Call Council Meeting to Order

Mayor Cole called the February 7, 2022, Town Council Meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance

Mayor Cole led the room in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Establish Quorum

Town Clerk Floyd Jones stated that a quorum of Council was present.

Present were the following: Blue Cole- Mayor; Standley D. Parten- Post 1; Alexander Edge- Post 2; Tom Teagle- Post 3 and Elizabeth Good- Post 4.

Public Hearing:

State Representative Josh Bonner: Mayor Cole introduced State Representative Josh Bonner to Council and asked Representative Bonner to introduce himself. Representative Bonner stated that he is the new State Representative for the Town of Sharpsburg and surrounding areas. He briefly spoke about how long he has served as a representative, about his family, and of his career. Representative Bonner explained he is the new representative due to the 2020 Census and its subsequently redrawn state district lines.

Chad Adams: Mayor Cole introduced Chad Adams to Council and stated that Mr. Adams was the first Public Works employee hired to Sharpsburg in recent history. Mr. Adams then introduced himself and briefly spoke about projects he had already started on and future projects.

Review/Approval of Minutes:

1. Council Meeting Minutes- January 10, 2022

Council reviewed the January 10, 2022 Minutes. Councilmember Good moved to approve the January 10, 2022 Minutes. Councilmember Parten seconded the motion. The motion passed 4-0-1 with Councilmember Teagle abstaining due to not being present at the January 10, 2022 meeting.

New Business:

1. Appoint Mayor Pro Tem

Mayor Cole opened the floor for nominations for appointment as Mayor Pro Tem.

Council Member Good agreed to be appointed to the position. No one else was nominated.

Councilmember Parten moved to appoint Councilmember Elizabeth Good as Mayor Pro Tem. Councilmember Teagle seconded the motion. The motion passed 5-0.

Old Business:

1. Growlers Ordinance (Ord# 22-01); Second Reading

Mayor Cole stated the first reading of the Growlers Ordinance occurred at the January 10, 2022 Council meeting. He revisited the key provisions in the ordinance and noted that the only change to the proposed ordinance was a \$300 license fee that matched the license fee for retail alcohol sales.

Councilmember Parten moved to approve the Growler's Ordinance. Councilmember Good seconded the motion. The motion passed 5-0.

2. January 2022 Budget Report

Mayor Cole discussed the January 2022 Budget Report with Council. He explained that currently revenues are greater than expenditures, however, the year is just starting. Mayor Cole also anticipated coming to Council either February or March for approval of additional expenditures pertaining to Public Works equipment, but he thought the costs would not exceed more than \$10,000.

Discussion was held whether revenue from building permits could increase due to new construction on the outskirts of town in which eleven lots are in the town. Mayor Cole reminded Council of an Intergovernmental Agreement that was signed with Coweta County authorizing the county to issue building permits for those eleven lots - however, the taxing authority would still belong with the town.

Councilmember Teagle asked how the unspent money from last year would be accounted. Mayor Cole stated that the money was rolled into the current year's budget.

Council did not take action on this report.

Public Comments:

Cynthia Puckett-Pike: Ms. Puckett-Pike congratulated Councilmember Edge for winning the Election in November. She stated that February is Black History Month and she reminded everyone that she was the first Black person elected to Town Council in Sharpsburg's history. She said people were proud of her for being elected, and she spoke about how she enjoyed her time while on Council.

Mayor Cole thanked Ms. Puckett-Pike for her service to the Town and spoke about how she was a pleasure to work with while on Council. The Council then applauded Ms. Puckett-Pike.

Polling of Council:

Councilmember Edge: Councilmember Edge asked for the status of the back parking lot. Mayor Cole replied that he received word late last week that the repaving of the back parking lot was delayed until spring or early summer.

Councilmember Teagle: Councilmember Teagle asked for clarity on the scope of work of the Public Works position. Mayor Cole stated that Public Works will provide the best service possible and if there is something beyond the scope of service Mr. Adams will pause and ask about it. Mayor Cole added that the spending limit is \$25 for repairs- just like for other staff. It was mentioned that requests for Public Works requests could be routed through Town Hall or the Mayor as needed, that a ticketed system is being explored on how to best issue work orders, and that Public Works would be able to respond to emergencies as needed.

Clerks Minutes:

Polly Garlington: Town Clerk Floyd Jones stated that Ms. Polly Garlington was not able to come to the meeting, however; she had come by the office earlier in the day to provide comments. He stated that her comments dealt with speeding on Highway 54 and about the roundabout at the intersection of Highway 54 and Highway 16.

Ms. Garlington wants the speed limit reduced to thirty-five miles per hour on Highway 54. She is glad the Sheriff's Deputies moved from Sharpsburg Baptist Church to another location, however, they need to do more to enforce speeding. She had mentioned a driver honked his horn at her as she turned onto Main Street from Highway 54. She had inquired about the flashing sign's installation that would slow speeders. Mayor Cole stated that Public Works would be able to install the flashing sign. It was also mentioned a radar sign could be placed at the intersection of Highway 154 and Terrentine.

Councilmember Good asked about shaving the hill down at the intersection of Highway 154 and Terrentine, and she asked if that was still a possibility. Mayor Cole said it was still a possibility and that he would talk to the Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT) about it. Mayor Cole reminded Council two requests were made to GDOT to lower the speed limit, per Ms. Garlington's request, and that he would send GDOT a third request to slow down traffic. He explained GDOT replied to the previous requests by asking what enhancements the town would provide or recommend for mitigating traffic speeds.

Mayor Cole reported that several weeks ago he received an update on the roundabout at the intersection of Highway 16 and Highway 54 stating there are still negotiations ongoing about the final piece of right-of-way. Once they get the right-of-way is obtained, work on construction can begin- meaning construction could be several months still from starting.

Microblading and Permanent Cosmetics Business: Town Clerk Floyd Jones stated that a couple came into the office earlier in the day asking about the possibility of having a business at 150 Main Street where microblading and permanent cosmetics would be provided. The issues surrounding the question are: 1) does the business fall under the category of tattooing and body piercing, and 2) does the Zoning ordinance support that type of business since body piercing businesses- per the Zoning ordinance- are only permitted in Highway Commercial Zoning while the 150 Main Street address is zoned Traditional Neighborhood Commercial. Mayor Cole stated Town Attorney Brad Sears would be consulted.

Worksession Meeting: Town Clerk Floyd Jones reminded the Council its next meeting is a Worksession Meeting on Monday, February 21, 2022, at 6:00 p.m. Councilmember Good stated she would not be able to attend the Workshop Meeting.

Mayor's Updates:

Worksession Meeting: Mayor Cole distributed handouts to Council stating they were to provide information on topics coming up at the Worksession. He said the Worksession would cover three basic topics to get general direction for the town, but no actual decisions requiring votes were going to be required at the meeting. The three topics under consideration are:

1) Projected uses for the Beckom property.

Mayor Cole discussed out the handout titled *Community Facilities Direct Loan & Grant* saying he foresaw using a loan or grant to pay for renovations to the Beckom property. He added that renovations need to be done to the property regardless of how it is used.

2) Spending Local Maintenance and Improvement Grant (LMIG) money from the Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT).

Mayor Cole spoke about the handout titled *Local Maintenance & Improvement Grant (LMIG) Program*, explained this grant could pay for sidewalks along Main Street, and added he would provide maps during the Worksession showing his idea. He pointed out that the handout provides all the acceptable uses for the grant, that he anticipated being awarded the grant for approximately \$20,000, and that the grant includes a 30% match from the town. He reminded Council that the town has been approved grant funds each year since 2019, was just approved for year 2022, but that some of the 2019 funds have already been spent. Mayor Cole suggested another option is to accept the grant and then petition the state for a larger chunk of unused LMIG money to be utilized for a GDOT project such as Highway 154 and Terrentine, or Main Street and Highway 54, or whatever else the Council and the public may agree to.

3) Other Capital Projects.

Mayor Cole concluded that his goal is to get direction from Council so that more specific steps can be taken. He concluded there will be money available in the next ten to twelve years, but that the town needs to be prepared to be the recipient of those funds.

Representative Bonner recommended that once the priorities are decided upon, then he and the town could meet with GDOT to determine what is available in the budget process. Mayor Cole added that the Coweta delegation would be able to help with GDOT since the county has quick response projects that can be programmed into the ongoing budget.

Georgia Environmental Finance Authority: Mayor Cole added he has been in contact with the Georgia Environmental Finance Authority (GEFA) and that GEFA has money available for towns at low interest rates. He suggested that if one or two sewer projects or feasibility projects are identified then he could go out and "chase them down." He added the process to apply for a GEFA grant would take approximately three-to-six months.

2020 Census Information: Mayor Cole stated the 2020 Census shows the town’s population is now 316, which is reduced from approximately 354 citizens in the 2010 Census. He understood how the population count is lower than the 2010 Census considering not everyone was counted and due to residents moving or passing away. He mentioned jurisdictions across the state show reduced populations due to a likelihood that the citizens did not respond to the Census in response to the pandemic. Mayor Cole explained that Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax (SPLOST) Revenue is dictated by population so there are concerns that SPLOST funding will be impacted by the lower population counts.

Updated Street Signs: Mayor Cole stated he will be ordering street signs prohibiting vehicles weighing more than 12,000 lbs. and prohibiting vehicles with six wheels or more from driving in the town since the current signs are starting to fade. He informed Council that previous estimated costs to replace the signs were about \$490, but if it exceeds \$500 Council will be notified. He added he wants an advisory sign posted reminding drivers to use their blinker as they make a left turn from Highway 16 onto Main Street. He said this issue may be on next month’s Agenda.

Road Condition Study: Mayor Cole stated he is going to ask the County to look at the road conditions in town. He thought the roads would last five to seven more years without anything done to them, but by making improvements full depth reclamation of the roads could be unnecessary for another ten to twelve years.

Executive Session:

There was no Executive Session.

Adjournment:

Councilmember Parten moved to adjourn the February 7, 2022, Council Meeting. Councilmember Good seconded the motion. The motion passed 5-0.

The February 7, 2022, Council Meeting adjourned at 6:52 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 4th day of April 2022.

Floyd L. Jones, Town Clerk