

# TOWN OF SHARPSBURG

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

June 27, 2022

## Work Session Minutes

**6:00 P.M.**

### **Call Work Session Meeting to Order**

Mayor Cole called the June 27, 2022, Work Session Meeting to order at 6:03 p.m.

Mayor Cole introduced Delaney Wood as “Mayor of the Day” and issued a proclamation recognizing her position as “Mayor of the Day.”

Mayor Cole and Mayor Wood led all in attendance with 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; Alexander Edge- Post 2; Tom Teagle- Post 3

**Absent were the following:** Standley D. Parten- Post 1; Elizabeth Good- Post 4

**Staff Present:** Floyd L. Jones- Town Clerk

**Absent:** Brad Sears- Town Attorney

### **Old Business:**

#### **1. Back Parking Lot / Playground Updates**

Mayor and Council discussed recent developments with the reconstruction of the back parking lot and playground equipment stating the work would start either the end of this week or next week due to weather and the 4<sup>th</sup> of July. Mayor Wood stated that Home Depot would work with the town for place sets for the playground and that volunteers from Crossroads Church would also assist with landscaping. Mayor Cole stated that the playground would be installed around August or September. There was discussion about keeping the current playground equipment but that there may be challenges with some playground equipment. Councilmember Teagle stated there was fence damage toward the back of the parking lot near the Arbor Valley building. “Mayor of the Day” Wood suggested a climbing wall, tunnels, and swings- including swings for special needs children- for the improved playground.

Councilman Teagle moved to name a playground tunnel after “Mayor of the Day” Wood. Councilmember Edge seconded the motion. The motion passed 3-0-2 with Councilmembers Good and Parten not present.

Council did not take further action on this matter.

Mayor of the Day Wood left the meeting after this item was discussed.

## **2. Twelve Parks Update**

Mayor and Council discussed matters related to Twelve Parks. Mayor Cole stated the Town of Turin, and the Twelve Parks developer reached an agreement for water use. He stated that the town will sign off on the Intergovernmental Agreement was the amount for the Town of Turin would increase. He said ground will begin to be broken within the next couple of weeks by the County. He stated that the pump station and all other features will remain in the same locations as originally agreed.

Town Clerk Floyd Jones informed Council that the Intergovernmental Agreement would be on the next Council Meeting agenda for ratification.

Mayor Cole clarified that Coweta County Water would provide water to the development, and the County will also oversee permitting and inspections since the town would be burdened for minimal return.

Mayor Cole informed Council that the plan submitted to Senator John Ossoff’s office had been approved and placed on a priority list for Congressionally Directed Spending which will go to Senate Appropriations. He said if there are no changes, then the funding would help with putting sewer into town. He stated if left unchanged the town could receive \$3.5 million with other funds available from SPLOST and ARPA as needed. He did not know when the budget would be signed or when the funds would be available. Councilmember Teagle stated this news changes everything.

Mayor Cole stated he wants to start master planning for the town to set the course for its future. He clarified he did not want to get into the minutia but wanted to collaborate with developers and other partners. Mayor Cole added he thought Three Rivers, GDOT, Georgia Power, Coweta Fayette EMC, staff, and councilmembers. Councilmember Teagle suggested that Council could discuss plans before bringing in the others or turning the plans over to Three Rivers. Councilmember Teagle stated that the town would need to think about how to enhance the roads to avoid mistakes made by other jurisdictions. Part of the discussion followed about placing sidewalks along Highway 54 and how that would enhance the town. Another suggestion was to place a moratorium on new building permits until such a time that the town developed a master plan that would govern the new buildings coming to it. Discussion occurred concerning the impact of future traffic coming from Peachtree City and initiatives on how to plan for the traffic.

Council did not act or vote on this matter.

## **3. Triangle Park / Triangle Property**

Mayor and Council discussed matters related to the Triangle Park also known as Triangle Property. Mayor Cole stated he wanted to get a Public Works request to cut the park while making plans to make the property more like a park. Councilmember Teagle asked why not leave the property alone as it stating that the property is next to a heavily trafficked road with no parking, no access, no toilets, no way to maintain the property since there are no money or people to maintain the park and so the concept of having a park on the

property, in his opinion, was a non-starter. Mr. Teagle stated the location was not a good place for a park and suggested that if there was a park it could be done at the water tank property. He added that there are challenges on maintaining the properties the town currently has- specifically at the Beckom House.

Mayor Cole stated he wished Councilmember Teagle had shared his concerns on the matter last week when they discussed the matter. He recalled that in the last discussion about the park understanding was that the park would be passive with Elaeagnus trees- and that Councilmember Teagle's comments were completely opposite over what was discussed last time. Councilmember Teagle stated he never mentioned it should be a passive park- stating that the property needed to be cleaned up and that maintaining the septic field in the area constituted only a small fraction of the property. Mayor Cole stated that having a park on the property would benefit the town and added that the only reason Councilmember Teagle did not want the property as a park was because it was across the street from his house. Councilmember Teagle replied he did not want to cut things out arbitrarily without the approval of Council. Mayor Cole answered that the work was not done arbitrarily and stated the minutes would reflect the Council's approval. Councilmember Teagle repeated that the work was being done arbitrarily. Mayor Cole stated that Councilman Teagle's approach was making it difficult to get things done since, when action is taken, he went across the street where work was being done and yelled at the Public Works employees. He stated it makes it more difficult to work with the County when its employees are being yelled at. Councilmember Teagle stated if the Public Works employees should not be there then they should not be there. Mayor Cole replied that if an action is approved by Council and directed by Mayor then they should be there. Councilmember Teagle stated that if the action was approved by Council that is one thing, but that Council never approved the work. Mayor Cole contended it has been approved every single time.

Mayor Cole stated there is an opportunity to turn the property into a positive, and he understood Councilmember Teagle's concerns. Councilmember Teagle stated his concern is not so much with a park but moving on the matter without the Council's approval. Mayor Cole stated he cannot support having a Councilmember stopping work on a matter already agreed to by Council. Mayor Cole and Councilmember Teagle discussed how to proceed with the mayor stating he has sought Council approval and Councilman Teagle stating the mayor has acted without such approval. Councilmember Teagle stated that the mayor does not consult Council and the Mayor stated that he does all the time. Councilmember Teagle stated the minutes will not reflect a discussion about having a passive park.

Councilmember Edge asked if there was a concrete plan for the park. Mayor Cole stated there was not one and he wanted one. Councilmember Teagle agreed he wanted a concrete plan as well. Councilmember Edge stated he had no opinion yet since this matter was new to him. Mayor Cole stated he was frustrated when he thinks Council is headed in one direction only to find out he is mistaken. Councilmember Teagle stated he also gets frustrated when the mayor takes arbitrary action- even if its for the betterment of the town- without talking to Council about it.

Councilmember Teagle stated that Peachtree City has a large police force and that going into the city still has Georgia State Patrol stopping people between the city and going toward the Coweta border. He suggested that the town could get the Georgia State Patrol to investigate the town's traffic. Mayor Cole stated he had the same idea about reaching out to Georgia State Patrol to monitor the speeds on the streets.

Council did not act or vote on this matter.

#### 4. ARPA Funds- Second Allocation of Funds

Town Clerk Floyd Jones provided an update on the second payment of American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds. He stated that in July 2021 the town received \$67,405.50 as a first of two payments from the federal government to local entities. He reported that he had a conversation last week and was informed the second payment would be coming to the town in approximately four weeks. He reported that the exact amount of expected fund was not provided to him, but it would probably be the same as the first round of funds meaning the town would have approximately \$134,811 available. He reminded Council it has until December 2024 to expend the funds, but also there is pressure at the federal level to take back unspent funds to utilize for other needs such as the war funding in Ukraine. Councilmember Edge asked for information on how the funds were to be spent and Mr. Jones replied he would send him that information.

Council did not act or vote on this matter.

#### New Business:

##### 1. Drugs / Medicine / Prescription Drop Box

Town Clerk Floyd Jones briefed Council on a request to place a “drug / medicine / prescription drop box” at Town Hall. He stated that the drop box would be placed after the back parking lot is repaired and that he was informed that the Sheriff’s Office would open it and retrieve the drugs. Council questioned if having the drop box would be a magnet for those using drugs to come to Town Hall. Council also asked for statistics on the benefits of having a medical drop box. Councilmember Edge asked if this was a town initiative. Mr. Jones stated that AVPride approached the mayor about this initiative and that during discussion it was passed to Mr. Jones to work out the plans.

Council did not act or vote on this matter.

##### 2. LOST Renegotiations- Update

Mayor Cole briefed Council on the LOST Renegotiations. He stated that LOST Renegotiations are done every ten years and that the major players in the discussion are Coweta County, Newnan, and Senoia. He stated that Sharpsburg gets .27 of 1% of LOST funds and that means the town gets approximately \$80,000 yearly. He hoped the town would get more but would be satisfied if the percentage remained the same since Sharpsburg is the only municipality in Coweta County that lost population according to the 2020 Census. He said the town went from a population of 354 to 316 people and he attributed it to a lack of response due to the pandemic. Councilmember Teagle stated he had heard the Census in Georgia was so underreported that it lost congressional seats. Mayor Cole agreed there were problems with the Census. He stated that the good news in this matter is that economic projects are getting so high that the slice of the pie is getting bigger. He said much of the growth recognized on the budget is based on the overages of LOST. He added that the resolution needs to be made by December and every jurisdiction and municipality have their needs that would benefit others. Councilmember Teagle stated that the town is so small that no one is going to get more by reducing the town’s percentage of the LOST funds.

Councilmember Teagle asked if there was any update on the powerlines underground, and Mayor Cole stated that work was ongoing along McIntosh Trail.

Additional discussion continued regarding establishing a master plan for the town and how would take years, but it would eventually result in having a plan ready to use by this or future administrations.

Councilmember Teagle reported he has worked at the library to cut back foliage there. He stated a lot was done but it is growing back.

Council did not act or vote on this matter.

### **Adjournment**

Mayor Cole adjourned the June 27, 2022, Work Session Meeting at 7:11 p.m.

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Floyd L. Jones, Town Clerk

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Blue Cole, Mayor

The following Work Session Minutes were approved at the July 11, 2022, Town Council Meeting.

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Floyd L. Jones, Town Clerk

