

TOWN OF SHARPSBURG

TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

A & O Bridges Community Center

105 Main Street, Sharpsburg GA

December 6, 2021

MINUTES

6:00PM

Call Council Meeting to Order

Mayor Cole called the meeting to order at 5:57 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance

Mayor Cole led Council and staff in the Pledge of Allegiance

Public Hearing:

1. 2022 General and SPLOST Budgets

Mayor Cole discussed the 2022 General and SPLOST budgets with the Council and staff. Discussion centered on the costs for personnel and a need to be aware that personnel costs may rise over the next year to stay competitive. Additional discussion concerned the responsibilities of the proposed Public Works personnel and the need for additional expenses such as equipment, dumping costs for garbage, and a truck. It was suggested that the Public Works employee needs to have a schedule of periodic maintenance including the winterizing of the equipment. It was recommended that the schedule be added to the calendar.

The floor was opened to the public for comment. No comment was provided.

Mayor Cole closed the Public Hearing and Council did not vote on this matter.

Establish Quorum

County Clerk Floyd Jones reported there was a quorum present for the meeting.

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

Absent were the following: Cynthia Puckett-Pike- Post 2

Review/Approval of Minutes:

1. Council Meeting Minutes - November 8, 2021

**Executive Session if needed

Councilmember Teagle asked if it is legal and proper to maintain a quorum over the phone. Attorney Brad Sears stated this matter had been discussed in the past and there are many jurisdictions still holding meetings over a phone or other electronic means. He said the issue is to what extent a person in the public has access to what is being said. He stated that the last direction from GMA and ACCG is that portions of the Governor's Emergency Order are still in effect; therefore, what the town has been operating on for the past twenty months is still in effect. Mr. Sears stated the discussion has changed to the point where if having meetings electronically or on the phone is a good thing then why go back to meetings in person. He pointed out that Dekalb County and the City of Stonecrest are still meeting electronically.

Councilmember Good stated she was not at the last meeting and asked if she could act on the minutes. Attorney Sears stated she could both make a second and vote on the minutes.

Councilmember Teagle moved to approve the November 8, 2021, Minutes. Councilmember Good seconded the motion. The motion passed 4-0-1 with Councilmember Puckett-Pike being absent.

New Business:

1. November 2021 Budget Report

Mayor Cole briefed the Board on the November 2021 Budget. It was suggested the budget was \$80,000 "to the good" and that the money could be rolled over into next year's budget. It was stated that this budget was the product of conservative budgeting.

Mr. Teagle suggested the \$80,000 could be returned, in some degree, to the citizens. Mayor Cole agreed saying he would take that recommendation to the Attorney to see what could be done. It was also suggested that the money could be returned during setting of the millage rate. It was suggested this matter could be raised again in January. Mayor Cole stated he wanted to make sure the budget balanced out the personnel needs and allowed for the purchase of a truck. Mayor Cole added that the town may not provide cash in the people's pockets, but that the town's actions could provide quality of life. It was also pointed out that Sharpsburg has either the lowest or second lowest millage rate in Coweta County.

The Council did not act on this item.

2. 2022 Council Meeting Schedule

Mayor Cole stated that staff had produced a calendar for 2022 which includes workshop meetings. She stated that work sessions are a place to discuss items without necessarily voting on them, allowing a chance to talk things through.

Attorney Sears stated that he would advertise the meeting and publish an Agenda. He said the Council would not want to handcuff itself by not acting, but that it be published as a work session. He said speakers could be allowed to come to the meeting. He added these types of meetings do not have public participation since it is strictly for council work- albeit the meeting is open to the public. Mayor Cole suggested that 2022 would be a year where potentially more need for direction will be sought and discussed. It was mentioned that straw votes do not really exist since they would stand up as actual votes. However, it was clarified

that the council could be polled on whether they object or do not object on a matter. It was also understood that the attorney would not necessarily be at each workshop meeting unless certain items are discussed. Further, it was advised that Executive Session meetings not be held during a scheduled workshop meeting. It was also noted that minutes could be reviewed at a workshop but would be voted upon during a regular meeting rather than at a workshop meeting. Attorney Sears stated that the work session meeting could continue without a quorum, but no vote could be held without a quorum. It was noted that there could be a possibility to adjust the calendar based on an Election schedule- particularly if there are runoffs.

Council agreed to the schedule but did not take a vote on the matter.

Old Business:

1. **Second Reading- Alcohol Ordinance Amendment**

Mayor Cole briefed the Council on the recommended changes to the Alcohol Ordinance. It was understood that new alcohol applications need to come to Council for approval, but renewals of alcohol licenses do not have to come before Council for approval.

Councilmember Parten moved to approve the Alcohol Ordinance Amendment as presented. Councilmember Good seconded the motion. The motion passed 4-0-1 with Councilmember Puckett-Pike not being present.

2. **150th Anniversary**

a. **Spending Authorization: \$700**

Mayor Cole and Mr. Jones briefed the Board on the approved authorization already given by Council and about the cost overage that based on the needs of the event. It was understood that the Council had given a limit and that it was not desired to go over the limit without full communication and approval from the Council. Council stated this was a one-time event and suggested the finalized cost be provided to Council. The direction was discussed and confirmed that final costs would be provided for approval once the events were concluded by January.

Councilmember Good moved to approve an additional \$700 for expenditures. The motion died for lack of a second.

Councilmember Parten moved to table this item until January until a final cost could be realized. Councilmember Teagle seconded the motion. The motion passed 4-0-1 with Councilmember Puckett-Pike being absent.

Public Comments

There were no Public Comments.

Polling of Council

**Executive Session if needed

Council did not provided comments.

Clerks Minutes

Ethics Filings: Mr. Jones reminded the Board that ethics filings are due. He asked for the councilmember to meet with him at some point after the meeting to go over what is due and when.

Portraits at Richard's Studio: Mr. Jones stated that he had contacted each member on the Council and informed them of the ability to have their portraits taken at Richard's Studio in Sharpsburg. The scheduled date and times for the portraits were Thursday, December 9 from 4 to 6 p.m.

Special Called Meeting on December 13, 2021: Mr. Jones reminded the Council that their next meeting was on Monday, December 13, 2021, at 6 p.m. at which time there would be a resolution recognizing the 150th anniversary of Sharpsburg. Mayor Cole added that at the meeting plaques would be presented to three ladies who have served Sharpsburg through the years with their classes in the community center.

Mayor's Updates

Conversation with GDOT: Mayor Cole stated there would be some discussion in the coming future with the Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT) regarding improvements to be made on GA-Highway 54. He hoped the improvements would be in GDOT's budget and he hoped the improvements would be for both the north and south sides of the highway. He hoped GDOT would help to install a center turn-lane all the way to the Dollar General store. There was a question regarding subdivision entrances and if there would be deceleration lanes for them, and it was suggested that information could be obtained from the county.

Town Hall Back Parking Lot: Mayor Cole stated that the construction on the back parking lot would begin in January 2022. There is not a start date yet.

Roundabout at Highways 16 and 54: Mayor Cole stated there are two remaining parcels to be acquired by the county and the Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT) before construction can begin on the expanding the roundabout at the intersection. Discussion followed.

Executive Session

There was no Executive Session.

Adjournment

Councilmember Teagle moved to adjourn the December 6, 2021, Council Meeting. Councilmember Good seconded the motion. The motion passed 4-0-1 with Councilmember Puckett-Pike being absent.

The December 6, 2021, Council Meeting adjourned at 6:51 p.m.

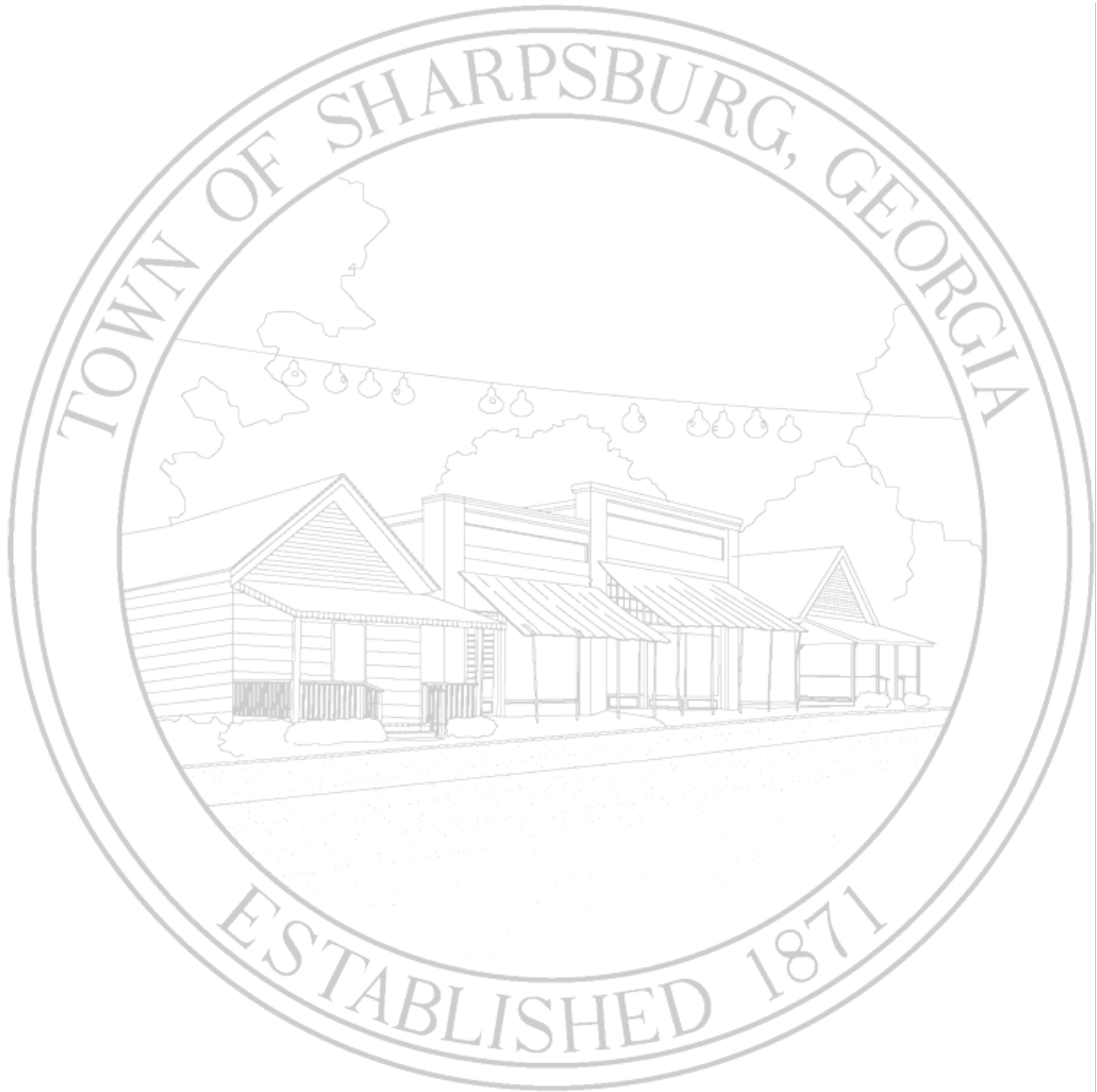
Floyd L. Jones, Town Clerk

Blue Cole, Mayor

**Executive Session if needed

The foregoing minutes were duly approved at an official meeting of the Sharpsburg Town Council, in Sharpsburg, Georgia, on the 10th day of January 2022.

Floyd L. Jones, Town Clerk



**Executive Session if needed