

**TOWN OF SHARPSBURG
MINUTES OF THE TOWN COUNCIL MEETING**

October 6, 2014

A regular scheduled meeting of the Sharpsburg Town Council was held Monday, September 8, 2014, at 7:00pm, in the Town of Sharpsburg at the Sharpsburg Recreation Center.

Present were the following: Wendell Staley, Mayor; Clay Cole, Council Member; Celene Davenport, Council Meeting; Derrick McElwaney, Council Member; Keith Rhodes, Council Member; Donna Camp, Town Clerk.

Also in attendance were: Mr. & Mrs. Michael Lassetter, Jean Mitchell, David Mullins, Joe Bridges and Polly Garlington.

Mayor Staley called the regular scheduled meeting to order and the Pledge of Allegiance was delivered.

The Clerk verified there was a quorum present.

The minutes of the September 8, 2014 Council Meeting were reviewed and approved by unanimous vote, and were filed in the minute book of the Town.

Polly Garlington asked to address the Mayor and Council. Please see the attached notes for items discussed.

Joe Bridges asked to address the Mayor and Council. The items discussed were:

- Historic Buildings and finding a way to let him open them.
- Temporary Buildings and their specific requirements on the lots at the corner of Main Street and Terrentine and also the lot beside Richard's Studio.

Public Comments -

- Mr. Lassetter -
 - Wanted to know if the privet hedge by the power pole in front of his business is on his property or the right of way. The hedge needs to be removed.
- Jean Mitchell -
 - She was in business in the town for 16 years
 - The Council did not ask her to leave,
 - Mr. Bridges asked her to move back to the old building on Terrentine Rd.
 - There are cracks and holes in the floor of the building on Main Street and there are snakes in the building. The gas tank had to be refilled every 2 weeks.
 - She had buses coming from the Cancer Center and tour buses from the Walking Dead tours.
- David Mullins -
 - The Town needs to renegotiate the water contract.
 - His water purity and pressure is not good.

Polling of the Council -

- Clay Cole - n/a
- Celene Davenport - n/a
- Keith Rhodes - n/a

➤ Derrick McElwaney - n/a

Clerks Comments - n/a

Mayor's Minutes -

- On the Main Street park, the state was supposed to do all the work but that has changed due to budget cutbacks. We are talking with the county to get them to help with the work. Integrated Science and Engineering are drawing up the final plans.
- We are still talking with Turin and the Water Authority about getting a new contract.

There being no further business coming before the Council, the meeting was adjourned.

Donna M. Camp
Town Clerk

DRAFT

Sharpsburg Activities – TCM October 6, 2014

I promised Donna when I was allowed on the Agenda that I would not ask any questions that I wanted answered on the spot. I would, however, like the mentioned comments be answered at the next Town Council Meeting.

Guess my comments should be titled "Truth in Advertising" referencing the statements made and published in the Times-Herald on March 18, 2012. (and it is advertising when such articles are published in the local newspaper.) The hype in the article, much of which has not come to pass is like the items on Meeting Agenda that are presented but never resolved....at least as far as public notification is concerned.

In the March 18th ²⁰¹² Times-Herald Article: The article states, City Park: "The Town has purchased some land adjacent to the site. (referring to the tennis courts) Work should begin in the next few months." "Plans are for a grassy park with walks, porch swings, and a small "tot Lot"....and on and on. Two and half years later there is no sign of a park.

MORE: Quoting. "The Town has purchased property in the "triangle" at Terrentine Street and Highway 54 with hopes that it can be used as grounds for festivals, as well as a park throughout the year." AGAIN NOT A SIGN OF ANY OF THIS HAPPENING!

Quoting from the same article: Sharpsburg is also entering into a long-term lease on some adjacent property to create a large enough space for a town festival. ...by midsummer we should have that sodded and looking beautiful. AGAIN NO SIGN OF ANY OF THIS HAPPENING...and the long-term lease turned out to be for one year.....LONG-TERM???????

A commercial development was mention buy was stated that would be dependent on the economy.

An upgrade to water systems was mention but to my knowledge the water system remains the same.

Oh, Yea, on other small item: When a Council Member Stated in the Times-Herald in October 2013 that “the city Council is making great progress in the MANAGEMENT of Sharpsburg’s city Parks.”

...it’s pretty hard to manage a park that does not exist!

Other Agenda topic/issues that have just vanished after presented to the Town Council

1. The Ethics Committee has appointees whose term has expired and one member now on the Town Council. I gave you several names to contact at the time and none were ever contacted.)
2. Entrance signs at town limits
3. Neighborhood watch brought up at meeting by a Council Member but never materialized. ..kinda just vanished which is the usual method of handing many items on the Town Meeting Agenda.

I believe these are topic and issued that should be addressed and resolved in an open Town Council Meeting.

As it appears now the only thing the Town Council seems to have any interest in is annexation and commercial developments. There are those of us who have been around for years that feel we need some attention to our interests and conerns.

Thanks you.

VISION

Plans in works to revitalize 'Old Town' Sharpsburg

By SARAH FAY CAMPBELL
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Several plans to revitalize "Old Town" Sharpsburg are in the works for the eastern Coweta town; the town has also acquired property that will be both a place to hold festivals and a year-round park.

As soon as the weather gets warm and dry enough, crews will start paving Stovall Street. It's always been gravel.

"I know that is not news for big towns. They pave streets all the time," said Sharpsburg Mayor Wendell Staley. But "it's a big deal for us to get a city street paved."

It's taken almost two years to get to this point, with engineering, land acquisition, and lots of paperwork. It will still be a single lane road, but two cars can pass if they're careful. The town didn't want to make the road too wide because it would take too much property away from homes along Stovall Street.

There are also plans for several recreation-related improve-

ments. One is a new city park where the tennis courts are currently located. The town has also purchased some land adjacent to the site.

Work should begin in the next few months, Staley said.

The tennis courts get very little use, Staley said. The new park will be something that everyone in the town can enjoy, "not just a handful of tennis players that can very easily go to a nicer court down the street [at the Hunter Complex]."

Plans are for a grassy park with walks, porch swings, and a small "tot lot." There will be a large pavilion/bandstand area that will be big enough for bands, Staley said, and a picnic pavilion on the opposite side.

Hopes are to have it be nice enough that it can be used for weddings, along with the A&O Bridges Recreation Center/Town Hall.

"If they were to get rained out for any reason, we can move that gathering inside," Staley said.

The recreation center/town hall has gone through some

major improvements.

They have been very well received, according to Staley. "The rentals for the building have definitely picked up," he said. There are plenty of other things going on at the center as well, including dance lessons, art classes, and the meetings of the quilting club and gardening club. "The building is being utilized, I'd say, 80 percent of the time now," Staley said. That's compared to about 50 percent before the renovations.

"Everybody who comes and sees the renovations we've made... they don't even hesitate" when it comes to renting the building, he said. Most of the rentals are through word of mouth or from people who have been to the building for dance lessons, meetings, or some other reason.

The town has purchased property in the "triangle" at Terrentine Street and Hwy. 54 with hopes that it can be used as grounds for festivals, as well as a park throughout the year.

Sharpsburg is also entering

into a long-term lease on some adjacent property, to create a large enough space for a town festival.

"We've had it cleared and cleaned," Staley said. "And by mid-summer we should have that sodded and looking beautiful. It's going to be a beautiful asset to the town."

The small town is also primed for some commercial development. In early 2011, the council voted to annex 109 acres along Hwy. 16 for a mixed-use development.

The conceptual plans for "Oakhall" include a 45,000-square-foot, grocery-anchored center with commercial and office space, 148 homes, and a 10- to 12-acre recreation complex.

Actual development of the site is currently contingent on the economy.

"We are still working with the landowners and possible developers," Staley said. A group recently came in and did a demographic survey of the area for a senior citizen develop-

ment. "They found it to be ideal for what they wanted. Whether it will materialize, we don't know."

"We also, of course, would love to do our commercial up front," Staley said. "We can have some restaurants, a child care center, room for a bank. There are the things that we have on the drawing board."

"We really need that development," Staley said. "We have very few businesses in town that can produce any kind of revenue for the town."

Staley said Sharpsburg has been working with the town of Turin and the Coweta County Water and Sewerage Authority to "supply water to that area and to any other needed areas within the town."

They're also looking into doing some upgrades on the water systems.

The water supply for the Oakhall development has been an issue. Sharpsburg and its residents are customers of the Turin Water System. However, the town had requested the

Coweta Water and Sewerage Authority serve the development.

The Coweta County Commissioners must give permission for the water authority to serve annexed property. So far, that permission has been denied.

The town has another plan to improve commercial prospects, by helping to revitalize downtown.

Most of the buildings along Main Street are vacant. A major reason for that is there aren't restrooms or running water in them.

"We recently passed ordinances updating facilities requirements for a business license," Staley said. For businesses to operate in buildings in the town, "they have to be brought up to safety code and inspected," Staley said.

"These ordinances have been implemented by the mayor and council of Sharpsburg to bring downtown up to code as far as all the safety factors, and to stimulate business," Staley said.