

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

**February 4, 2019**

A regular meeting of the Sharpsburg Town Council was held Monday, February 4, 2019, at 6:00 pm, at the Sharpsburg Recreation Center.

Present were the following members: Blue Cole, Mayor; Tom Teagle, Council Member; Cynthia Puckett-Pike, Council Member; Stan Parten, Council Member; Elizabeth Good, Mayor Pro Tem; Brad Sears, Attorney; Erin McFadden, Intern. Absent: Deannia Roberson, Town Clerk.

The Pledge of Allegiance was delivered.

The Mayor verified there was a quorum present.

The minutes of the January 7, 2019 Council Meeting were reviewed. Council Member Stan Parten made a motion to accept. Council Member Cynthia Puckett-Pike seconded the motion. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

Mayor Blue Cole discussed the Resolution from Coweta County Hazard Mitigation Plan and asked Jay Jones, Coweta County EMA Director to present to Council. Mr. Jones stated that the Predisaster Hazard Mitigation Plan is a five-year plan that is enacted by GEMA. The Town of Sharpsburg have always participated in the plan. Public Safety officials, municipalities and county government get together and discuss many hazards that may affect the citizens throughout the County. We discuss man made disasters and natural disasters. We hired a company called Lux Mitigation & Planning Corporation. We use a template that FEMA uses whether it be a pandemic situation like the flu, and we have weather sirens at the high school and on the Turin water tower. They can be heard a mile away. We purchased sirens for all our recreational facilities. The Hazard Mitigation Plan is updated every five years. Once the County adopts the plan, it is sent to GEMA and FEMA for approval. Once we get approved, we get the Cities to sign the Resolution. Mr. Jones wrote a grant through Emergency Management to pay for the grant, they just ask each municipality to participate. Mayor Pro Tem, Elizabeth Good makes a motion to approve the Resolution for the Coweta County Hazard Mitigation Plan. Council Member Tom Teagle seconded. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

Mayor Cole discussed the Intergovernmental Agreement between Coweta County, Coweta County Board of Elections and the Town of Sharpsburg for Election Services. Mayor Cole stated that we sub out elections out to Coweta County Board of Elections, and it is time to renew the agreement. Council Member Stan Parten makes a motion to approve the Intergovernmental Agreement between Coweta County, Coweta County Board of Elections and the Town of Sharpsburg. Mayor Pro Tem Elizabeth Good seconds the motion. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

Mayor Cole stated that the next item on the agenda was going to be discussed by Mayor Pro Tem Elizabeth Good. This agenda item did not concern him directly but does concern his family so he would like to recuse himself. Mayor Pro Tem Elizabeth Good stated the property between the

library and the antique store is a little park that belongs to Mayor Cole's parents. They are willing for us to use the park for functions at the library and could also be available for people that rent this park for another site to have a wedding ceremony. They will rent this to us for no charge and we will take care of the property for them. She stated that Attorney Brad Sears will be preparing documents for all parties to sign and will bring back to Council for action. Council Member Tom Teagle stated that he is meeting the Garden Club on Thursday to discuss some things that can be done, this was good timing. No action taken at this time.

Mayor Cole introduced Herb Cranford, District Attorney from the Coweta Judicial Circuit. Mr. Cranford approached Council to introduce himself and presented his history with Coweta County Judicial Courts. It's a five-county circuit which includes Coweta, Carroll, Troup, Meriwether and Heard Counties. As the DA's office, we prosecute felony crimes that are committed in those counties. In Meriwether and Heard Counties we also prosecute their misdemeanor crimes. Once a county reaches a certain size, they create a State Court which also creates a Solicitor's Office who prosecutes misdemeanors. We also prosecute Juvenile crimes that happen in Heard and Meriwether Counties. All other counties have their own Juvenile prosecution. There was discussion about the newspaper article about circuits splitting and Mr. Cranford stated that they discussed splitting circuits and that Troup, Meriwether and Carroll County Commission have all passed unanimous Resolutions requesting their legislation delegation sponsor and support legislations to split the circuit. Carroll and Heard Counties becoming their own circuit which require their own District Attorney and then Troup, Coweta and Meriwether staying together as the Coweta District Circuit. There are 49 circuits in the State of Georgia. A most recent study by Administration Office of Courts which is a State of Georgia agency states that Coweta circuit has fourth highest felony case in State of Georgia. So, the other four circuits are Fulton, Gwinnett, Cobb and Dekalb Counties. Once you reach a certain size in population wise, case load wise it makes sense to split up and become smaller. Each DA's office is entitled to a certain amount of State paid resources for its office. One DA, a Chief Assistant DA, one Assistant DA for each Superior Court Judge in the Circuit, Drug Prosecutor Assistant DA. If you have one accountability Court, you get one accountability DA, two legal assistants and one investigator. All these positions are funded by the State of Georgia, everything else falls to the County or to the Cities. We have 60 employees in this DA's office. Less than fifteen are funded by the State of Georgia, which these employees are spread across those five counties. If you split the circuit, you get double State paid resources at no additional cost to taxpayers. We had 1300 felony case files in Coweta County alone, 1500 felony case files in Carroll County and 1000 felony case files in Troup County. If you all agree with me about circuit division, you would need to communicate with your County Commissioners as well as your Legislatures. Mr. Cranford thanked the Council for their time. No action taken.

Public Comments –

- Polly Garlington stated that she has noticed more police patrol and that is great news.

Clerks Comments – N/A

Polling of the Council –

- o Tom Teagle informed Council that he has been talking with the Garden Club and they will meet Thursday to discuss some things for the library. He has also touched base with companies about the parking lot repaving, sidewalk issues and

storm drains and culverts. He also completed a survey of the traffic signs. Councilman Teagle also requested to schedule a workshop day to do maintenance tasks for the recreation center.

- Cynthia Puckett Pike – N/A
- Stan Parten –
- Elizabeth Good – N/A

#### Mayor's Minutes –

- Mayor Cole stated as maintenance issues come up, we have been taking care of them as they arise. The exit signs were not working; we purchased them and had them installed and started repairing minor things to update the recreation center. He also stated that we have replaced ten lights that were out in the center to LED lights and eventually will phase all the lights to be LED. Also, once it warms up, he will advise Council so we can have a Community event day and have a laundry list of items that needs to be maintained for the center. Also, this would be a good time to allow the Boy Scouts, Leadership Coweta and the Girl Scouts to assist us in these efforts.
- Mayor Cole was pleased to announce the addition of two interns. He introduced Erin McFadden; she stated that she was a student with the University of Alabama. She has a dual major in Anthropology and International Relations. Her goal is to work with Refugee Camps and the work here as intern will help prepare her for that as well as give back to her community, she is from Sharpsburg. Mayor Cole announced that she would be doing a little bit of everything like organization, working with phones and filling in a couple of hours when Deannia is not available. The other intern is Aaron Rowell. His major is in Public History and attends the University of West Georgia. He will be helping us research Sharpsburg, the town history, GA Archives and the newspaper archives. He will be preparing the history that is out there for Sharpsburg.
- Mayor Cole discussed the Town's information technology status. He stated that right now the Town has no computer infrastructure. All we have is one computer with backup, email and a website which are all thru different companies. I would like to consolidate and centralize them. We have a couple of different options. GIRMA has one which is called IT in a Box. Google also offers a business solution called G-suites. The prices vary for what we want to do. Deannia and I are going to work out some quotes and submit them to the Finance Committee first then to Council. No action needed; this is for information only. The only negative thing is the website, it may be where we have the emails, cloud storage and backup with one company and the website serviced by another. We need to modernize, we are running with 2001-2002 technology. Polly Garlington stated the website is very difficult to navigate and if they could do something to improve that it would be easier for hired help. Discussion went on to talk about adding more money to the 2020 budget for website upgrade.
- Mayor Cole stated they have been dealing with speeding on Terrentine. He also got a complaint about speeding on Stovall. There are eight apartment units and two duplexes on Stovall. He wrote a note and stuck them on doors for people to slow down. Speed bumps maybe an option for various locations just to slow folks down. Councilman Teagle stated there was no speed signs on Stovall.
- Mayor Cole stated that we have an audit from Metropolitan North Georgia Water Planning District which is something that has been lingering since last administration. He

is talking with the engineer that does Turin's audit and he will be reviewing our audit and give advice on how to fix it. Not sure how much this will cost to complete but will know soon. He has also talked with DNR and they are being patient while we work this out. Without this audit getting completed, it can affect our future grants, so this is very important to get done.

- As we look to improve our physical plans for facilities, we now have five of the eight camera's working. We are having issues with the wiring. We have all new cameras to replace the ones that were stolen. The next step will be to buy a new DVR ranging from \$300 to \$350. I will let Council know when he finds a good deal on this equipment. Slowly but surely, we are working to get everything working.
- We've had a request from Pleasant Grove Baptist Church to help with their driveway coming from Pleasant Grove onto Cole Street. The trash trucks have come off 16 and rutted out the driveway that they built two years ago. Mayor Cole is talking with Coweta County about some options. He is also working on a letter to the County about various projects to help us with like planning and engineering for parking lot here, reflective signs, possibly helping with the driveway and the triangle park. If there's any projects that you want to add, please let me know by next week. This letter will be separate from DOT on road projects. We have gotten some emergency equipment that we ordered from the County that was requested by Council. There are five cones, three barrels with tire rings and two rolls of caution tape.
- Mayor Cole stated that he has the press release written for the Citizen Committees. He has a google form set up to accept volunteer information. A copy of the press release was presented to Council for review. He will give 30-40 days for citizens, residents and interested parties to volunteer and we will be ready to get started. This will be folks that we can call, have them help us with stuff, give us ideas and input and more importantly get us some help. As you can see, we don't have a big crowd here and I want to get people involved. Polly Garlington stated she was amazed of what he's got done. The cameras had been not operating since they were installed over a year ago.

There being no further business coming before the Council, Council Member Stan Parten made a motion to adjourn. Council Member Tom Teagle seconded the motion. Motion carried by unanimous vote.



Deannia L. Roberson, Town Clerk

