

TOWN OF SHARPSBURG
TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
A & O Bridges Community Center
105 Main Street, Sharpsburg GA
November 13, 2023

MINUTES

6:00PM

Call Council Meeting to Order: Mayor Cole called the meeting to order at 6:00PM.

Pledge of Allegiance: Mayor Cole led the meeting in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Establish Quorum: Mayor Cole asked Town Administrator if there was a Quorum. Town Administrator Jones stated that a Quorum of the Council was present.

1. **Acceptance of Certification of the November 7, 2023 Election** – Coweta County Board of Elections certified the November 7th, 2023 prior to the meeting.

2. **Oath of Office- Council Post 4- Polly Garlington** – Ms. Garlington took the oath of office to fill the vacant seat of Post #4 of Council Member. Brad Sears Town Attorney administered her oath. Ms. Garlington took her oath and placed her hand on a bible that was held by her great-granddaughter, Shelby.

Presentations: None

Review/Approval of Minutes:

1. **October 2, 2023 Minutes** – Council Member Parten moved to approve the minutes. Council Member Teagle seconded the motion. The minutes were approved 5/0/0.

Mayor Cole gave a brief speech letting everyone present know that this is his 59th out of sixty meeting. He said that when January comes, he is leaving the town in great hands. He stated that he never felt alone in the job. Lastly, that it has been his honor to serve the Town.

2. **October 16, 2023 Work Session Minutes** – Council Member Teagle moved to approve the minutes. Council Member Edge seconded the motion. The minutes were approved 5/0/0.

Public Hearing: N/A

New Business:

1. **Review - October 2023 Budget** – Town Administrator Jones gave a broad explanation of the October 2023 budget and the proposed budget for 2024. Topics covered were revenues and expenditures, ARPA & plans to spend, and LOST. He reviewed the last four years for bank balances. Mayor gave kudos to the staff on keeping spending in check.

Deputy Town Administrator Stroud announced that she has resigned open-endedly until a replacement is found for her position. She will be available to train a new Deputy Administrator. There was a brief discussion about staffing and retention that would be addressed at one-on-one meetings with Council. Town Administrator Jones invited the Council to come in to discuss this and other budgetary business.

2. **Second Reading- Amendment to Animal Control Ordinance 23-03** There were a few questions from the Council regarding insurance levels and categorizations within the ordinance. Coweta County has made an update to the original that was voted on a few months ago. We are mirroring the County, and this process must be done again. Town Attorney Sears clarified the changes and answered questions about Animal Control nuances from a legal perspective and County processes. Mayor Cole asked for a motion to approve the Second Reading of the Amendment to Animal Control Ordinance 23-03. Council Member Garlington moved to approve the motion and Council Member Edge seconded it. All were in favor. 5/0/0.

3. **GFL- First Amendment to Solid Waste Collection, Transportation and Disposal Agreement** - The charge per can is going from \$16.00 as of October 2023, to \$22.25 in January 2024. At this time, the contract will be on a calendar basis. Council Member Alex Edge made a motion to approve the agreement with GFL and Council Member Teagle seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously 5/0/0.

4. **Resolution 23-09: Certified City of Ethics Resolution** In 2011, the Town of Sharpsburg became a Certified City of Ethics and paid \$85 to GMA. This Certification is up for renewal at the end of November 2023. There is no renewal fee. Council Member Parten made a motion to approve the Resolution and Council Member Garlington seconded the motion. The Resolution was approved 5/0/0.

5. **Streetlights: Not to Exceed Authorization** – Mayor Cole explained that the decorative streetlights are not working. Administrator Jones added that complaints are coming in about the outage. He asked for a Not to Exceed Authorization for himself to spend on getting the problem fixed. The amount asked for is \$1500.00. Council Member Edge made a motion to approve this request and Council Member Teagle seconded the motion. The motion was approved 5/0/0.

6. **Asbestos Survey: 39 Main Street** – Town Administrator Jones reported that he checked with SafeBuilt that we do indeed need to have asbestos testing on the house at 39 Main Street. Two quotes were obtained for the job and Council reviewed them. Out of those two vendors Administrator Jones recommended the Town goes with Asbestos Abatement. Council Member Edge made a motion to approve Asbestos Abatement for the job using SPLOST funds if possible. Council Member Teagle seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously 5/0/0.

Old Business:

1. **Sharpsburg Library** – Council Member Teagle and April Yarbrough gave an update on the library project. The council took a vote on the needed catalog software not to exceed \$500. Council Member Teagle made a motion to approve the expenditure and Councilmember Parten seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously 5/0/0.

2. **Downtown Development Authority of Sharpsburg** – DDA chair April Yarbrough gave an update on the first fundraiser for the Christmas Market. One hundred vendors applied and twenty-five were chosen. There will be an obstacle course and an ice-skating rink. Town Attorney Sears advised to be sure that these vendors have liability insurance naming the Town with a \$500k/\$1MM provision. Senoia has gifted their old Christmas tree to the Town which is 20' tall and is lighted. The DDA has also obtained six sponsors. Ms. Yarbrough will obtain the Special Events Permit from the Town.

Public Comments: Attorney Brad Sears recognized a young visitor at the meeting. A Boy Scout was present who is working on his merit badges towards becoming an Eagle Scout. His name is Asher Anderson, and he is working on a requirement for a government merit badge. He was asked if he had any comments to make. He declined.

Polling of Council: Council Member Garlington asked about the lighting problem in Town. Mayor Cole answered that Georgia Power is working on it. Council Member Edge mentioned that he has spoken to Georgia Power engineers and was told that there are corrosion issues and is looking at replacing some of the transformers. Administrator Jones added that the Town's camera system is also down, affected by these surges and outages.

Administrator's Report: Administrator Jones reported that the new chairs and tables are coming and within the budget of \$6,500. The old ones are going to Coweta County. It is just a matter of submitting the order. The class matter concerning Ms. Rachel Ferguson has been resolved with a complete understanding of our guidelines for renting our facilities. The next meeting of the Council is December 4th, 2023. There is a work session meeting scheduled for December 18th. He asked Council if they wanted to meet on that date. Council Member Teagle made a motion against having the work session meeting and Council Member Edge seconded the motion. The motion passed 5/0/0. There will be no work session meeting on Monday, December 18th, 2023.

Mayor's Updates: None

Executive Session: N/A

Adjournment: With all business topics covered Mayor Cole asked for a motion to close the meeting. Council Member Parten moved to close the meeting and Council Member Teagle seconded it. All were in favor 5/0/0. Mayor Cole closed the meeting at 7:35PM.

Julie Stroud, Deputy Town Administrator

The foregoing minutes were duly approved at an official meeting of the Sharpsburg Town Council, in Sharpsburg, Georgia on the December 4th day of December.

Julie Stroud, Deputy Town Administrator

Blue Cole, Mayor