

TOWN OF SHARPSBURG

TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
A & O Bridges Community Center
105 Main Street, Sharpsburg GA
January 8, 2024

MINUTES

6:00PM

Call Council Meeting to Order: Town Administrator Jones called the meeting to order at 6:02 PM.

Pledge of Allegiance: Town Administrator Jones led the meeting in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Establish Quorum: Town Administrator Jones verified that a Quorum was present.

Oaths of Office: Town Attorney Sears administered the oath of office for:

1. Mayor Elizabeth Good, as Mayor. Her daughter, Sophia Elizabeth Good, held the Bible as her mother, Elizabeth Good, placed her hand on it for her oath.
2. Council Member Cynthia Puckett-Pike Seat #1. Mayor Good held the Bible for Ms. Pike's oath.
3. Council Member Tom Teagle Seat #3. Mayor Good held the Bible for Council Member Teagle's oath.

Mayor Pro Tem: 1. Appointment of Mayor Pro Tem - Mayor Good asked for a motion to approve Council Member Alex Edge as Mayor Pro Tem. Tom Teagle moved to approve Council Member Edge and Polly Garlington seconded it. All were in favor. Motion passed unanimously 5/0/0.

Presentations: None.

Review/Approval of Minutes:

1. December 4, 2023 Minutes – Council Member Teagle moved to approve the minutes as written and Council Member Edge seconded it. Minutes were approved 4/0/1, with Council Member Puckett-Pike abstaining because she was not a member of council in December of 2023.

Public Hearing: Mayor Good called for a Public Hearing and ended the regular meeting and went into a Public Hearing.

1. **Second Reading / Resolution 2024-01 to Adopt Fiscal Year 2024 Budget** – Town Administrator Jones gave an explanation that from January 1, 2023 to December 31, 2023 revenue was up 113% of budget and only 89% expenses were paid out. He gave snapshots of certain areas of the budget for a total budget of \$327.4K, asking for a 5.7% Cost of Living Increase be given to staff. He is emphasizing that this is not a merit increase but a measure to shore up salaries within the town making the positions more viable. Legal expenses are up due to the DDA Enactment, Payroll, IT, rash removal, DDA addition, festivals, and increases utilities. He expects there to be \$16K in Contingency Funds, plus additional revenue from real property, increased franchise fees paid to the town and in addition we have additional monies in LOST. He gave kudos to Angie Moore, Community Center Coordinator, who has blown it out of the park in 2023 with increased rentals. Administrator Jones feels comfortable in saying that the 2024 Budget is a good, working budget. Council Member Edge had a question about the 2024 budget, and he addressed it to Town Administrator Jones

Council Member Garlington moved to adopt and approve the Fiscal Year 2024 Budget and Council Member Teagle seconded it. All in favor. 5/0/0.

Mayor Good ended the Public Hearing and entered back into the regular meeting.

New Business:

1. **Resolution 2024-02 Certifying the Results of the Town of Sharpsburg Municipal Election – November 7, 2023:** Council Member Edge moved to adopt in minutes and agree with the results of the Municipal Election of the Town of Sharpsburg, Council Member Garlington seconded it. All in favor. 5/0/0.
2. **Resolution 2024-03 Amend 2023 Budget –** Again, Town Administrator Jones gave a briefing on line items that exceeded the 2023 Budget due to increases in payables due to inflation and unforeseen events and repairs. Council Member Edge moved to amend the Fiscal Year 2023 Budget and Council Member Teagle seconded it. Resolution approved 4/0/1, with Council Member Puckett-Pike abstaining.
3. **Resolution 2024-4 North Georgia Water Management –** Mayor Good explained that this came up in December's meeting that the DCA needs to have this resolution approved and have on file. Town Attorney Sears explained that Keg Creek runs into the Senoia Reservoir making the town in the watershed area. Even though we do not have a reservoir we are part of the Reservoir Management Program. The town must be part of the community standards to receive future grants. Staff will send our resolution to North Georgia for them to review and comment. They have 60 days to do that and we will see further work to create an ordinance may be on the February agenda. Council Member Teagle moved to approve the Resolution and Cynthia Puckett-Pike seconded it. All in favor. Resolution approved 5/0/0.
4. **Calendar Year 2024 Meeting Schedule –** the calendar 2024 meeting schedule is for Council to meet once a month on the first Monday of each month unless a holiday prevents that meeting and then Council would meet the next Monday. There would be no scheduled work sessions in 2024. Council Member Puckett-Pike moved to approve the Council's meeting schedule and Council Member Edge seconded it. All in favor. Calendar approved 5/0/0.
5. **Town Administrator Jones brought up the Holiday Schedule** for Christmas/New Year 2024. The office would be open on the Monday, December 23rd and be closed Tuesday, December 24th, Wednesday, December 25th, and Thursday, December 26th and remain closed through Thursday, January 2nd, 2025. The office would reopen on Monday, January 6th, 2025. Council Member Puckett-Pike moved to approve the 2024 Holiday Schedule for Town Hall and Council Member Teagle seconded it. All in favor. Holiday Schedule approved 5/0/0.
6. **Amended SafeBuilt Agreement - CPI Rate Increase –** SafeBuilt's rate has gone up 3.2% the Town's Code Enforcement. Town Administrator Jones explained that there is no material impact of the increase as it is based on the number of permits vs. their fee schedule. Council Member Edge moved to approve the rate increase and Council Member Teagle seconded it. All in Favor. Motion passed 5/0/0.

Old Business: None

Public Comments: A member of the public asked what CPI is as referred to in the SafeBuilt Agreement. Town Administrator Jones defined it as the Consumer Price Index.

Polling of Council: Council Member Garlington brought up old information about the library from 2018 concerning a library committee. She stated that right now there are volunteers but no committee. A committee must be formed, acknowledged, and approved by Council. Town Attorney Sears agreed. This topic will be considered at another meeting.

Council Member Teagle recognized and commended the DDA for their work on the Christmas Market. April received the kudos with thanks from herself and her team. He also said that the library project is moving forward. He mentioned security at the library. Administrator Jones interjected that he would talk to Council Member Teagle off-line about it.

Council Member Alex Edge commented there was a great turnout for the Christmas Market, and it was a tremendous success. He welcomed the new Council Members and Elizabeth Good as Mayor.

Administrator's Report: Topics covered by Town Administrator Jones congratulated the newly elected town officials. He thanked the Mayor and Council for approving for the 2024 COLA increase; Mandatory Council Member Training in March, new Council members please see him; ARPA monies being spent in the new year; the LMIG Grant; thanks for approving the Christmas 2024 Holiday Schedule; town street light problems are solved.

Mayor's Updates: None

Executive Session: None

Adjournment: With all business items being covered, Mayor Good asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Council Member Edge moved to adjourn, and Council Member Teagle seconded it. All in favor 5/0/0. The meeting was adjourned at 6:47PM.

Julie Stroud, Deputy Town Administrator

Elizabeth Good, Mayor

The foregoing minutes were duly approved at an official meeting of the Sharpsburg Town Council, in Sharpsburg, Georgia on the 5th day of February 2024.

Julie Stroud, Deputy Town Administrator

Elizabeth Good, Mayor