

SHARON TOWN COUNCIL MEETING ~MINUTES~ for September 11th, 2023, at 7:00 pm

CALL TO ORDER:

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm by Mayor Nicole Perkins; Council Members present were Mayor Pro-tem Herschel Brown, Jr, Skylar Grant, Margarett Parrish. (*Brooke Glenn not in attendance*), Town Administrator Tina Davis, Fire Chief Oliver Dowdle, Asst Chief George Ward. Visitors: Doug Cunningham and Don Kropp.

INVOCATION:

Mayor: Nicole began with a moment of silence. Tina said a special prayer in recognition of this significant date. Nicole asked that everyone share a memory of this historic day, 22 years ago today. Browne, Nicole, Doug, and Margarett shared.

PERSONS WISHING TO SPEAK: Doug Cunningham and Don Kropp

MINUTES:

1. **Minutes:** Minutes for Regular Council Meeting of August 14, 2023, recorded and available upon request – if anyone needs a copy of the minutes, just let us know.
2. **Financial Reports:** Available for review.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. Registration & Elections -

- a. Mayor and 3 Council members submitted filing paperwork for 2024 Election. Filings were due by Friday Sep 8th at 5 pm.

Skylar has decided that she is giving up her tenor this year. So, we do have one opening, Nicole spoke with the Registration and Elections Office and there is time. Last Friday was the last day to file. We will have to write in the name of the 4th person. We can promote that there is going to be a write in.

2. York County Council - Meetings 1st and 3rd Monday of Month

- a. **York County Pennies for Progress 5 Project-www.penniesforprogress.net**

Site still open for comments:

Public Meeting Western Side - Sharon, Hickory Grove, Smyrna, McConnells August 16th at Community Center in Sharon. Small turnout. Mainly Fire department staff from Sharon and Hickory Grove. Smyrna did not show up and nor did McConnells.

Steve Mellon, a Pennies for Progress Committee member (who is local to us) drove down McGill Rd so they saw firsthand how bad our roads are. They were dedicated to finding out just what needed to be fixed. We did meet a lot of local people so we got names and contacts for

people that may be able to help us. This is a project that could take up to 5 years before we get that done but at least we are working towards it.

3. Town Funding - Local, State, and Federal and Grant Opportunities

a. ARPA – funding, Funds must be spent by EOY 2026

1. Town/Building Improvements - completed some and others are still in progress.

- a. Painting/gutters Town Hall, Lawson Bldg, and Community Center
- b. Painting Ballpark Buildings, Decking, Parking lot deadmen
- c. Community Center Annex - electrical, Fire Doors, Bathrooms
- d. Town upkeep - Cutting trees Ballpark, Bolin St, Green St
Trying to get all the overgrowth cut back, it was reported that only one car can pass at a time so that's how bad it was. It is a work in progress, just an FYI, we did a lot of work on Old Depot last year and it is grown back up again. We need to get the landowners to take care of some of the overgrowth. Nicole went down Pratt St as well and the limbs are overhanging. Nicole does not want the town to take on all the tree trimming but it must be done.
- e. Pump Station for Sewer System behind town hall - protection of Sewer System from water overflow, Retaining wall and regrading of the area.
Grady Merck is going to do this work for us.
- f. Town Equipment purchase - Maintain Streets, Storm Drains, Ditch lines. Need Backhoe with 4 in 1 bucket. Contacts?
Nicole has asked if you know of anyone that is selling any equipment the town is in need. We have some money from a grant, and we would like to be able to buy something. Oliver suggested we reach out to Randy Legion in Chester. It is an auction.

4. State Grants - Dennis Moss approved – Money to be received 3rd quarter

- i. Grading Fire Department and Park lot, Culverts to redirect water
 - ii. Sewage lines
 - iii. Bathrooms for park
- b. Heating and Air Town buildings
We have not received this money to date. We know from previous grants it may be around the 3rd quarter of the year.

NEW BUSINESS:

- A. Sidewalks - Welcome to Fall Letter sent to residents with September water bills**

- a. Sidewalks resident responsibility
Nicole would like to send out a “Welcome to Fall” letter with the September water bills to residents letting them know that sidewalks are their responsibility. In preparation for Halloween and our other upcoming events ask them to please clean up their sidewalks.
- b. Preparation for Halloween/Fall Festival/Movie Night of Halloween
Nicole does not want to do anything extravagant for Halloween but maybe put up the movie screen and when folks walking by, they can see it. Halloween is during the week. Nicole would like to promote things that are going on in town. Talk with the churches. We are going to have like a mini festival, but everyone has their own things going on.

B. Franchise Fee Ordinance – First Reading for Spectrum

We need to sign this new ordinance; Spectrum is not currently on our franchise fee ordinance, so we need to add them. Tina went back through all the old ordinances and found Ordinance #24, it dates to the first cable company that came through and it’s specific to Carolina Telecom Services back in 1989. They have now come up with a generic, we must have a first and second reading and Tina must have it turned in to the State by October 26, 2023. The ordinance states that as a municipality we choose to charge 5% of gross revenue on any cable provider that comes through the town. We can charge 1% to 5%, Tina checked with Charlie, and he said everyone charges 5%. If there was already a contract for another cable company in the town and one left, this will cover the one coming in. It is generic and covers any franchise that may come through. We need to do a second reading, Nicole said we can possibly do a special call meeting if you all want to get it over and done with. Charlie did share with Tina that he has on file Catawba Services on their records as of 2019 but Tina told him she is not familiar with what that is. Tina asked the group if they were familiar. It was speculated that perhaps it is a legal name for Comporium. Tina asked for a motion for this ordinance. Browne made the first motion for the franchise ordinance and Skylar second the motion. All in favor said “aye”. See attached documentation: What are Cable and Telecommunication Franchise? And Cable Franchise

C. Shannon Street -

- a. **Lead and Copper Rural Revision analysis - Truepani (Scott Rebman)**
We have a lot of issues going on Shannon St. We have an analysis that we must do.
- b. **New Water lines – Matt getting a quote to replace water lines.**
Nicole talked to Matt about replacing water lines, he said there are people with the county that put in smaller areas of water lines. Matt is going to see if we can get that done by the county or if we need to put in for another grant.
- c. **Sidewalks**

Tina advised that it was reported that the grass has overgrown so much on the sidewalks on Shannon St that you cannot even walk on the sidewalks. Brad and Cameron have gone out there and sprayed the sidewalks and then will go back and pull the dead grass up once the chemicals have worked.

Per Browne on Shannon St there is no grass space between the edge of the sidewalk and the curb. The sidewalk comes right up to the curb. The grass has grown up in all the curb and gutters and joints in the sidewalk.

Tina is revamping the grass list and can revamp the list to include just spraying areas such as the one described above. Nicole will talk to Brad and Cameron about these issues. We are killing grass in places we don't need it killed and not killing grass where we need to. Tina did report that the tennis courts do look better. Nicole stated that once we revise the responsibilities for the grass crew if we need to hire out for some of the jobs after talking to Brad and Cameron, we will look at that.

D. Website – looking at another vendor, Rural Water Impact/Municipal Impact Vs Revize

a. Ruralwaterimpact.com

Tina reported that we have a new vendor that wants to be our website vendor, it is a lot less money than Revize. It is called ruralwaterimpact.com, they are part of the MASC that we belong to. They were also officially recommended by the National Rural Association. Tina provided some links: Grover NC, Ridgeville SC, Pelzer SC, Donalds SC, Iva SC, City of Central SC and City of Loris, SC. No limitations on subpages, documents, or images. We can upload our agendas, minutes, and pictures. A link could be added to the page to pay the water bills connecting to UB Max (gWorks). Yearly it is half of the cost than what was quoted by Revize. Tina asked if the group would like a demo.

E. Mini Grant with York County and Lowes

Nicole asked if everyone saw her Facebook post, and reported that a lot of work was done in 4 hours and 2 ½ miles were covered from Porter Hill Rd, Sherer Rd, Ramsey Rd, Shannon St, York St and Hickory Grove Rd. 34 bags total (29 trash and 5 recycling). Doug was a huge help. Doug thanked those involved for their involvement. Nicole included the hashtag for the Facebook post and Tina advised she has a report that needs to be turned in by Friday. Tina advised that it is one check required for our mini grant. At the community center, Tina has had Harrison Childers edge the grass and she and him will go shopping for some trees, shrubberies, and plants. Not everything needs to be done right now since it is still very hot but everything

needs to be done by November so we will get an action plan together. The grant is from Lowes/York County.

F. Meeting Minutes Signing

Tina has several months of meeting minutes to be signed and has asked that each council member sign in their specified spot.

REPORTS/COMMITTEES: Council to discuss any issues concerning the following:

1. **Ball field:** Parking area review improvements. After Fall ball will work on electrical issues
 - a. **Softball Tournament Sep 30th** - 14U Coach Ashley Gann sponsoring, parking to be discussed, some proceeds to be given back to the town.
Per Nicole there are going to be some parking issues, Tina advised there will be 6 teams at one time out there. Nicole and her husband are considering letting people park in their yard. Despite all the painting that has been done on the parking spots it is difficult to get in and around the parking lot.
2. **Community Center:** Possible tenant. Electrician quotes 2 breakers for 60 amp equip 240 volts.
 - a. Doors open outward/Fire Doors/Emergency Exit Signage, Oliver
 - b. Heating and air units - grant money
 - c. Plumbing issues/Change out urinals, re-upfit bathrooms
3. **Fire Department:** Well behind Community Center is leaking – Chris Lingerfelt cut off on 9/1/23.
 - From Oliver the well behind the community center has been cut off, it needs a new float.
 - The fire department is hosting a fish fry on October 14th from 4 – 7 pm, \$15 per plate
 - Bruce Canupp will be hanging the Christmas decorations the Saturday before Thanksgiving, November 18th.
 - Nicole will be reaching out to other municipalities to see if they have any Christmas decorations, they would like to get rid of.
 - Oliver reminded Tina that we need to renew our power agreement for the Christmas lights in town with Duke.
4. **Rental Buildings: (Herschel Brown, Jr)** Per Tina, Austin Lee is hoping to be out by November. He is still paying month to month. This will hopefully be his last month.
5. **Parks: (Skylar Grant)** Electrician to find Park electrical issues that still exist. Park Cameras still need to be fixed. Historical markers (Dollar General, Ballfield). Rainey Park- edging/clean light post, Dog stations, sidewalk
6. **Scout Hut, Concession Stand:** Scout Hut-Trim, paint door, new roof
7. **Streets: (Margaret Parrish)** – Other towns have their main street area fully side walked with trees planted
8. **Sidewalks- (Brooke Glenn)** – Sidewalks are the resident’s responsibility/need edging. Parking lot Burri Building grass/Corners of Rainey/211 Grass
9. **Town Hall:** Adding concrete step and Handrail, Full sidewalk, spruce up flowers.

Nicole has reached out to Duke for the power poles in town and the ability to have them buried. Nicole will meet with Tyson Blanton (a representative with Duke) to discuss. Tyson did tell Nicole that it is very costly and that towns do have to pay for that. Nicole let Duke know about the vines, kudzu, and other growth. Oliver reported that AT&T lines are overhead. Nicole showed council pictures of towns smaller than ours that are tidy and just very nice looking. Nicole said even if we cannot do anything about the power lines that she would like to see the sidewalks get some attention.

10. **Water: (Matt Glenn)** Update status of water system. Drain line Water Tank Rerouted? Shannon Street quote for new lines? – Matt not present

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS:

1. **Citizen Concerns:** this is a section that anyone from the Mayor, Council, Staff or Public can bring an issue to the Council that was not on the agenda. Please limit your comments to five (5) minutes or less.

Doug Cunninham expressed his THANKS for all that the town is doing for improvements. He participated in the trash pick-up on Sept 9, 2023, and was pleased to see what is being done town wide.

Don Kropp (1721 Dr Saye Ln) the road is losing stone because the water is rushing off the road and running through his ditch. Don advised that he had reported this to Matt some time ago. Tina verified this as a private road.

George Ward posed the question about what was going on at the Sharon town limits sign. Tina advised that Mr. Ira Colthrap is cleaning this property for a construction and debris landfill.

DOCUMENTS AND REPORTS:

1. **Meeting Minutes:** Recorded
2. **Financial Reports:** Available for review

SCHEDULE FOR UPCOMING MEETINGS:

1. **Next Council Meeting:** will be Monday, October 9th, 2023 @ 7:00 pm

ADJOURN: Margarete made motion, Skylar second the motion, all in favor said, “aye”. The meeting adjourned at 8:02 pm.