

SHARON TOWN COUNCIL MEETING ~MINUTES ~ November 12, 2024, at 7:00pm

CALL TO ORDER and INVOCATION:

Mayor, Nicole Perkins presiding, Herschel Browne Jr (Mayor Pro-Tem) Council Members Present: Jay Gorley, Brooke Glenn, Margarette Parrish, Town Clerk, Dawn Helms. Also, in attendance Oliver Dowdle (Fire Chief) George Ward (Asst Fire Chief), Matthew Glenn, Al Bell, Ken Perkins

1. Mayor, Nicole Perkins presiding
2. Moment of silence

PERSONS WISHING TO SPEAK: none

MINUTES: **Minutes** of October 14, 2024, Regular Council Meeting recorded, ready to sign for approval.

OLD BUSINESS:

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

ARPA - funding. Funds must be spent by EOY 2026-funds left \$27k.

Town/Building Improvements in progress- Bollards/Parking Stops

- a. Community Center Annex - Electrical, Fire Doors, Drainage, Walls, Restroom Stalls, Hot water heaters replaced.
- b. Parking Area - Bell Avenue & Ball Park - future wish list
- c. Parking Stops and Trash Cans - Community Center/Fire Department & Park.

Nicole indicated some of the items shown have been completed, some still need things done. Margarette asked if this needs to be done by the end of the year. Nicole indicated that no that is the Dennis Moss money. Browne asked about the park equipment, is there something that we need to discuss about that? Browne did ask if the ARP money will pay for the bathrooms at the park. Nicole said the ARP money we were originally thinking the restrooms are part of another project that we have done. That was the rerouting of the water. That got changed out of ARP money because we did the grant for the fire department to do the water and septic. Browne asked if that was the Tommy Adkins grant? Nicole said no that we still have \$37k for the park that we have not used. We have not touched that money yet.

2. State Grants - Dennis Moss - Town Upgrades - 2022 Dennis requested meeting with Nicole regarding state grant. Applied Grants 02/15/2023. Received Funds \$500k Dec 2023.

(List of Grants applied and approved) - Open items still to be complete

- a) **Park Equipment- \$94k**-Options for mulch beds-Kids Cushion/Rubber

1. Harmon Park – Bathrooms & New Park Equipment

A. Park Selection to view. Measured site-room for 1 unit.

B. Redesign Park footprint for Safety - move memorial and flagpole to park entrance. Wood baby swing needs to be removed. (No Wood).

Move baby swings to existing metal pole swings?

From Superior Equipment is an overhead scale picture of the piece of equipment selected. There are 3 different types of slides. There are different activities on the equipment. Based off of everything that comes with it, installation, taxes, etc. and given the equipment is 50% off the total is \$70, the color is ocean blue. We can't get any other equipment right now based on Oliver and I measuring and trying to figure out where everything would go. Browne asked where the equipment will go. Nicole said the fall is only 6 feet not the original 10 feet we thought. Because the park is chopped up with the flagpole, memorial some things may need to be moved. Browne said he believes that one piece of equipment is plenty. Jay said if save money on the park equipment maybe we can do something with the pickle board court. Nicole had someone reach out to her and knew someone that could do our court. Nicole said she's not sure what it will cost. York has barriers and lines that were painted. Most people use their tennis courts, we would use our basketball/tennis court. Nicole asked if the council wanted her to proceed. Browne made a motion to move forward with equipment all others agreed. Nicole indicated that half is due upon ordering and the other half upon delivery. Oliver asked if the company would come out before the equipment arrives and make sure everything is ready? Nicole said yes, he would and we could take some pictures also to give him an idea of the area. The fire truck, flagpole and monument need to be moved regardless. Browne said it will be a big addition to the park.

b) **New Well - \$66K** location search in process. Chason Property? Pratt Street?

Set up meeting with Kevin Faulkner Engineer - map water system. Well system in housing developments - stand-alone ground system.

Nicole is meeting with someone with Faulkner Well to have our water system mapped. Before we apply for any water grants we need to have an idea of where everything is. Browne asked what the best way is to determine where the well will go. Nicole has not talked to Chason's. Matt suggested Pratt St. Nicole advised we really need to see where our water sources are. Browne just wondering. Brooke asked how much property is behind our town sign? Nicole said probably not a full acre. Brooke said she believes it needs to be at a high point she believes. Nicole asked if at some point in time if anyone remembers talking to Tommy Childers on Shannon St? Nicole said we may need to pull past meeting minutes because she remembers that conversation. She said Tommy does not use that well they use town water. Tommy was going to have a water test done. Browne does not recall this at all. Nicole said right now we do not have a location. Browne said there is property between his gin and the park. Nicole said for whatever reason someone said it needs to be at the end of the line. Jay looked online that the town owns .12 of an acre at the sign. He asked how much property is

needed? Browne said it would need a shed. Nicole feels like it would be an eyesore at the Welcome to Sharon sign.

c) **Community Center Annex - HVAC/electrical - \$42k partial complete**

d) **Burri Building - HVAC & upgrades - \$71k**

e) **Lawson Building HVAC & Upgrades - 26k - HVAC complete.** Balance funds use repair current water leak & mold discovered during repairs. In process.

f) **Sharon VFD \$60K - Reroute Water Overflow done/ Restrooms in process.**

g) **Sharon VFD HVAC - \$30k HVAC complete**

h) **Bank of York Loan community Center Roof - \$111k paid off loan. Complete**

3. **New Website - [Home | Town of Sharon \(municipalimpact.com\)](#) - Live as of Aug 1st**

a. Town Domain - www.sharonsc.gov Residents can Subscribe to Receive Email & Text Alerts from the Town of Sharon, SC and we have a Customer Service Submission Form. A resident can let us know about issues, concerns or questions on our website.

b. Welcome Page-Need Photo Head shot/Bio's of Council Members and Fire Dept

c. gWorks (Water Billing System)- New gWorks system going live-contract signed. "Pay on-line" option is available with the new system.

We did sign a contract with gWorks for their new system.

4. **Blocked Drainage areas - DOT Finished until Spring. Setting up - Street vacuum maintenance schedule in process. Nicole spoke to Todd Cook and Brad Trout State Road Contacts. Reminder to residents.** Please keep yard debris picked up, so it does not enter the roadway hence entering the drainage system causing blockage. If your property has a ditched area that allows the water to flow to a drainage area, please do not barricade or block for any reason with tree limbs, construction debris, rocks, etc. The water must be allowed to flow from the streets and properties to enter the drainage system. Do not blow leaves and debris into storm drains and gutters.

The state is going to be in touch with a company to remove our leaves and stuff from the ditches. It will be at the state's expense, not ours. The state has left 4 times and came back each time to continue their work.

5. **Scheduling Meeting with New Sherriff-** Nicole to discuss Town issues. Safety and Community Watch Programs. Phone meeting with County officer regarding dirt bikes and 4 wheelers excessive spending.

Nicole said lots of stuff going on in town this weekend. She was at Ms Norma's and some dirt bikes come through town and the Sheriffs department was right there and got two of the riders. The dirt bikes got loaded up on wreckers. Nicole has the name of the deputy she spoke with but does not have it with her.

NEW BUSINESS

1. **Barnette/Parrish property** - Jackson Parks Parrish. Variance request 32 ft versus 50-preexisting residence at site. See written request for vote.

When the septic was put in, they had to do it where the lines were preexisting. There is a request for a variance. That property had a preexisting home there. Property has been deeded to Mr Jackson Parrish. A plat was reviewed by council. Jay asked for clarification of the location of the existing septic tank. Nicole said the property meets all qualifications except for the distance from road. Nicole asked for a motion. Jay said sounds fine to him if we are not setting a precedence for others in the future. Nicole stated it is in the ordinance if the house was preexisting it may be approved. It belonged to Donny Barnette (Duck). This was 30 plus years ago. The measurement is from Barnette. Margarette said it was a private drive for and that they had it paved. County did not pave it. Owners had it paved. To make us safe as a town Nicole wants it to be voted on. Nicole said there are so many variances that people are starting to question us about that we must cover ourselves. Browne said it has a sign. Brooke said whether it is a town street or not it is in the town, and we need to vote on it. Brooke made the motion to grant the 18 feet variance needed for the home to be placed. Browne second, all in favor said aye. (Margarette was excluded from vote, this is her son's property)

2. Events: Save the Date

-**Sharon Farmers Market** - done until 2025

-**Senior Luncheon Sharon Methodist** - Fri-Nov 15th 11am -12:30 pm-free meal and entertainment

-**New Zion Unite Methodist Church Blood Drive** (4050 Black Highway, Smyrna) – Friday, **November 15th**, 2 pm to 6 pm.

-**Spinning Out Pottery Studio and Artisan Market, Sip & Shop.** Friday, **November 15th** 3pm – 9pm at 3716 Woodlawn St, Sharon. Local vendors will be selling soaps, honey, chow-chow and handmade pottery. Live music by Herschel Lee Brown.

-**Saturday November 16th from 7AM - 1:00PM PATH** will be having a tent sale at our food pantry location. Household items, clothes, toys, games, holiday decor, pet supplies/ pet clothes, something for everyone. Please come out & see our plans for the new building & services. We will be accepting donations for our new building. Pulled pork sandwich plates will be on sale, \$10 each. 204 Raile Street York, SC 29745

-**Hillcrest** would like to invite you and your family to come eat a Thanksgiving meal with us and receive a bag of groceries with a turkey voucher for your family during this holiday season! Just come by on **Saturday, November 23rd** anytime between 11am to 2pm to sit down to eat with us and then receive your groceries! This will be available to the first 300 families (one bag of groceries per family). Location: Hillcrest Baptist Church / 2020 Hillcrest Road York SC

-**Community Center Rental-Thanksgiving Day Nov 28th.** McCoy Family set up for 99 people Main Hall. Browne has volunteered to let the McCoy family in.

-Christmas in Olde Sharon - December 14th - Vendor information started. Church St. Lukes Baptist #1 Reverend Gilmore opening prayer/Church choir performance / Cotton Belt Elementary 25 children's choir performance.

Brooke is going to have Shady grove next year to come perform. Browne has asked about contact information for audio equipment.

Nicole is going to ask Tina to start sending out email invites for events and other stuff. Browne said he would like a reminder.

3. Keep Sharon Beautiful (#KSB)! - Community Trash Pick-up Day was Saturday, Oct 26th. Picked up over 30 bags of trash along Hwy 49 to Sutton Springs Rd.

4. Congratulations Mode family for October Yard of the month, our resident Halloween enthusiasts! Your yard and decorations were AWESOME!

REPORTS/COMMITTEES: **For 2025, think of the area you would be best to serve at.** Council to discuss any issues concerning the following:

Nicole asked council members to consider the area that they are interested in taking care of. These areas will be expanded upon more in 2025. We will exchange them and set them up for the area each of you prefer. The streets section would just be a matter of talking to people, maybe a post on Facebook. A matter of getting the word out.

1. **Ball field:** Electrical direct bury line for score board has been buried. (2) Poles being changed due to rotten poles. (2) additional poles are being ordered for field 2. Williams Electric to change poles and remove and install new lights purchased from City Electric with a rebate from Duke Energy. Will reduce electrical footprint. Williams Electric recommended by Oliver. Same vendor previously used. Electric lines in front of stands will be buried after new poles installed. Overgrowth around outside of park fence line needs to be sprayed and killed. Old trees, new growth needs to be addressed.

Al is here, he has buried the lines at the ball field. The electric lines in front of the stand will be buried and cleaned up once the new poles are put in place.

Dre offered to come out and spray the new growth, Nicole told him no that we need to get on a regular basis for taking care of overgrowth. Browne asked if this was inside or outside the fence. It is outside.

2. **Community Center and Annex:** Rumfelt Gutters - checked gutters, will clean all gutters. The gutters are not full, but we will have them cleaned out for \$150. Rumfelt did see some

screws that are rusted, and he will replace those for us. The only issue is along the side wall of the kitchen. Parking issues-designate parking areas. Did see rusted screws over Nicki's area that are leaking. Gutters are not the issue for leak at Nicki's area.

3. **Fire Department: (Oliver Dowdle)** Request to cleanup area behind Fire Department. New Bathrooms placement discussion/field trip. Oliver asked about the bulbs getting changed out. Tina and Wayne have taken care of replacing all the bulbs. Oliver just wanted to be sure they were good to go for hanging. The only other thing is ISO is next Tuesday afternoon. It is a 6-month process before we know our score. Oliver hopes to at least stay at the current score of a 4. Oliver explained that ISO is Insurance Service Office, it is the score that each fire department gets for response times, training, equipment, water availability. It is done every 3 to 5 years, lots of records are shared with them. Equipment is looked at. It is an intense process. The City of Rock Hill is a 1. They are paid and have hydrants everywhere. The higher the number, like 10, means you have no fire protection. The number reflects your homeowner's insurance. Everyone thanked Oliver for taking care of us. Tina has provided information to Oliver on water flow, our tank.
4. **Rental Buildings: (Herschel Brown)**
5. **Parks: (Jay Gourley)** -Selection of new Park equipment. Rotten wood needs replacement. Camera System - Mark Wertz with Mizon.
6. **Scout Hut, Concession Stand:** Scout Hut - Trim, paint door, new roof. Internet, Cameras? Concession stand deck rotten boards temporarily replaced.
7. **Streets (Margarette Parrish):** Spray Overgrowth - Trouble St, Green St, Old Depot, Shannon Street, Bolin Rd. Bolin Rd looks good right now. We just need to keep everything looking good and keep the overgrowth under control. Getting on a maintenance program will help.
8. **Sidewalks (Brooke Glenn):** Encourage residents to clean/clear sidewalks. Especially leaves. Do not put leaves in gutter drains. No leaf pickup in Sharon. Edging-include letters to residents. **Keep Sharon Beautiful KSB //KYCB.**
9. **Town Hall:** Update - paint inside walls, storm door.
10. **Water: (Matt Glenn)** Update status of water system.
Matt reported that everything is good, Amanda has a leak at her meter. Jamie is scheduled to come this Monday while she is not working. He did not think about Becky but will try not to cut anyone's water off while they are working. Matt did talk to Propst about Shannon St and Rainey Av.

Nicole did talk to the rural water people; he is going to do a water test. They are looking for ph level which could corrode our pipes.

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS:

1. **Citizen Concerns/FYI:** Anyone from the Mayor, Council, Staff or Public can bring an issue to the Council that was not on the agenda. Please limit your comment to 5 minutes or less.

Jay wanted to make a motion to add something to the agenda. As a council person how do I make a motion? Nicole said according to parliamentary rules you just make a motion, and we agree to add it to the agenda. We do not talk about it now. Jay did not agree. Nicole said every parliamentary is different. We use the rules provided by the state. If it is not on the agenda, we do not talk about it. Brooke said that she has the ordinances for purchases and hiring and firing. She said she printed off the old ones. Nicole told her we will add it to the agenda for January 2025. Brooke has copies she can provide to everyone. Nicole advised that our representative from MASC would like to come sit with us. There are different rules that small towns can do or not do. Hickory Grove, they have the mayor and town clerk sign off on it at a certain amount then it is given to you all at the end of the month. We are going to get back to doing that. We can either have a purchasing procedure or a purchasing ordinance that I found does not have a signature on it. It is from 2013 so do not know if this is the most recent. Brice was working on this in 2022 when he left. We need to decide as a town and when we meet with Charlie do we want to do an ordinance or a procedure. In Hickory Grove all checks need two signatures. Afterwards everything at the end of the month is given to the council to review. If Hickory Grove has something come up, they send out a text and get approval. Browne said that is the way Beverly and Margaret would do it. If we were 3 weeks away from a meeting they would email or call us. Brooke said let's all just communicate better. Charlie had to go sit in on Smyrna's meeting. Matt asked who Charlie was. Nicole told him it is Charlie Barrineau with the Municipal Association, he works with us Hickory Grove, Smyrna, McConnells.

Jay would like to get on the agenda to make a motion. Nicole told him to go ahead. Jay made the motion that we go ahead and purchase QuickBooks but to be sure to speak with our accounting person to see what version is best.

Nicole said it is on our list of stuff to do. Nicole said we need to get quotes; we need to talk to our accountant. It just needs to be done. With the end of the year, we would have a learning curve. Jay said the quicker we get it the quicker we can start learning it.

DOCUMENTS AND REPORTS:

1. **Meeting Minutes:** Recorded

SCHEDULE FOR UPCOMING MEETINGS:

1. **Next Council Meeting:** Regular Town Council Meeting Monday Jan 13th, 2025, at 7:00 pm

ADJOURN: **Adjourn:** Council to vote on adjournment

Motion: Margarette Parrish Second: Herschel Browne Jr Time: 8:08 pm