

TOWN OF SHARPSBURG MINUTES OF THE TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

March 17, 2003

A regular meeting of the Sharpsburg Town Council was held Monday, March 17, 2003, at 7:00 p.m., in the Town of Sharpsburg at the Bridges Recreation Center.

Present were the following: David Mullins, Mayor Pro-Tem; Clay Cole, Council Member; Larry Hyde, Council Member; Robin Spradlin, Town Clerk; David P. Winkle, Town Attorney.

Mayor Pro-Tem Mullins called the meeting to order.

The minutes of the meeting of Council held on February 3, 2003, were reviewed and approved by unanimous vote, and were filed in the minute book of the Town.

Sharon Bernocco, Sharpsburg Merchants Association, requested Council to approve \$200 to assist the SMA in paying for people to direct traffic and assist with parking for the festival to be held in April. Additionally, the SMA is requesting the Town to provide for grass cutting on Herb Bridges property that is used for parking for festival. Mayor Mullins indicated the Town would continue to provide this assistance as it has in the past.

Coweta County Commissioner Greg Tarbutton was unable to attend meeting as scheduled.

Mayor Pro Tem David Mullins requested the Town Attorney to report as to whether or not an agreement has been reached in the dispute between the Town of Sharpsburg and Sharpsburg Baptist Church regarding its nonconforming sign on Highway 54. Mr. Winkle reported that he and the Church's attorney, John Beall, who was in attendance at the meeting, had reached a compromise and settlement which has been agreed upon by the First Baptist Church. That agreement is as follows: The existing nonconforming sign on Highway 54 will be removed within ten (10) days of March 10, 2003 and a replacement sign shall be constructed and installed on the site within sixty (60) days of March 10, 2003. The replacement sign shall be substantially in the form shown on the hand drawn sketch, which is incorporated in these minutes. Basically, the top of the sign shall stand no higher than six (6) feet from the surrounding grade as "height" and "grade" is defined by the Town of Sharpsburg sign ordinance. The message portion of the sign shall be no more than four (4) feet in height and no more than eight (8) feet in width. The internal lighting of the sign shall be permanently removed and exterior ground floodlights shall be positioned so as to illuminate the sign at night. This indirect lighting shall be installed pursuant to the standards of the Town of Sharpsburg sign ordinance as to indirect lighting. The sign will be allowed to contain approximately one-third of its square footage appropriated to the message to contain changeable copy. The edge of the sign closest to State Highway 54 shall be no closer than ten (10) feet to the eastern right of way line of Highway 54. Proper application for permit shall be made to Town of Sharpsburg prior to the expiration of said sixty (60) day period, and the sign permit shall be granted provided the sign is substantially in compliance with these terms. John Beall, on behalf of the Sharpsburg Baptist Church, stated that this stipulation as read into the record was agreeable with his client, First Baptist Church of Sharpsburg.

Mayor Pro-Tem Mullins motioned to approve said stipulation and compromising settlement. Council Member Hyde seconded, motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Pro-Tem Mullins informed Council that the Town is required to have an approved and adopted Short Term Work Program update to the Town's Comprehensive Plan by October 31, 2003. The Town is scheduled to completely update the comprehensive plan by October 31, 2006. In order for the Town to comply with the deadline, the Town must begin working on this now. The Chattahoochee-Flint RDC is available to assist the Town in completing the task. Mayor Mullins motioned that the Town file a Request for Assistance to the RDC to begin work. Council Member Cole seconded, motion carried unanimously.

Council discussed appointment of representative to the newly formed Coweta Intergovernmental Agency (CIA). Mayor Mullins has attended the initial meetings. After further discussion, Council Member Cole motioned to appoint Stan Parten to represent the Town at future CIA meetings. Mayor Mullins seconded, motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Pro-Tem Mullins discussed with Council the recently declared six month zoning and land use study period by the Coweta County Commissioners. During the six month period no permits would be issued for the development of any new residential subdivisions or commercial development sites. This would allow time for the County and municipalities to address issues regarding transportation, water, storm water management, population growth, and job creation to better address the problems in these areas precipitated by unprecedented population growth in the County. The study period will deactivate in thirty days if all municipalities within the County do not agree. With the exception of the City of Newnan, all municipalities in Coweta County have voted in agreement.

Mayor Pro-Tem Mullins motioned for the Town to adopt a moratorium on the development of new residential subdivisions and commercial development sites for a period of six months in cooperation with the Coweta County zoning and land use study. Council Member Cole seconded, motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Pro-Tem Mullins motioned to appoint Derrick G. McElwaney and Wendell L. Staley as Council Members to fill the remainder (less than one year) of the terms of offices recently vacated by Mayor Alvin Arrowood and Council Member Watson Mills. Council Member Cole seconded, motion carried unanimously.

After being duly sworn, Clerk Robin Spradlin administered the oaths of office to Derrick McElwaney and Wendell Staley. New Council Members to serve thru December 31, 2003.

There being no further business coming before the Council, the meeting was adjourned.

Robin L. Spradlin
Town Clerk