

## **SHARON TOWN COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES - January 13th, 2025, at 7:00 pm**

### **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

1. **Mayor:** Nicole Perkins presiding
2. Moment of silence/prayer. Prayer from Herschel Browne

### **PERSONS WISHING TO SPEAK:**

**MINUTES:** **Minutes** of Nov 10, 2024, Regular Council Meeting recorded, ready to sign for approval. Minutes were sent out to Council over the weekend for review. No comments received. Minutes signed by all.

### **OLD BUSINESS:**

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

**A. ARPA - funding.** Funds must be spent by EOY 2026-funds left \$16K-vote on usage

1. Town/Building Improvements in progress- Bollards/Parking Stops
    - a. Community Center Annex - Electrical, Install 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 asked for approval for bollards for the new rental building. Also, something needed for around the hvac unit at the fire department. Nicole also advised that we have bathrooms for outside Fire Dept. She and Oliver looked at it and the way the roof was built over the current bathrooms at the fire department the bathrooms we received will not fit. The roof is not in good shape either. Browne asked if we needed a roof for the new bathrooms. They are the size of a porta john but having a roof over them would help to protect them. The area Nicole is talking about is going to need some repairs anyway. Whether it is torn down or repaired. The brick will have to be torn out that is there to put the bathrooms in. Browne advised he will be glad to look at it and help formulate a plan. Oliver said the roof line is not high enough either for the bathrooms. We will need to get quotes once we figure out what we are going to do.

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

**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. Map out current footprint-make partial payment to order.**

**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?**

Nicole advised that she heard from the park equipment people, and they advised the equipment is in just need to figure out install date. She told them we have not paid yet. We do not have the park ready yet. Nicole said we need to move the flagpole, memorial and sign probably to the front gate. Nicole advised it needs to be regraded also probably. Quote needed. Browne asked if the park equipment people will install it? Nicole said yes but we need to have the area prepped. Browne advised not landscaped. Nicole advised not landscaped just prepared. The wood baby swings need to be removed. Nicole also got a call for a park inspection. She told them now was not a good time. Browne said we do not want to have an inspection until we have everything complete.

**b) New Well - \$66K** location search in process. Meeting with Kevin Faulkner. Water line Mapping. Faulkner Well -Best Well locations. Well system in housing developments-stand-alone ground system vs Elevated. Town property Fire Dept. Park. Nicole said having our water systems mapped will aid in getting future grants as well. The date for the meeting is January 22<sup>nd</sup>.

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

Al advised that the last thing in the annex is the bathroom stalls. The stalls received from the E.C. Black Building were flipped so we did not have the hardware to install them. One stall is in place, just need hardware for the last stall. A lot of fire doors were obtained from the county, and some have been installed. Nicole advised that she had Mr Good come out and finish bricking up the back of the community center. It was \$1000.00 that includes any more brick that he may have to buy. Nicole has another brick guy she wants to talk to. Browne said it does seem high, but he has not been in construction business in some time. Nicole advised the outside should have been done first and not the inside because it could cause water damage.

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

Eddie's lease is up but he does want to renew. Browne advised that it go up correct? Nicole advised we need to look at this lease before we tell him anything

differently. Browne asked if we should go in the Burri Building and inspect what has been done in there. Al said he recommends it before renewing the lease given the condition of the Lawson Building. Browne asked if Al would be willing to go to the Burri Building to inspect before we go into negotiations with him. Jay said with commercial you can do what you like for the lease. Nicole says the lease reads 10%. Brooke read the current lease we have for the Burri Building. The increase would be \$660.00. Plan in place to meet with Eddie and inspect the building. Nicole said heat and air upgrades need to take place, Eddie said power is high in that building.

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/ New Restrooms in process.

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

h) **Bank of York Loan community Center Roof** -\$111k paid off loan. Complete  
Nicole asked if anyone had any questions regarding the grants. Browne asked if there is a list of the big grant, Dennis Moss grant, what we spent, where we spent it, how we spent it? Nicole said it is not in this, but we provided it last month. Browne said it would be interesting to see what, when, and where. Nicole advised we can do a spread sheet; we must send it to the state for reporting. Browne asked how many grants we are working from? Nicole advised 2 grants.

3. **New Website** - [Home | Town of Sharon \(municipalimpact.com\)](http://Home | Town of Sharon (municipalimpact.com)) -Live as of Aug 1<sup>st</sup>-Need Bio's and Photo Head Shots of Council Members and Fire Department.

A. Town Domain-[www.sharonsc.gov](http://www.sharonsc.gov) Residents can Subscribe to receive Town Email & Text Alerts. The website has a Customer Service Submission Form for residents. Nicole advised the website looks good. Dawn advised people are using the reporting tool on the webpage for people to tell us about issues. Nicole said we also can see how many visitors have viewed the site and it was high, about 1500 visitors or views.

4. **Blocked Drainage areas- DOT Finished until Spring. Setting up -Street vacuum Maint schedule in process. State Road Contacts are Todd Cook and Brad Trout. Add Woodlawn Acres. Reminder residents.** Please keep yard debris picked up. Debris/Leaves/Trash/etc. should **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.

Nicole said this is still on the agenda for us to know SCDOT will be back in the spring.

**5. Scheduling Meeting with New Sherriff-** New Sherriff sworn in. Mayor Nicole to discuss Town Safety and Community Watch Programs. Issues excessive speed, recreational vehicles cutting into traffic.

Our problem in this town is getting people to participate in things. Christmas in Olde Sharon was a good event, it was just not very well attended. The yard decorating was another story. We are going to start planning things in advance and do more advertising. Dawn asked do we want to continue to make it a contest. Mrs. Stephenson said it was rigged that it was a popularity contest. She was not happy about it. We do have more people participating at Halloween and people want to make that a contest. Margarette said maybe we need to come up with a better way.

Jay wanted to mention that he is having some surgery coming up and may not be at the next council meeting. He wanted to know if we can set up a zoom meeting or other electronic means. Jays has an older phone he can leave with us. Matt suggested Brooke could just call him and he could listen in.

## NEW BUSINESS

**1. Lawn Care proposals being accepted 2025-**Have received 2 proposals to date. Contact the Mayor or Town Hall for a bid sheet. Tract list of proposals.

Nicole has heard from a few residents that they would like to see the town have better grass service. I have received bids from Brad and a couple of others. If you know of someone that may be interested in doing lawn care for the town have them reach out to Nicole or town hall. Browne asked for a cutoff date. Nicole said has not decided yet but probably by March 1<sup>st</sup>. Browne said have all bids by March 1<sup>st</sup> then we can talk about at March meeting.

Matt asked what is better lawn care? Why do we need a better lawn care service asking as a citizen of the town. Nicole responded that we need to shop around, everything is going up. Usually, every town has their own maintenance person that does lawn care, everything. But Hickory Grove also has 3 paid employees over there and their own equipment. You don't want to continually keep the same person. Brooke asked if we could post it online instead just by word of mouth? Nicole said we will be posting it but if you know someone let them know we are looking. Browne asked if we had a list of jobs and locations that need to be maintained? Nicole said yes, we have a bid sheet. The one thing residents are asking for is edging. We currently are not edging. We do not have someone to remove overgrowth from the gutters. Matt said correct me if I am wrong, but he was under the impression that we can only edge on one side of the sidewalks. Matt and Brooke said we do not have the right to do on both sides. Only if the homeowner gives you that right. Most people that have their own grass cutting

person do their edging on their side and ours. We have tried to get the residents to keep the sidewalks clean, so we have been spraying, and grass not being maintained. We have a lot of elderly people. Matt said edging those sidewalks is going to be big, you will go through blades a lot. Nicole said we have already received some quotes and that is included in their quotes. It is not any higher than what we are paying. Hickory Grove and Smyrna both have a company that have full staffs. They are going to come to give us a quote also. We are going to post it but if you know of someone let them know we are looking for a company.

## **2. Maintenance Employee-applications to be accepted/rate of pay-list of duties needed/Suggestions**

- A. Collect Town Trash-Trash to dumpster or setup acct with local trash company
- B. Building Maintenance-as needed. Building checks/repairs.
- C. Check Park equipment-monthly
- D. Maintain Town Equipment-tractors
- E. Misc. items as needed. Town & Community Center event setups/tear downs, etc.

We are going to look at having a maintenance person. I have not really thought about the list of duties or the rate of pay. I know what Hickory Grove pays their person. Jay asked what Hickory Grove is paying? Nicole said \$15 an hour and they have 3 people. Browne asked what they do. Hickory Grove also has their own lawn equipment. Nicole said she was thinking pick up trash, maintain the park equipment, Ricky used to do that. Nicole said there is a local person that we can talk to about getting a dumpster. But I am worried about an employee hauling trash off in their own vehicle. Then what happens if they are in an accident. I have thought about getting a dumpster behind the town hall. Originally when people rented the community center for events, we would haul off their trash now it is part of the rental agreement is hauling off your own trash after an event. We would have to collect from our monthly renters though. Building maintenance is needed, always some little something that needs to be done. Right now, we depend on Matt or Oliver. If we had one designated person that would be good. A monthly park equipment check would be good. We have one tractor, and the county is looking at giving us a backhoe. Then you would have monthly maintenance and yearly maintenance of equipment. Then any other miscellaneous items. Town events are a lot of work so this would be a big thing also, putting stuff up, then taking it down. Setting up the community center (tables, chairs, vacuum, clean bathrooms and kitchen) could be included in those duties. We do not have anyone in mind right now, just putting it out there. Matt said if we bought some lawn equipment that person could help with that too. Matt said there is number 6 for you but if you could cut the cost of the lawn maintenance that would be good. Jay said he did not know if the trash person should necessarily service equipment. He believes we need someone qualified. Brownie said that if someone is mechanically inclined, they are not going to want to pick up trash. Matt said they could maintain it but not repair it. Al said require a test, a basic aptitude test to see if they are qualified. Al also added that he

would not allow anyone to use the town equipment. He said the new tractor that was delivered all the fluids are low. Al said hydraulic fluid leaked all over the floor of the shed. By the old tractor. Matt said he is going to second what Al said about the only people being on town equipment are town employees. If you are not a town employee and you run, it through the bank we are liable for it. Jay said he seconds that. Jay asked what the status was on the new backhoe? Brooke and Matt said it was not on the agenda. Matt said he will talk to Ernie tomorrow. He is the equipment maintenance supervisor he will know what is going on. Matt will let us know.

### **3. Town Tractors and Town Storage building cleanup.**

- A. Old Blue Ford -repair \$2k quote sent out for review- vote. (New Backhoe-could sell)
- B. Backhoe request to County pending approval.
- C. Massey tractor with 5 in 1 bucket-maintenance done-Yearly Maintenance quote in process.

Nicole said she sent the quote out to everyone for the repairs to the tractor. Brownie asked who Mr. Putnam was. Nicole said she thought everyone sent her approval. Brownie said he did not, and Jay said he did not. Al responded Robert Putnam works for National Equipment Services and has his own repair service. He is from Clover. Brownie could not find anything about him online. Al met him at Sharon Grill and asked him about his company. Jay asked if he had a mobile repair business? Al said yes but he may need to take something back to the shop to repair it. Everyone said they looked at the quote. Nicole asked do we wanted to proceed to have the tractor repaired. Matt needs this equipment ready if he needs to work on stuff. Nicole checked with Bolin and Roddey, and they were not interested. Margarete asked if we talked to Comers. Matt asked if they wanted them to check with Comers. Everyone feels like Comers will stand behind their work and not sure if Putnam guy would. Jay said we need to get it fixed because at some point we can sell one of them and we do not need to keep both. Brownie wants to know what we are going to do with Massey Ferguson. Jay asked Al what was up with Massey Ferguson? Al said some hydraulic hoses need to be replaced; the hydraulic gear does not stay in place. Jay asked if cracked hoses or just leaking? Al said they are cracking. Nicole said they would sell and get our money back. Jay thanked Matt for checking on the backhoe from the county donated. Nicole said it is not being donated. Matt said are you sure? Nicole said she did not think it was being donated. Matt said he had only talked with Ernie. Nicole said they were going to put it out for bid but and we could buy it but never said they were giving it to us. Matt said they are trying to do it without going through gov.deals. They will let us buy it straight from them instead of through the bid process. Matt also checking with Craig at Comer on tractor. Dawn thanked Al for his time.

Nicole said we have a storage building down there that needs some repairs. It has trees growing on it. Stuff leaking in it. We need to be able to store stuff in it. Matt said we will need a place for the backhoe to go under to protect it. Matt said he is storing pvc pipe outside of the shed and you are not really supposed to do that. Brownie said we need to have a workday down there. Al said he put cat litter down to soak up the oil. He also said both the Massey Ferguson and the Ford parked underneath the pole barn that is behind the annex. There is a gate that could be locked too. Wrap the lean to in plastic or have the sides closed in to protect from outside elements. Everyone agreed that would be a good place for the Massey Ferguson. Jay said it was built when the museum was up and running.

Jay said while we were on equipment, did the golf cart get fixed? Nicole was not aware that anything was wrong with the golfcart. Jay said he saw Scott one day on a golf cart and he asked him about it, Scott told him the golf cart was at his place but was not running so that a switch was broken. Dawn said she would check on it. Browne asked if it was being parked inside. Matt said it needs to be made accessible so people can use it. Nicole responded that it had been talked about for Matt to use when checking meters. Nicole again said this was the first she had heard of it. Nicole said our golf cart has a dump bed and no roof. Matt said let's get it moved to the community center so everyone can get to it. Nicole said she had Scott put it at his place because it was closer for us to get to it. Jay asked if it was gas or battery powered. George and Oliver said it was electric. Browne asked about power in the building. No one thinks there is power at the shed. There was talk of clarification between the shed and the carport area behind the community center. Al suggested keeping on a trickle charger. Matt asked if it had its own charger if it is electric.

#### **4. Town Property-**

##### **A. Cheek Property-Abandoned Junked and Illegally parked cars Ordinance 2006-4.**

Resident complaints. -Send letters Town and County Ordinance

**B. Ramsey Rental Property Woodlawn Acres**-Several area resident complaints-send letters

**C. Bradley Property**-delivered working on setup

**D. Stutteville Property**-removal of old single wide in process-will remove week of 15<sup>th</sup> (weather)

Nicole advised we have had some complaints about the junk cars in town. We do have an ordinance, and the county has an ordinance about dumping and junk cars. Nicole plans on sending letters to these people. Nicole referenced the guy on 49 that just cleaned up his lot, she knows vehicles can be sold and get money for them. Nicole asked Oliver if they still work on cars. Oliver said he knows the Cheeks still have a wrecker business. Oliver said he has no

idea really what they are doing. Dawn said there are trailers in the road now. Nicole said we also have people with rental property that should be condemned. Browne asked what property the Ramsey's rent out? Nicole said Guy and Helen Ramsey. Nicole said we are going to start with letters. Not sure if DHEC gets involved with rental properties. Matt said that would be code enforcement. Nicole said if its just underpinning we can ask them to fix that. If it is more than that we would need to talk to the county possibly.

Bradley's have had their home delivered but there are some health issues going on.

The Stutevilles have their double-wide but their single-wide is still there too. Nicole spoke with the trailer people, and they did not realize it was still there. It has been put on the schedule to be picked up once the weather is dried up. The homeowner has been calling them too.

#### **5. New UB Hub Water System goes LIVE in February 2025** -current vendor upgraded system

Browne asked if it has been updated. Nicole said we will start in February. We are not sure what all it involves yet.

#### **6. Kurt Owen (Previous Church request)** Still interested in Community Center Annex (2 rooms). Could use space previously occupied by Nicki. Backdoor entry and Parking behind building. He wants to view on Jan 16<sup>th</sup> if council agrees.

Nicole advised we looked them up online, it is a non-denominational church. He is from Florida, and he wants to come here. They want to come look at the property. Browne said the back would be a good place for them. Jay advised he does not agree with them being here. Matt asked how that would work with the current church near the community center. Browne said that could be an issue with parking. Margarette said does he not know there is a church on every corner? Nicole will talk more with Kurt but wants to know what everyone else thinks. Matt said we need more information, Jay said he would rather not deal with it. What if the church expands bigger than they know. Browne asked how many more rooms we have to rent? Al responded we have 4 rooms available. Two of Nicki's and room 104 and 105. 103 is Mr. Kenny and one you are keeping as a common area. Nicole said we still have the fire department are also which has an external door. Al said the 2 gentleman that were here is that they do a lot of missionary trips and fly out of Charlotte. They were drawn to proximity to Charlotte. Browne asked if people were going to be sleeping there. Nicole replied no that she will get more information when he arrives in the area on the 16<sup>th</sup>. Jay thinks there will be too many problems on the horizon. Dawn told the group to look up Kurt Owens Ministries. At first it looks like a self-defense page but read on. Jay does not care for them there; just tell them we are not ready to move forward without more information. Browne does not think they



would be an ideal tenant. Browne asked Al what he thinks, Al said he is an open-minded person and would think about filling the space. Al not sure if it was Kurt Owen but someone in his organization came out last year. That was when you all said no. He wanted the area closest to the Veterans area.

Matt said St Johns folks park all over the place. Margarett said to get more information so did Brooke. Nicole said looking at a website does not make it legitimate.

**7. Signage Community Center-** Update current Signage-add plaques/boards name current tenants.

There is a sign at the Community Center, I want to get some plaques to put under that to reference the tenants there. I will investigate the price. Nicole asked if they approve. Browne said the vendor could pay for it.

**8. Pump Station Maintenance-Vendor for Yearly Maintenance -** Currently we need new pump-Matt requesting quote.

Nicole advised that we had some issues over the holidays, and we have known for a while that it needs some work. Nicole asked if Matt had any information. Matt said he is stretched thin. He said the light had not been on at the pump station. Nicole said that Grady can get a pump quote, and we have another plumber we can get a quote from. Matt said no one will be able to beat the price he will get on the pump because he will basically get it for wholesale. Nicole said if something comes up in an emergency, then we know at least we can get it.

**9. Discussion/Review Purchasing Procedures vs Purchasing Ordinance-**Time scheduled with Charlie Barrineau from Municipal to review State guidelines for purchasing procedures vs purchasing Ordinances. Small towns are not required to have purchasing Ordinance. Hickory Grove and Smyrna both have purchasing procedure. Items over a certain amount are texted/ emailed to council for review. Setup work session to review ordinance and discuss options.

Nicole went through all her old ordinance stuff before Brice did his stuff. Nicole has the last ordinance for 2013 that was amended for purchasing that was signed by Beverly, Jerry, Bob and Bobby Stephenson, they were missing a council member. This is the old one that was amended. We are going to set up a work session with MASC, and even like Hickory Grove, small towns don't have a full ordinance because its hard to get 3 quotes for every single thing. Mainly all HG has is a procedure, this is the total amount of money you can do buy now, this is what you can pay for certain items, anything else would go before the council for a vote for approval unless it is an emergency situation. This is what Hickory Grove and Smyrna do. We are going to have a work session to see what we want to put in or take out. This ordinance is very wordy for a small town. Nicole will get that scheduled. Brooke asked what the amount

was, Nicole said it is \$1000. Matt said he does not think that is enough, at least it needs to be \$2000 to \$2500, for a single purchase. Browne asked if they had a copy of that ordinance. Nicole asked if Brooke has the Brice copy of it. Dawn asked if she should send everyone a copy in an email. Browne said he would like to have it before the work session to read it and have some background. If you go to MASC's page it has a this is what you do, it's a procedure. Its 8 pages of sealing bids, 8 pages of just nothing, we don't have time to do that. Matt said if something is \$3000 why do you need to seal a bid? Matt said if \$100,000 then you seal a bid. Browne said just contact council members and ask, "hey ya'll alright with doing this?" Then we all text message or call. Nicole said she will set up a work session.

When Brice was still here, he was trying to rewrite the ordinances. Nicole found one where he was trying to make everything go through the town administrator before someone could be fired or even hired. Now this is the real one it does not say that. Brice quit because he got mad because he would have to allow us to terminate his employment. No one saw that, it was just a little line at the bottom. It says, "if the town administrator does not approve then a vote cannot be made by the council or the mayor". He had to approve of what he voted. We will add this to our work session. Browne, we are not going to put that language in the ordinance, are we? Nicole said, no there is a simpler one. Nicole said she will check schedule.

**10. Discussion with auditor** regarding QuickBooks vs Quicken. He has no preference on which version we use. The cost for QuickBooks is higher than Quicken and requires yearly updates.

Auditor has no preference for what we use. QuickBooks is higher and we would have to pay for yearly updates. We have had Quicken for a while. Browne asked if Quicken has been updated. Nicole said yes, but Dawn corrected and said still on old computer. Dawn asked if there was a problem moving it to the new computer? Browne said it would have to be updated. Browne said it needs to be updated one way or the other. The same people that own Quicken own Quickbooks. Jay said he thinks we need to get Quickbooks for ease of getting information. Jay said you let the computer write the check and done all the accounting for it. He knows we would have to pay for it and there are several plans available. Nicole said she does not want to start in the middle of the year. We have time to get it situated, our year runs from July 1<sup>st</sup> to June 30<sup>th</sup>. We can buy it and start working in both systems. Jay said we should be getting in touch with them to see what would be best for us. Nicole does not want us keying in both systems. We have a hard enough time having to key things in. Browne said easier use and reporting systems with QuickBooks, but they may have updated quicken we just need to check. Nicole said she works in the finance world, so she is used to better systems. Everyone is in favor of looking for new accounting system.

## **11. Events: Save the Date**

**A. Sharon Farmers Market**-Will start back Spring 2025

**B. Senior Luncheon Sharon Methodist** -Fri-Jan 17<sup>th</sup> 11am -12:30 pm-free meal and entertainment

Not this month, it is next month, February 21<sup>st</sup>. Browne said Cary Basey will be musical entertainment.

**C. Community Center Rental**-March 29th Family Reunion. (Need help setting up space) We do not have a maintenance person so we will need help setting it up. The interested party was supposed to follow us to town hall but did not.

Browne said his family is planning his dad's 100<sup>th</sup> birthday at the community center. The date will be May 3<sup>rd</sup>. It will be a drop-in type thing.

Browne asked about alcohol in the community center. Oliver said you are not supposed to. But we do not have anyone to police that.

**D. Christmas in Olde Sharon-December 14th**-Great Turnout. Wonderful show. Little cold. Church St. Lukes Baptist #1 Reverend Gilmore opening prayer/Church choir performance / Cotton Belt Elementary 25 children's choir performance. **Suggestions for next year? Options for Resident input/Planning committee for Events. How do we get resident participation?**

Nicole was very happy with the turnout. She did not realize Ms. Bankhead could still sing. We do need to find our own audio equipment, probably something portable. Nicole said we may need something as a town. Jay asked if we have looked at rentals, that type of thing goes out of date quickly. Browne said you really should have someone that knows how to run audio. Cottonbelt brought their own equipment. At the community center we could use the stuff Oliver got us. We would need to get some speakers and a wireless mic. Browne suggests using one of the pavilions for cover as a stage area. Nicole agrees it should be under the shelter. We do the ceremony out in the field for the lighting of the tree. Al mentioned that Tina had to paint the tree to make it look good. Nicole would rather have a fake tree. Or, we can move the other tree we have to the park. Browne does not think we should hem people up in the corner of the park.

Nicole said it is dark in that corner and would like things to be moved closer to the shelters.

**12. Keep Sharon Beautiful (#KSB!)** -Suggestions -Planning committee-resident involvement. Our last town cleaning event-only participants were Mayor, Town Admin, & Hillcrest Women's group. Best Yard monthly during cutting season. Halloween contest requested. Christmas

Nicole asked what do they think about getting people more involved. We had people at our event but when the signing was over everyone was gone. Nicole did not see 10 town residents there. Any suggestions for getting people involved. The last few cleaning events we have not had much help. There were a couple council people, myself, and Hillcrest church had some

ladies help. If we can't get ourselves out there, what do we do to get other people out? We post on Facebook, webpage, town signs. We spent 6 hours out there cleaning and it needs to be cleaned up again. We have a lot of people complaining about stuff but no one to help. We have a lot of young people around here. Matt said he would be more than happy to help if someone took some of his load off him.

Browne said when we were younger, we did not have the sense to throw trash. Dawn asked if there was still a chain gang. Brooke said she had seen them out there. Matt said get in touch with Collection and Recycling and they will send someone out here to clean up. Steve Williams with Collection and Recycling. Brooke said it is more like community service people doing the clean-up. Matt said the Detention Center will bring people out. Dawn said we have different neighborhoods that do clean ups. Nicole said she thought that someone was injured while picking up trash and got a nice check. Matt said that inmates do still do it. Dawn asked if the churches are made up of older folks as well? Everyone replied most of the churches are older. There is a lot we need to do but if you all have any ideas let Nicole know.

The State is coming back, they are going to put us on a maintenance program. Everyone is stopping doing stuff. Duke has stopped cutting trees back, the state is not cutting grass that often.

Jay said that this is not a big deal but when we were having a council meeting there was a wreck. Nicole said she had already called them. Jay said the sign has been down for a few months. Jay said he put some flags around where the pole is sticking out of the ground for safety at Halloween. George asked what kind of sign it was. Someone answered it is the Hwy 49 sign. Jay said the stub sticking out is a hazard. Nicole brought up that we lost a trash can that night also. Oliver indicated that he sent Tina the contact information for the Highway Patrol so she could get in touch with the insurance company.

**A. Christmas Town Decorating Contest-Congratulation Avery Bolin and Family.**

Contest Suggestions? Residents were requested to submit vote and submit photos by the deadline. No Submissions. Posted on Facebook and Town Webpage. Also, promoted at Town Christmas event. Start promoting in November? Yearly Deadline submissions/ specified winners by Dec 10 or 15<sup>th</sup>? Winners are announced by the 20th.

Nicole asked if the council was interested in doing contests for other holidays? Halloween was a big time, and people were still coming by at 9:30pm.

**REPORTS/COMMITTEES: 2025 Think of area below you would be best to serve.** Council to discuss any issues concerning the following: Which area? List of responsibilities.

1. **Ball field:** (4) Poles being changed due to rotten poles. Williams Electric recommended by Oliver to change poles and remove and install new lights provided at half price by Duke.

William Electric company to begin working on lights and poles at the ballfield on January 13, 2025. All new lights, (4) New poles installed/replaced.

2. Will reduce electrical footprint. 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.
3. **Community Center and Annex:** Rumpf Gutters-checked gutters-will clean all gutters. Only issue along the side wall of kitchen. Designate parking areas. Nikki Pottery has relocated to York for more customer visibility. Potential new Vendor Church to view open space.
4. **Fire Department: (Oliver Dowdle)-update. Town** Requesting cleanup of area behind Fire Department. Bathrooms have been purchased-Discuss placement /access.

Oliver invited everyone to the banquet on January 25<sup>th</sup>. Please let him or Dawn know by Saturday. It can be you and a guest. Need to know if you or coming and if you want chicken or steak. The time is 6 pm. Then on March 15<sup>th</sup> is a fish fry at the fire department with Twin Tops. And lastly on March 1<sup>st</sup> the Cub Scouts Pine Wood Derby will be at the fire department.

One thing I do want to bring up is some food for thought on the decorations we hang up every year. In hindsight we should have built new outlets on the poles. Some of them are in bad shape, the pipes are broken, they are dangling by the wires. We had 3 decorations come down. Duke when they changed the poles they put the brackets on the new poles. We need to fix all the brackets or at least start entertaining doing something different. The hardware they used was just not holding. The wreath that fell off at the grill hit a man's car. He just wanted to make people aware. The brackets are specific to the decorations that we have. Nicole said she is looking at new decorations, Smyrna just got some and it wasn't that bad. Nicole said that was one of the complaints from town residents that decorations are ragged looking. Smyrna bought some decorations from a company in Florida, and they were only \$200 or \$300 a piece. Nicole said we could just do a little each year. Hickory Grove has a guy. Oliver does not want to wait until the day we are hanging them up to think about it. Browne asked do we need a band around the poles? Oliver said yes but the bands are not on all the poles. Nicole asked if we could still hang the wreaths in front of town hall? Oliver said it hangs from the telephone lines. We had to have the guy back 2 or 3 times when hanging poles. Al fixed one of the plugs. One of the plugs got missed. Duke Power put up 240 and it was supposed to be 120. Oliver said we need to be looking at putting up new boxes, plugs and power beforehand. We have at least 10 outlets in town. Lastly Oliver said that from the Hill Building to Brownies this little section is on this meter out here. This breaker box is in terrible shape and probably put up in 1949. We need to consider having the breaker panel upgraded. There is an issue somewhere up the street because when the wind blows hard, we had to throw the breaker. Nicole said if we get new, we will still have to have new electrical looked at. George asked if we were thinking

about replacing it all at once? Nicole said a little at a time. She said the current decorations are very time consuming, we spend hours replacing bulbs, straightening the wreaths. George said so are you saying we will not be putting those decorations back up? Nicole said we would need to slowly start replacing them as we can afford. Nicole asked if anyone is interested in new lights? Jay said we can get prices. Oliver said he would like to see new outlets. In hindsight we should have redone the brackets when Duke put the poles up. Those brackets were made at the fire department and Duke hung them. Nicole will check with the Duke representative and see if she has any input. Oliver aid just to give you a little background, at the time Duke wanted each decoration to have its own breaker on it. Oliver said we convinced them otherwise.

Al said one thing while we are talking about the poles, a gentleman by the name of Harrison with Duke who contacted Tina who contacted me about moving the meter over to the new pole has never returned any phone calls, emails or text messages. Matt said we need to talk to Mark Hall, he is at the main office.

Jay made comment that the reports they were given are really good. Dawn told him they were taken out of Quicken. Jay was thankful for having them and wanted to know if they could see them every month, because they were not getting anything. Dawn told them that we are caught up with finance input to date.

Jay then asked about Tina and wanted to know if she is still with us? He said he had not seen in her a while. Nicole advised that Tina is helping PATH since they moved to a new building. Nicole said that she is here in the daytime but that she is pulling back. Jay said and helping them at PATH? Jay said and getting paid from both places? Nicole said no she is a volunteer at PATH.

5. **Rental Buildings:** (Herschel Brown? )-Lawson building electrical. Tenant has submitted deposits. Burri building to start

Jay asked Al when he will be done at the Lawson Building? Al advised he had Duke out there Thursday to turn the power back on. The whole thing had to be redone; it was a nightmare. The town is lucky it has not had anything to burn down. Jay said he was glad Al came to the meeting because he had been wanting to ask about that. Al said there were receptacles run off 40-amp breakers, best case scenario would be 20. They ran light cord that you would get from Lowes or Home Depot and connected it to fans through the ceiling. There are open joints up over the drywall and just covered up with insulation. Instead of a double pull for the water heater it was a single pull breaker. Who ever did the framing knocked the panel to the left through the conduit so you had your feed wires directly against the metal edge of the panel. I have taken pictures of everything but have not had time to put it together. Jay thanked Al for explaining it to him. Al then said the

outside box was damaged also. Jay asked if this was a prior tenant. Browne said we do not think it was Mr Lee that was over there doing the music that has been like that for some time. Al said he can tell them whoever did the framing on the back wall is who did it. Nicole said every tenant we have had, does something. Browne said thank goodness we have not had a fire. George said thankfully the fire department is right next door.

George then shared that Sharon FD ran the most calls ever this past year in the history of Sharon FD of 193 calls! Margarette said we appreciate you all. George said normal is about 130 something. Nicole asked if that was calls in the area. George said that was just Sharon. We may have been helping Hickory Grove or another department.

6. **Parks:** (Jay Gourley?) Camera System - Mark Wertz with Mizon.
7. **Scout Hut, Concession Stand (see Parks):** Scout Hut - Trim, paint door, new roof. Internet, Cameras? Concession stand deck rotten boards temporarily replaced.
8. **Streets (Margarette Parrish?):** Spray Overgrowth-Trouble St, Green St, Old Depot, Shannon Street, Bolin Rd.
9. **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.**
10. **Town Hall:** Update-paint inside walls, storm door.
11. **Water: (Matt Glenn)** Update status of water system. Meeting w/Kevin Faulkner Jan 22<sup>nd</sup>

#### 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.

#### DOCUMENTS AND REPORTS:

1. **Meeting Minutes:** Recorded

#### SCHEDULE FOR UPCOMING MEETINGS:

1. **Next Council Meeting:** Regular Town Council Meeting Monday Feb 10<sup>th</sup>, 2024, at 7:00 pm

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

Motion: Margarette Parrish

Second: Brooke Glenn

Time: 9:14pm