

July 23, 2024

Sharpsville Borough Council met for a Special Meeting on Tuesday, July 23, 2024 at 5:30 PM in Council Chambers at 1 S. Walnut Street, Sharpsville, PA.

Roll Call: Roll call showed the following present: Patty Cardwell, Nick Hanahan, Chris Combine, Kim Fryman, Tom Patton and Bob Piccirilli

Also present were: Solicitor, John Alfredo and Borough Manager/Secretary Ken Robertson

Absent was: Interim Mayor, Len Grandy

Mayor Interviews:

Mark Gill: He introduced himself and said that he is a Sharpsville Graduate of the Class of 1979 and he then went on to attend Westminster College and retired in 2023 from First National Bank. He is looking to give back to the community. He would like to see the community grow with new businesses along with bringing in younger residents into the Borough.

Since being retired he has the time to try and make these into a reality. He wants to work with the Shenango Valley Chamber of Commerce, interact with the residents and see what they would like to have happen in Sharpsville and gather ideas on how to make it happen. He has done lots of work in the valley. He has worked with the Lions Club and he participated in the 150th Celebration.

He feels that with Buhl Park and the Shenango Dam that those are two (2) strong marketable avenues to try and draw businesses and people into the valley.

Paul Graban: He introduced himself and stated that he and his family moved here in 2010 and that he has worked in the Production Department of a steel mill, programmed machinery, supervised over 40 employees. He then started his own non-profit but had to close down to lack of funding. He currently works at the Sharpsville Area School District as an aide and his children all attend Sharpsville Schools.

He is looking to bring youth back into the valley. When he first moved into his home, he said there were a lot of younger families but they have since all moved out of town and he would like to try and bring them back in.

Jared Grandy: Jared gave a phone interview because he was out of town. Jared first thanked everyone for accommodating his absence. He stated that he is a long-time resident of Sharpsville and that he graduated in 2007 from Sharpsville High School. For the past 19 years he has served the Borough in some capacity with the Sharpsville Volunteer Fire Department and currently as the Emergency Management Coordinator.

He has the drive for economic growth and he stated that he already has a good relationship with Chief Joseph and all of the Officers. His vision is to get more involvement from our State politicians along with working with Mercer County Regional Planning Commission, Shenango Valley Chamber of Commerce, Penn Northwest Development Company and sitting on the Board of Directors at the Prince of Peace. He has a lot of connections which would be beneficial to the Borough.

He ended with saying that he is deeply committed and loves the Borough.

David Kowacich: He introduced himself and stated that he and his family moved to Sharpsville in 2006. Prior to that he had served in the military for ten (10) years, he has worked as a corrections officer for thirteen (13) years and is currently working with the Pennsylvania Department of Labor & Industry as a career advisor. He is also involved with the Sharpsville VFW, Boy Scouts and is an assistant coach with the Sharpsville High Soccer Team.

He feels that he is capable of doing this job and feels like it would be a good opportunity to give back to the community.

Council was then given the opportunity to ask the candidates questions. Nick Hanahan started off with asking each candidate what would be the first item on their agenda.

Mark Gill: He responded that the first thing he would like to do is sit down with Borough Council and find out what their direction is for him as the new Interim Mayor and then he would like to sit down with Ken Robertson, Borough Manager/Secretary to see how he can help and then he also wants to sit down with Chief Joseph and the officers to see how the Police Department is run.

Paul Graban: He responded that the first thing he would like to do is talk with the Chief and meet with Ken Robertson, Borough Manager/Secretary and Borough Council to see what the ins and outs of the role of Mayor will be and what needs to be done. He also mentioned that he would like to speak with the officers.

Jared Grandy: He responded that the first thing he would do is congratulate and commemorate Alex Kovach . He has already spoken with a State Representative and they are on board.

David Kowacich: He responded that the first thing he would like to do is sit down with Council, Ken Robertson, Borough Manager/Secretary and see what is the role of this position and to see what the vision is of the Borough with its residents.

Councilman Combine advised everyone that they are taking over Alex Kovach's term as Mayor and that the term ends in 2025. If they would then like to stay on as the Mayor, they would need to run in the primary election.

Ken Robertson mentioned the following requirements and asked that they all acknowledge these statements for the record:

Over the age of 18	all agreed
All registered to vote	all agreed
All residents of the Borough of Sharpsville for 1 year	all agreed

The candidates all volunteered and excused themselves to give Council time to discuss their thoughts on each of the candidates.

Council was in agreement that all of the candidates were qualified for the position.

Councilman Combine nominated Jared Grandy and Councilman Patton seconded.
Councilman Fryman nominated Mark Gill and Councilman Patton seconded.

Councilwoman Cardwell spoke in favor of Jared Grandy saying that he has a lot of experience and knowledge regarding the safety aspects since the majority of the Mayor's position is dealing with the Police Department.

Councilman Combine stated that the other candidates can still go out and speak with the public and try to develop the Borough even though they are not the Mayor at this time and then if they are still interested in the Mayor's position they can run in the next election.

Councilman Combine feels that Jared Grandy is the perfect choice at this time.

Ken Robertson brought the candidates back in and Jared was taken off of "hold".

Councilman Piccirilli stated that there were two (2) nominations: Jared Grandy and Mark Gill.

Councilman Hanahan made a motion to nominated Mark Gill as the Interim Mayor and it was seconded by Councilman Fryman. A roll call vote was taken.

Council Name	Yes	No
Patty Cardwell		X
Tom Patton	X	
Chris Combine		X
Nick Hanahan	X	
Kim Fryman	X	
Bob Piccirilli	X	

Mark Gill was voted into the position of Interim Mayor with a vote of 4-2.

After certifying residency, Mr. Gill was sworn in by Notary Public, Kelly Doyle.

Water Utility Position: A motion was made by Councilman Hanahan and seconded by Councilman Fryman to award the position to Shelby Ripple. Councilman Piccirilli abstained. Motion Passed.

Equipment Operator: A motion was made by Councilwoman Cardwell and seconded by Councilman Hanahan to award the position to Samuel J. Combine. Councilman Combine abstained. Motion Passed.

Appointment to the Enterprise Zone Committee and Loan Committee: A motion was made by Councilman Fryman and seconded by Councilman Patton to authorize Chris Combine to both of these committees. Councilman Combine abstained. Motion Passed.

Appointment to the Council of Government Board: A motion was made by Councilwoman Cardwell and seconded by Councilman Patton to authorize Nick Hanahan to the Council of Government Board. Councilman Hanahan abstained. Motion Passed.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:01 PM. A motion was made by Councilman Patton and seconded by Councilwoman Cardwell to adjourn the meeting. Motion Passed.


