

# Sharpsburg News

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## Garlington Qualifies for Mayor

### Sharpsburg Tree Commission

The Tree Commission projects and work plan are on hold because the new volunteer committee members were not approved at the Monday night Town Council Meeting.

The Sharpsburg Tree Commission has re-organized under the leadership of Roy Matthews, County Arborist. The County was kind enough to lend the town Roy's services until the group gets set-up and going.

There are many plans in addition to maintaining the old trees in town, removing hazardous trees, and planting replacements. The Arbor Day Celebrations will continue. New programs will include Heritage Tree Program, Gift Tree Program, Memorial Tree Program.

The Commission will ask for funds to match those necessary to apply for a grant from the Georgia State Forestry Department

New volunteer committee members are: Roy Matthews, Debbie May, and Ann Terry. The committee will ask for approval for the new members.

Editorial  
Polly Garlington



The upcoming election is a very important one. The turn-out may be low so that even one vote may decide the election!

The most important thing is the budget. With revenues decreasing it is more important than ever to control expenditures. It is a state law that municipal budgets must be balanced. If expenditures are not reduced as revenues are reduced there will be no choice but to increase taxes. *Nobody wants that! I will watch the Town Budget to see that the expenditures are reduced as necessary to maintain the same millage rate.*

THAT IS A PROMISE!



### Fall Elections November 3rd

Your municipal elections are on the ballot for November 3rd. The two candidates for mayor are Polly Garlington and Wendell Staley. Garlington was a council member before resigning to run for mayor. Staley, the former mayor, ran for town council and was defeated by Garlington two years ago. The entire slate of incumbent officials were defeated at that time except now-mayor McElwanney who ran unopposed. McElwanney resigned the mayor's position effective December 31, 2009, so the newly elected mayor will serve only a two-year term as will the Post 3 councilmember

*Be sure to vote;  
in a Town as  
small as Sharps-  
burg, ONE vote  
can make THE  
difference!*

## Town of Sharpsburg Town Council Meeting

## YOUR TOWN

### Did You Know?

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm with three council members present. Mayor McElwanney was absent.

Uniform Sign Ordinance Enforcement was the topic of a PowerPoint presentation by Polly Garlington calling attention to examples of irregularities with sign enforcement and requesting that the Mayor and Council enforce ordinances evenhandedly and without prejudice.

Also, Garlington called attention to the fact that meeting notice procedures, as is required by Georgia Code, were not being followed when meeting days were changed. She added that those interested in attending or wishing to make public comments at meetings would have a hard time figuring out when meetings were to be held without proper notice.

S. A. V. E.-Systematic Alien Verification for Entitlement Program was passed by the council

Next on the agenda was to be the approval of the new volunteer members for the Tree Commission. Unfortunately this did not happen and was tabled. (This has, in effect, put a hold on the activities of the Tree Commission until the new members are approved.)

**Public Comments:** Mr. Herb Bridges asked about the plans for the lighting of the Christmas tree. Mayor Pro-tem Anderson said he thought the merchants association would do that and that Debbie May was in charge of the lights. (It was unclear who would be in charge the Christmas tree lighting or the purchase of lights.)

Mr. Bridges also inquired why the driveway (on the right-of-way) was not repaired as was promised by Mayor McElwanney though it had been requested months ago. The Mayor Pro-tem could not answer the question since the promise was made by the Mayor. Councilmember Turner also inquired why the work was not done as promised but there was no explanation.

#### Clerk's Comments

Mayor' Minutes-Thanked all for coming to the council meeting.

Only 39 votes were casted in the last municipal election. (2007)

The regular town council meeting is held the first Monday each month at 7:00 pm—Rec Center/Town Hall.

Town Hall Hours:

Monday-Thursday

9:00 am—3:00 pm

2009

The town clerk's salary plus benefits is \$48,310+

The mayor's salary is \$1,200 per year.

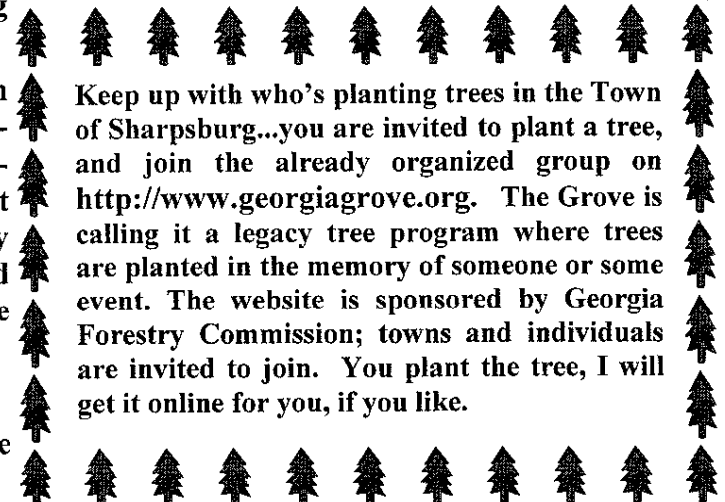
Town council members receive no salary.

Town of Sharpsburg population is approximately 329.

In November and December the Mayor and Town Council will begin to work on the Budget for 2010. There will be hearings before the Budget is adopted where the public is allowed to make comments, suggestions, or ask questions.

There more than likely will be a work session sometime in November or December where the mayor and council work on the budget before it is presented to the public. The public can attend the work session(s).

The Town got in debt for the first time during the administration of former Mayor Staley with the "mix-up" in the liquor tax with a debt the Town is still repaying and the purchase 4.028 acres on Highway 54 which sits idle. (\$125,000 price tag)



Keep up with who's planting trees in the Town of Sharpsburg...you are invited to plant a tree, and join the already organized group on <http://www.georgiagrove.org>. The Grove is calling it a legacy tree program where trees are planted in the memory of someone or some event. The website is sponsored by Georgia Forestry Commission; towns and individuals are invited to join. You plant the tree, I will get it online for you, if you like.