

OFFICIAL MINUTES OF MAY 8, 2017 REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
NO. 17-09

The Council meeting of the Town of Sykesville was held on Monday, May 8, 2017. Mayor Shaw called the meeting to order at 7:00 P.M. in the Council Meeting Room at the Town House. Mayor Shaw led the Pledge of Allegiance and a moment of silence.

PRESENT: Mayor Ian Shaw, Council President Leo Keenan, and Council Members Julia Betz, Anna Carter, William "Chip" Blead, Chris True, and Stacy Link.

STAFF: Dawn Ashbacher, Town Manager
Police Chief Michael Spaulding
Evelyn Sweet, Town Treasurer
Kerry Chaney, Town Clerk
Julie Della-Maria, Main Street Coordinator
Dennis Hoover, Town Attorney

PUBLIC CONCERNS: Leo Keenan thanked the members of the audience for attending a meeting. He also thanked the Council Member candidates for behaving cordially with each other and stated that he believes the mayoral election got out of hand and a public apology from the candidates is necessary.

Mr. Keenan also thanked Mayor Shaw for starting to rebuild relationships. Mayor Shaw indicated that he will be collecting contact information from all businesses and will hold meetings with them, possibly on a quarterly basis. Mayor Shaw also voiced his disappointment that no business owners contacted him about issues.

Mr. Keenan brought it to everyone's attention that one candidate mailed a flyer to only the registered Republican residents of the Town. He stated that he opposes this and that he does not want partisan comments during a Town election.

Al Grasley acknowledged that he made some inappropriate comments on the election night, and he apologized for them.

MINUTES: April 24, 2017

MOTION: Council President Keenan motioned and Council Member Blead seconded to approve the minutes with the revisions provided.

The motion carried unanimously.

TREASURER'S REPORT: March 2017

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MOTION: Council Member Betz motioned and Council Member Carter seconded to approve the March 2017 Treasurer's Report.

The motion carried unanimously.

PUBLIC SAFETY

REPORT: Police Chief Spaulding presented the Public Safety Report for the period of April 20, 2017 through May 4, 2017. There were a total of 319 reports including 51 Calls for Service, four Community Policing, and 27 Traffic Enforcement Initiatives.

Chief Spaulding thanked Dan Andersen for his help with the incident on Election Day. They could not prove that the man was driving, so he was charged with indecent exposure.

The speed trailer has been on about a dozen deployments so far. There have been only positive comments from the residents. Chief Spaulding reported that an anti-theft alarm was triggered on the trailer, but the alarm has since been fixed.

Chief Spaulding reported that they are up to 19 incidents at Warfield. He is concerned about his officers entering the potentially unstable buildings. The officers are trained to enter, if they observe an open or broken door or window, to secure the property and catch anybody who might be trespassing. Chief Spaulding would like video surveillance to help catch potential violators or have the buildings more securely closed. He will be talking with Jonathan Herman about securing the buildings.

Chief Spaulding reported that the Art and Wine Festival occurred without any major incidents. One sign was missed on the day of the Art and Wine Festival, and three cars parked in that area on College Avenue, Mellor Avenue, and Maple Avenue. An ordinance is needed to enforce the policy of no dogs at Town events. There were multiple people with dogs at this event.

The lot that was planned to be used for parking and shuttle pickup in the Warfield Complex was not mowed prior to the event. The grass was about three feet tall in places. Julie Della-Maria, Main Street Coordinator, said she was working with Brad Rees, former president of the Warfield Development Corporation, but he resigned his position prior to the event. Ms. Della-Maria indicated that Dawn Ashbacher, Town Manager, was aware that the lot needed to be cut at the staff meeting the week of the event but did not offer the Town Maintenance Workers to cut it. Ms. Ashbacher replied that she was told by Ms. Della-Maria that it would be handled through Brad Rees. The Warfield Development Corporation has a landscape company that they use; the area is not maintained by the Town. She also said that Town Public Works Department lacks the necessary equipment to handle such tall grass. Council Member Betz suggested implementing a standardized checklist of things that need to be completed before every event.

COUNCIL COMMITTEE

REPORTS:

- **Historic District Commission (HDC)** – Council Member Link announced that the Gate House Museum will be opening on May 12. It will be open every Friday and

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Sunday, hours are still being determined. The next HDC meeting is on May 23 at 7 P.M.

- **Sykesville Parks and Recreation (SPARC)** – Council Member Carter announced that on April 29, a group of volunteers walked the south end of the Linear Trail and picked up trash. Carroll County removed a beaver dam from a sediment pond along the trail and it revealed lots of trash as the water drained. SPARC is thinking about having a park cleanup once a month.

During the previous park cleanup of South Branch Park, lots of trash was removed from the river bed and the root cause of the trash is believed to be an open dumpster on the Southern States property. Mayor Shaw indicated that there needs to be a delicate approach with Southern States and that he will bring it up as he does his business rounds.

On May 13 at sundown, the Sykesville Cinema begins with *Finding Dory*. There will be Norwood Ice Cream served in the snack shack, along with other food. The next SPARC meeting is on May 25 at 7 P.M.

- **Warfield Development Corporation** – Mayor Shaw announced that there was a meeting with the Industrial Development Authority, and another appraisal of the property is occurring. There was also a meeting on May 8 about the sixth amendment to the contract for the purchase and sale of the property.
- **Main Street Association (MSA)** – Council President Keenan presented a budget report for the Art and Wine Festival. There is currently a net profit from the event. Council President Keenan thanked Ms. Della-Maria, the Police Department, the Public Works Department, and all of the volunteers for their help with the Festival. Council Member Link thanked the Becks for all of their help, not just with this festival but with all events.

Ms. Della-Maria announced that the additional handicapped spaces that were created were used by people without handicapped stickers. Luckily, they were not needed for the church services. The bridal shower that was planned for the same day went well and the shower attendees even bought tickets and attended the festival.

Ms. Della-Maria announced that the Coolest Mile on Main Street will be on August 12. She would like to consider putting a snow blower on Town property to entice people to run uphill in August. She would also like to consider having the last wave of runners include pets. This would give pet owners the chance to bring their dogs to an event and hopefully not to other less pet friendly events.

The Farmers' Market begins on May 14 and occurs every Sunday from 9 A.M. to 1 P.M. The Orioles Bird will be at the first Farmers' Market. The block parties will be on June 2, July 7, and August 4, each one from 6 P.M. to 9 P.M. Relay for Life will be on June 10; Ms. Della-Maria recently sent out a package to residents and tenants about the event.

Ms. Della-Maria indicated that she would like an apology for the things said about her family during the election. Her husband, mayoral candidate Dan Andersen,

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agreed with her, saying that he based his comments about Mayor Shaw on the policies of his previous term. Mayor Shaw said that many things were said about him during the election, and he was not asking for an apology. Concerns were stated about claims Mayor Shaw made in his flyer that implied inaccurate messages about the other candidate. The flyer included things that he believed to be true. No apologies were given at this time.

MOTION: Council President Keenan motioned and Council Member True seconded to take a recess at 8:12 P.M.

The motion carried unanimously.

MOTION: Council President Keenan motioned and Mayor Shaw seconded to go back into open session at 8:27 P.M.

The motion carried unanimously.

- Council Member Bleam thanked the Mayor and Council for the last two years. He said he was glad that Mr. Grasley will be joining the Council. Many appreciated Council Member Bleam for his service. Council Member Carter thanked him for his fresh perspective and helpful comments throughout his term.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- At the April 24 meeting, Jeremy Lindamore was appointed as Assistant Public Works Director
- Movies in the Park, May 13
- Farmers' Markets begin on May 14 and occur every Sunday
- New Elected Officials will be sworn in on May 15
- Little Sykes Railroad will open on May 21

OPEN SESSION:

Business:

1. **Announcement of Election Results**

Kerry Chaney, Town Clerk, read the election results into the record. The election was held on Tuesday, May 2, 2017 for Mayor and Council Member positions.

Mayoral Candidates:

Dan Anderson received 222 votes

Ian Shaw received 392 votes

Ian Shaw will serve a four-year term, expiring in May of 2021, as Mayor.

Council Member:

Ross Dangel received 131 votes

Alan Grasley received 357 votes

Kyle Hiteshew received 132 votes

Leo Keenan received 379 votes

Stacy Link received 409 votes

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Jeremiah Schofield received 111 votes

Alan Grasley, Leo Keenan, and Stacy Link will serve four-year terms, expiring in May of 2021, as Council Members.

2. Request for authorization to apply for Department of Housing and Community Development Grants

A resolution is needed for a façade improvement grant application. It will be brought before the Mayor and Town Council at their next meeting. Ms. Della-Maria presented that the grant will be a 50/50 matching grant, and it will be for a total of \$200,000.

Ms. Della-Maria would like to consider turning Oklahoma Avenue between Main Street and Baldwin's Drive into a plaza, and she would like to add it to the Community Legacy Grant application. This has been discussed in the past. One concern is the need for tractor trailers to use Oklahoma Avenue to avoid a sharp turn onto Main Street. Ms. Ashbacher explained that the State Highway Administration has done a study on the area, but they have not released it yet. A traffic study would need to be conducted for Oklahoma Avenue and Baldwin's Drive. There was a suggestion of doing a temporary closure on the weekends to avoid hindering tractor trailer traffic. Church traffic will also have to be taken into account. A grant could be obtained to fund the traffic study. It would be a technical assistance grant instead of a façade grant, so a different grant application will be needed. Money has already been included in this year's budget for the study of Oklahoma Avenue.

Ms. Della-Maria also indicated that she would like to apply for an Operating Assistance Grant under the Community Foundation of Carroll County. This grant would cover the salary of the Farmers' Market Coordinator, a part-time position, but the basis of the grant will be for a Marketing and Events Coordinator to allow the money to be used for more things.

3. Discussion of Mayor and Town Council Orientation

Ms. Chaney distributed a brochure from the Maryland Municipal League (MML) that provides a broad overview of municipal government and also shows some of the MML's resources.

The Mayor and Council agreed to have a debrief of issues including streets, residents and business owners, priorities, roles of liaisons, communications, and the election process.

Council Members Link and Betz expressed their interest in staying as the liaisons for their respective committees. Both the HDC and the Planning Commission are involved with the Warfield project, and they believe that consistency is important for the project and the Commissions at this time.

Council Member True suggested having a liaison to the Home Owners' Associations. Mayor Shaw asked for the Council to send him their preferences of committees so he can organize and rearrange if necessary.

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Ms. Chaney will organize a photographer for the portraits of the Mayor and Town Council. She will also order business cards and name plates.

MOTION: Council Member Betz motioned and Council Bleam seconded to take a five minute recess at 8:53 P.M.

The motion carried unanimously.

MOTION: Council Member Betz motioned and Council Member True seconded to go back into open session at 9:00 P.M.

The motion carried unanimously.

CLOSED SESSION:

The meeting is proposed to be closed pursuant to the General Provisions of the Annotated Code of Maryland, Section 3-305(b): (1) To discuss the appointment, employment, assignment, promotion, discipline, demotion, compensation, removal, resignation, or performance evaluation of appointees, employees, or officials over whom it has jurisdiction; or any other personnel matter that affects one or more specific individuals; and (7) to consult with counsel to obtain legal advice on a legal matter.

MOTION: Council Member Bleam motioned and Council Member Link seconded to go into closed session at 9:01 P.M.

The motion carried unanimously.

Those in attendance were: Mayor Shaw, Council President Keenan, Council Members Betz, Bleam, Carter, Link, and True, Town Manager Dawn Ashbacher, and Town Attorney Dennis Hoover.

Items discussed were:

- **Consult with Legal Counsel** – Warfield Contract Negotiations – no action
- **Consult with Legal Counsel** – Main Street Association Structure – no action
- **Personnel** – Public Works Staffing Update – Confidential Personal Information – no action
- **Personnel** – Circuit Rider Update – Confidential Personal Information – no action

MOTION: Council Bleam motioned and Council Member Carter seconded to go back into open session at 10:40 P.M.

The motion carried unanimously.

ADJOURN: There being no further business to come before the Council, Council Member Bleam motioned and Council Member Carter seconded to adjourn meeting at 10:41 P.M.

The motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted

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Town Clerk Kerry Chaney