



Town of Sykesville

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Town House

Stacy Link, Mayor

Joseph Cosentini, Town Manager

Jennifer Livesay, Town Treasurer

Kerry G. Kavaloski, Town Clerk

OFFICIAL MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 24, 2025 REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING **NO. 25-03**

The Council meeting of the Town of Sykesville was held on Monday, February 24, 2025. Mayor Link called the meeting to order at 7:00 P.M. in the Town House Council Chambers. Mayor Link led the Pledge of Allegiance and a moment of silence.

PRESENT: Mayor Stacy Link, Council President Anna Carter, and Council Members Mark Dyer, Alan Grasley, Elizabeth Guroff, Leo Keenan, and Jeremiah Schofield.

STAFF: Joseph Cosentini, Town Manager
Kerry Kavaloski, Town Clerk
Michael Spaulding, Police Chief
Adrienne Smith, Gate House Museum Curator

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Wally Thompson, James Measmer, and Tom Hay, from the S&P Railroad, gave a public comment regarding the annual statistics from their organization.

CONSENT AGENDA:

- Minutes from February 10, 2025

MOTION: Council Member Grasley motioned to approve the item on the Consent Agenda. Council Member Schofield seconded the motion.

The motion carried 6-0-1 with Mayor Link abstaining due to her absence at the February 10 meeting.

NEW BUSINESS:

- Consider/Discuss/Act on appointing Trefor Evans, Lauren Hanratty, and Isaac Nogueron to the Board of Election Supervisors for a term expiring February 2027 and appointing Carrie Brekke, Carmen McEvoy, and Jamie Neith as alternates to the Board of Election Supervisors for a term expiring February 2027**

Mayor Link explained that Isaac Nogueron had to withdraw his interest in serving on the Board of Election Supervisors due to work obligations. Carmen McEvoy will be appointed to the Board of Election Supervisors instead of as an alternate to fill the spot on the Board.

MOTION: Council Member Grasley motioned to appoint Trefor Evans, Lauren Hanratty, and Carmen McEvoy to the Board of Election Supervisors for a term expiring February 2027 and appoint Carrie Brekke and Jamie Neith as alternates to

the Board of Election Supervisors for a term expiring February 2027. Council Member Dyer seconded the motion.

The motion carried unanimously.

- II. Consider/Discuss/Act on setting the pay rate of the Board of Election Supervisors and Alternates at \$20 per hour**

MOTION: Council Member Grasley motioned to set the pay rate of the Board of Election Supervisors and Alternates at \$20 per hour worked. Council Member Schofield seconded the motion.

The motion carried unanimously.

- III. Consider/Discuss/Act on appointing Kerry Kavaloski, Town Clerk, as Assistant Election Secretary**

MOTION: Council Member Grasley motioned to appoint Kerry Kavaloski, Town Clerk, as Assistant Election Secretary. Council Member Dyer seconded the motion.

The motion carried unanimously.

- IV. Presentation of the Gate House Annual Report – Adrienne Smith, Gate House Museum Curator**

Adrienne Smith, Gate House Museum Curator, presented the annual report from the Gate House for 2024. She explained that the Museum is currently closed but will be reopening on February 28.

- V. Consider/Discuss/Act on a Proclamation for Black History Month**
Mayor Link read the proclamation for Black History Month.

MOTION: Council Member Keenan motioned to adopt the Proclamation for Black History Month. Council Member Schofield seconded the motion.

The motion carried 6-1 with Mayor Link, Council President Carter, and Council Members Dyer, Guroff, Keenan, and Schofield voting for the motion, and Council Member Grasley voting against the motion.

Council Member Grasley explained that he doesn't believe inclusion should call out any single group.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- VI. Public Hearing and Consider/Discuss/Act on Ordinance NO. 2025-01: FY2025 Budget Revision**

Joe Cosentini, Town Manager, explained that the overall ordinance is the same as was presented at the February 10 Council meeting. He further explained that there is a small change within the detail in the streets and roads category that does not change the overall number.

Council Member Schofield noted that the professional services line is increasing because of the ongoing need for legal services for the Warfield lawsuits.

MOTION: Council Member Dyer motioned to open the Public Hearing on Ordinance NO. 2025-01: FY2025 Budget Revision at 7:51 P.M. Council Member Grasley seconded the motion.

The motion carried unanimously.

There were no public comments. No comments were received via email or phone prior to the meeting.

MOTION: Council Member Grasley motioned to close the Public Hearing on Ordinance NO. 2025-01: FY2025 Budget Revision at 7:52 P.M. Council Member Keenan seconded the motion.

The motion carried unanimously.

MOTION: Council Member Grasley motioned to approve Ordinance NO. 2025-01: FY2025 Budget Revision. Council Member Schofield seconded the motion.

The motion carried unanimously.

ANNOUNCEMENTS/REPORTS:

- The next meeting is Monday, March 10, 2025.
- We have volunteer opportunities available as a Crossing Guard, and on the Police Auxiliary, and on the Board of Zoning Appeals. Email town@sykesville.net for more information about volunteering with the Town.
- Staff Updates
 - Town Manager Updates:

Mr. Cosentini announced that there is a Planning Commission meeting on Monday, March 3, at which the Commission will be hearing and acting on a referral for a conditional use on Parcel B of the Warfield Complex. The Planning Commission will be making a referral to the Board of Zoning Appeals. Council Member Schofield noted the importance of volunteering with the Town and the Board of Zoning Appeals.
 - Kerry Kavaloski, Town Clerk, announced that candidacy filing forms are due on March 24 by noon. These forms can be found on the Town's website, under the "Government" tab, on the "Election Information" page.
 - Public Safety Report

Chief Spaulding presented the Public Safety Report for the period of February 3 through 17. There was a total of 493 reports, including 10 assist other agencies, 12 community policing events, 30 foot patrols, nine incident reports, 268 patrol checks, and 18 traffic enforcement initiatives.

Chief Spaulding explained that case #00012 was a new case where Officer Jacobs noticed criminal activity when stopping for lunch. The weapon was recovered from the suspect's car, and it was a ghost gun which does not have a serial number. Case #00014 was a report of a break in; however, there was no evidence of a break in or burglary. The house in CFS1290 is owned by a trust, which changes frequently. Sarah Bell is still missing, and Sergeant Lacy is doing the investigation

Council President Carter thanked the Police for their community policing efforts on Main Street.

- Council/Commission Updates
 - Council Member Schofield announced that the Planning Commission will meet on March 3. They will be reviewing a site plan for Parcel B in the Warfield Complex.
 - Council President Carter asked about beautification of the stone house in South Branch Park. There was discussion about potentially a mural on the window plywood.
 - Council Member Guroff announced that the Parks and Recreation Commission will meet on February 27 to discuss the upcoming event season.
 - Council Member Grasley announced that the Historic District Commission will meet on February 26 to review an application for signage at Pin It Up Acupuncture.

He asked if it would be possible to invite the S&P Railroad to a meeting in the future so they are on the agenda instead of only as public comment. The steps at the rail cars were repaired in 2023, and the bricks are scheduled to be addressed with the south end streetscape.

- Council Member Keenan announced that there has been media attention on the Downtown Sykesville Connection due to one misguided person on Facebook. It led to an influx of donations and volunteers. The JEDI Committee held a fundraiser that was a success. The DSC heads attended a Maryland non-profit training. There is a focus on adaptation and community engagement. The DSC appreciated the Town's support, and volunteer sign-ups for the events are available on the DSC website.
- Mayor Link will be attending the Maryland Mayor's Association Conference including a welcome reception from Governor Moore on March 5-7.

RECESS:

The Council took a recess at 8:11 P.M.

CLOSED SESSION:

The meeting is proposed to be closed pursuant to the General Provisions of the

Annotated Code of Maryland, Section 3-305(b): (8) To consult with staff, consultants, or other individuals about pending or potential litigation.

MOTION: Council Member Grasley motioned and Council Member Dyer seconded to go into closed session at 8:15 P.M.

The motion carried unanimously.

Those in attendance were: Mayor Link, Council President Carter, Council Members Dyer, Grasley, Guroff, and Schofield, Town Manager Joseph Cosentini, and Town Clerk Kerry Kavaloski.

Items discussed were:

- Pending Litigation – Warfield Lawsuits – no action

MOTION: Council Member Grasley motioned and Council Member Schofield seconded to go back into open session at 8:30 P.M.

The motion carried unanimously.

ADJOURN: There being no further business to come before the Council, Council Member Grasley motioned and Council Member Dyer seconded to adjourn meeting at 8:31 P.M.

The motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted
Town Clerk Kerry Kavaloski