



Town of Sykesville

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Town House

Stacy Link, Mayor

Joseph Cosentini, Town Manager

Craig Weaver, Town Treasurer

Kerry G. Kavaloski, Town Clerk

OFFICIAL MINUTES OF JULY 10, 2023 REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING **NO. 23-12**

The Council meeting of the Town of Sykesville was held on Monday, July 10, 2023. 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, and Elizabeth Guroff.

ABSENT: Council Members Leo Keenan and Jeremiah Schofield.

STAFF: Joseph Cosentini, Town Manager
Police Chief Michael Spaulding
Kerry Kavaloski, Town Clerk
Elissa Levan, Town Attorney

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

There were no public comments.

CONSENT AGENDA:

I. **Minutes from June 12, 2023**

MOTION: Council Member Grasley motioned to approve the item on the Consent Agenda with corrections provided via email. Council Member Dyer seconded the motion.

The motion carried unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS:

II. **Consider/Discuss/Act on a Memorandum of Understanding between the Town of Sykesville and the Downtown Sykesville Connection**
Joe Cosentini, Town Manager, explained that this is the annual Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) but includes changes regarding the monetary advance that was provided to the Downtown Sykesville Connection (DSC). The DSC has been provided with these

Mayor Link provided two corrections to Section 2, paragraph 2 to ensure correct grammar. In the first sentence, the word "provide" should be

changed to “provided”, and in the second sentence, the word “to” should be added between “and” and “meet”.

Council Member Grasley asked if the MOU remains annual. Mr. Cosentini explained that the MOU is annual but will be renewed automatically if there are no changes.

MOTION: Council Member Guroff motioned to approve the MOU between the Town of Sykesville and the DSC. Council President Carter seconded the motion.

The motion carried unanimously.

ANNOUNCEMENTS/REPORTS:

- The next meeting is Monday, August 14, 2023
- We have volunteer opportunities available on the Historic District Commission, Parks and Recreation Commission, and Police Auxiliary. Email town@sykesville.net for more information about volunteering with the Town.
- Staff Updates
 - Mr. Cosentini explained that the Council will see two Treasurer’s Reports in August, one for the fiscal year end, and one for the fiscal year beginning.

He also announced that progress on Springfield Avenue and Main Street continues. Sewer work has been completed, and they are working on water now. There has been several issues and leaks involving the temporary water line along Springfield Avenue, but they have been quickly resolved. The target for the Springfield Avenue completion is the end of September, and then the State will begin work on the storm water system. The target for the Main Street work is three weeks, and then the state will repave.

There was discussion regarding the lack of communication before water shutoffs, particularly for the merchants and residents along Main Street. Mr. Cosentini will reach out to the county to pass along the concerns.

He also thanked Public Works Director Derek Shreves for street sweeping the morning of the Let Freedom Ring Parade.

- Public Safety Report
Chief Spaulding presented the Public Safety Report for the period of June 6 through July 3. There was a total of 965 reports including 32 assist other agencies, 24 community policing events, 55 foot patrols, 34 incident reports, 523 patrol checks, and 53 traffic enforcement initiatives.

Chief Spaulding explained that he received several emailed questions from Council Member Grasley. Case 132 involved Sgt. Lacy who saw a vehicle that was reported over the radio for being a person who may try to harm themselves. Sgt. Lacy reported the car and followed it. The person was stopped safely and was emergency

petitioned. The assault case was originally taken by Officer Young, and Sgt. Lacy continued the investigation and was able to identify a suspect who is a juvenile and will be charged through juvenile services. No suspects have been identified in the thefts of catalytic converters yet, but Sgt. Lacy is working with officers from other jurisdictions. Catalytic converter thefts are rampant everywhere, and some cars are more targeted than others. The final question involved case 163, which was about a car taken by an ex-fiancé. No charges are being filed, but the female in the situation is being provided information regarding protective orders.

Council Member Dyer thanked Lt. Kilgore for his community involvement.

Chief Spaulding announced that National Night Out will be August 1, and Governor Moore may be in attendance.

Council Member Guroff noted that the mental and behavioral health calls have been increasing. She asked if it would be possible to get NARCAN and Stop The Bleed kits available on Main Street. All Auxiliary Officers have been trained to carry and use NARCAN. There was a discussion of having a training for the Council and Staff.

Chief Spaulding announced that Cpl. Michael Schlaerth was named Maryland's Top Cop for 2022. This is an honor given to only one police officer in the entire state. Mayor Link thanked Cpl. Schlaerth and explained a recent event where Cpl. Schlaerth helped find a lost young boy along the Linear Trail.

- Council/Committee Reports

- Council Member Grasley expressed confusion regarding the garbage and recycling change for the Fourth of July. The Town newsflash system reaches a limited number of people, and many of them are outside of Town limits. There was discussion of using Nixle for community alerts as well.

Council Member Grasley also announced that he is interested in attending the Cannabis Symposium on August 10. Mr. Cosentini explained that due to the upcoming zoning rewrite, if a request was made, it would wait until after the rewrite is finished. A moratorium is possible as well.

- Council Member Guroff announced that the Sykesville Parks and Recreation Commission (SPARC) participated in the Let Freedom Ring Parade, which was a very smooth parade on a bumpy road. The Movies in Cooper Park continue through the summer, and the Music in Cooper Park will be coming soon.

Council Member Guroff also announced that the Leadership Maryland group is in for a nice surprise thanks to the Sykesville

merchants. They put together baskets of items that will be shared among the class participants.

- Council President Carter announced that the Historic District Commission met in June to discuss the guidelines rewrite. The next meeting is July 26 at 7 P.M.
- Council Member Dyer announced that the “Seniors Willingly Accepting Technology” training is on August 4. He has been working with the Mid Atlantic Gigabit Innovation Collaboratory to prepare this training which will teach anyone who is interested about common internet scams, how to protect themselves online, and more.
- Mayor Link announced that Council Members Dyer and Guroff, and staff attended the Maryland Municipal League conference at the end of June. She thanked Governor Moore and Lt. Governor Miller for participating in and also sending 28 of their cabinet secretaries to the conference, giving towns the ability to discuss with them directly and foster existing and create new relationships between the Town and the departments.

The Council took a recess at 7:56 P.M.

MOTION: Council Member Grasley motioned and Council Member Guroff seconded to go back into open session at 7:57 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): (7) to consult with counsel to obtain legal advice on a legal matter.

MOTION: Council Member Grasley motioned and Council Member Dyer seconded to go into closed session at 7:58 P.M.

The motion carried unanimously.

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

Items discussed were:

- **Consult with Legal Counsel – Warfield Contract – no action**

MOTION: Council Member Grasley motioned and Council Member Dyer seconded to go back into open session at 8:43 P.M.

The motion carried unanimously.

ADJOURN: There being no further business to come before the Council, Council Member Grasley motioned and Council Member Guroff seconded to adjourn meeting at 8:44 P.M.

The motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted
Town Clerk Kerry Kavaloski