



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 JULY 14, 2025 REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING **NO. 25-12**

The Council meeting of the Town of Sykesville was held on Monday, July 14, 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, Elizabeth Guroff, Leo Keenan, Alexandra Ries, and Jeremiah Schofield.

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

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Joanna Schofield, 401 Oklahoma Avenue, thanked the Council for their work on trails and connectivity, for the no parking signs on Oklahoma Avenue, and for the inclusivity efforts. She asked if the proclamations could be longer than a year, if Disability Awareness Month could be included in 2026, and if the bathrooms at the Visitors' Center and Post Office could be made gender neutral.

CONSENT AGENDA:

I. Minutes from June 9, 2025.

MOTION: Council Member Dyer motioned to approve the items on the Consent Agenda with a minor revision to the minutes. Council Member Guroff seconded the motion.

The motion carried unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS:

II. Consider/Discuss/Act on a Proclamation for Parks and Recreation Month
Mayor Link read the proclamation for Parks and Recreation Month. Council Member Guroff noted the importance of open spaces on mental health. Council Member Schofield also spoke about the importance of open space and the importance of having ordinances that include open space requirements or incentives for open spaces in the planning process.

MOTION: Council Member Ries motioned to adopt the Parks and Recreation Month Proclamation. Council President Carter seconded the motion.

The motion carried unanimously.

III. Consider/Discuss/Act on a Proclamation for Maryland 250

Mayor Link read the proclamation for Maryland 250.

MOTION: Council Member Keenan motioned to adopt the Maryland 250 proclamation. Council Member Dyer seconded the motion.

The motion carried unanimously.

IV. Consider/Discuss/Act on Warranty Coverage Renewal for the License Plate Recognition Units

Joe Cosentini, Town Manager, explained that the Town currently has two License Plate Recognition (LPR) units that were received and installed by way of a grant. The LPR units are an important tool in monitoring traffic and public safety activities within Town. A one-year warranty was included with the installation, which is set to expire at the end of July 2025. The extended warranty will ensure that parts and labor are not paid out of pocket for hardware issues and for software support and updates. The funding for the extended warranty was not originally budgeted, but it will be part of the first budget amendment, with the expense assigned to the Equipment Maintenance line item.

Chief Spaulding explained that through an LPR unit, the operator and vehicle that caused the damage at the railroad crossing on July 11 were identified. Another example is a driving under the influence arrest after she received an alert from her LPR unit for a suspended registration.

The expected lifespan of an LPR unit is possibly five to seven years. The software package of the warranty includes updates to the operating system. Mayor Link asked Chief Spaulding to look into if a part becomes obsolete, would that part be upgraded under the warranty.

The Carroll County Sheriff's Department owns the LPR units that are on the Town vehicles, as they were obtained through a grant that the Sheriff's Department received. Without the warranty, the units are still useable; however, all software updates and hardware support would occur at the full replacement cost.

MOTION: Council Member Dyer motioned to approve the three-year warranty extension on the two vehicle-mounted License Plate Recognition camera systems with Leonardo U.S. Cyber and Security Solutions, LLC in an amount not to exceed \$10,320. Council Member Schofield seconded the motion.

The motion carried unanimously.

ANNOUNCEMENTS/REPORTS:

- The next meeting is Monday, August 11, 2025.

- We have volunteer opportunities available as a Crossing Guard and on the Police Auxiliary. Email town@sykesville.net for more information about volunteering with the Town.
- Staff Updates

- Mr. Cosentini thanked the Police Department and the Auxiliary for their response to the incident on July 11 involving the railroad crossing. There was discussion surrounding the incident and communications with CSX.

Mr. Cosentini also thanked the Public Works Department for their storm response and cleanup following the recent severe weather. Council Member Schofield announced that people should not drive through a flooded area. Residents should call the Town if they are missing a trash or recycling can.

Mr. Cosentini announced that the South End Streetscape project has moved from Baldwin Drive to Oklahoma Avenue. Oklahoma Avenue is now closed to vehicles and pedestrians. There was a brief discussion regarding the possibility of closing Oklahoma Avenue to vehicle traffic permanently.

- Treasurer's Report
Jennifer Livesay, Town Treasurer, presented the June 2025 Treasurer's Report. She announced that the Town received \$273,000 in income tax and \$54,000 in Highway User Revenues. She expects to receive more of both of those revenues in July and August.

- Public Safety Report
Chief Spaulding presented the Public Safety Report for the period of June 2 through July 6. There was a total of 1,084 reports, including 21 assist other agencies, 13 community policing events, 71 foot patrols, 24 incident reports, 556 patrol checks, and 85 traffic enforcement initiatives. He explained that only one complaint was received regarding fireworks on the Fourth of July.

Sergeant Lacy is keeping track of the patient-on-patient assaults, but Chief Spaulding can bring exact numbers to a future meeting. Mayor Link asked Chief Spaulding to ask the Fire Department to turn off their sirens after they leave Spout Hill Road and Obrecht Road.

Chief Spaulding announced that PFC Hoppa stopped a car at Sykesville Middle School after midnight, found the driver to be under the influence, and a search of the vehicle found a plethora of illegal drugs, including mushrooms.

Sergeant Lacy has been awarded the Distinguished Service Award from the Maryland Chiefs of Police Association. Council Member Schofield thanked Chief Spaulding for continuing to put forward his officers for awards and distinctions.

- Council/Commission Updates

- Council Member Dyer announced that Comcast is dropping channels and discounts for their services. He also announced that he attended a Planning and Zoning Appeals training through the Maryland Municipal League, and the instructor loves Sykesville's Comprehensive Plan.
- Council Member Schofield announced that the Planning Commission met on July 7 and unanimously denied the Warfield Concept Plan, as it did not meet the requirements in the Town Code.
- Council Member Guroff announced that the Historic District Commission approved the addition on the French Twist. She asked if there could be first aid or cooling stations at the Farmers' Markets.

Council Member Guroff gave a "Syke Out" to PFC Hoppa and the Auxiliary Police for their help during the Farmers' Market.

Council Member Guroff also noted that she has gotten complaints over the sound quality for the livestreams of the Council meetings, particularly for Mr. Cosentini.

Council Member Guroff also gave a "Syke Out" to Adrienne Smith, Gate House Curator, and Kevin Rubenstein, Town Planner, for hosting a Leadership Maryland tour.

- Council Member Ries thanked the Movies in the Park attendees, as there were power issues during the last movie. She gave a "Syke Out" to Lee Hirschmann from The Band Shoppe for his assistance with the sound system for the movie. The next Movie in the Park is on August 9 with a showing of The Sandlot. The Sykesville Parks and Recreation Commission has T-shirts for sale. They have a meeting on July 24 and are always looking for volunteers.
- Council Member Keenan announced that the Downtown Sykesville Connection (DSC) has several grant applications in process. They are running a shuttle on weekends through the end of July. The Juneteenth event was a big success. The Farmers' Markets have moved back to Baldwin Drive now that the street has reopened. The Let Freedom Ring Parade was well attended, and the Sippin' on Summer event is on August 16.
- Mayor Link asked for the hedgerow between the Town House and Main Street to be trimmed down a decent amount.

RECESS: Council took a five-minute recess at 8:20 P.M.

MOTION: Council Member Guroff motioned to return to open session at 8:29 P.M. Council Member Schofield seconded the motion.

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): (3) To consider the acquisition of real property for a public purpose and matters directly related thereto, and (8) To consult with staff, consultants, or other individuals about pending or potential litigation.

MOTION: Council Member Guroff motioned and Council President Carter seconded to go into closed session at 8:30 P.M.

The motion carried unanimously.

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

Items discussed were:

- Real Property – Consideration of Purchasing Property within Town Limits – no action
- Pending Litigation – Warfield Lawsuits – no action

MOTION: Council Member Guroff motioned and Council President Carter seconded to go back into open session at 9:29 P.M.

The motion carried unanimously.

ADJOURN: There being no further business to come before the Council, Council Member Guroff motioned and Council President Carter seconded to adjourn meeting at 9:30 P.M.

The motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted
Town Clerk Kerry Kavaloski