

OFFICIAL MINUTES OF DECEMBER 11, 2017 REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
NO. 17-23

The Council meeting of the Town of Sykesville was held on Monday, December 11, 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 Julia Betz, and Council Members Anna Carter, Alan Grasley, Leo Keenan, Chris True, and Stacy Link.

STAFF: David Deutsch, Interim Town Manager
Police Chief Michael Spaulding
Evelyn Sweet, Town Treasurer
Kerry Chaney, Town Clerk
Dennis Hoover, Town Attorney

Mayor Shaw introduced Braeden Audlin, the Junior Mayor who was a finalist in the "If I Were Mayor..." contest, who sat with the Council and ran the meeting with Mayor Shaw.

**PUBLIC
CONCERNS:** None

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MOTION: Council Member True motioned and Council Member Grasley seconded to approve the minutes with the revisions provided.

The motion carried unanimously.

TREASURER'S

REPORT: October 2017

Evelyn Sweet, Town Treasurer, announced that the Town received the biggest real estate tax payment ever in the month of October. She also announced that budget amendments will be presented in January.

MOTION: Council Member True motioned and Council President Betz seconded to approve the October 2017 Treasurer's Report.

The motion carried unanimously.

PUBLIC SAFETY

REPORT: Chief Spaulding presented the Public Safety Report for the period of November 23 through December 7. There were a total of 296 reports including 18 calls for

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service, 8 community policing events, 9 incident reports, 152 patrol checks, and 35 traffic enforcement initiatives. Chief Spaulding explained that the calls for service category was being used as a catchall. It will be removed as items are placed in their correct categories.

Chief Spaulding explained that the heroine incident was not fatal, and the subject is recovering. He further explained that all of the Sykesville officers are trained to use Narcan and to correctly handle the scene so the drug task force can obtain any necessary evidence. Corporal Bird is a trained instructor for Narcan delivery, so any future officers can be trained to use it as well.

The subject who was arrested for a warrant showed up at the Police Department to pay a parking ticket for a different jurisdiction. His name was put in the system and showed the warrant for his arrest.

Chief Spaulding announced that there is a debrief meeting scheduled with some Sykesville Parks and Recreation Committee (SPARC) members to go over Santa's Arrival. Chief Spaulding explained that every event will have to be treated like a maximum attendance event. He would also like to see a three hour road closure in the future instead of the one hour road closure that was used for this year's event.

COUNCIL COMMITTEE

REPORTS:

- **Written reports were provided**

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- Hanukkah Celebration, December 13, 6 P.M. in front of the Town House.
- Town Manager Candidate Meet and Greet, December 15, 6:30 P.M. at the Town House.
- Town offices are closed December 22 and December 25 and will close at 1 P.M. on December 29 for the holidays.

OPEN SESSION:

Business:

1. Approval to apply for the MHT Capital Improvement Grant

This program has not been funded for the past nine years. Only \$600,000 has been appropriated for this year. Jared Schumacher, the Circuit Rider, has been working on developing a list of possible uses for this grant money for the Gate House Museum. He, Mark Onheiser, and Jack White will work to finalize and prioritize the list for the grant application.

The Mayor and Council asked for further information about this grant and the Gate House Museum before approving the application. They would like to know whether there is currently an MHT easement on the property, and whether it would be worth it to place the property under an easement for the amount received from the grant. Staff will have further information at the next meeting.

2. Discussion of Snow Emergency Preparations

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Derek Shreves, Public Works Director, was present to discuss the Snow Emergency Preparations. He announced that eight tons of salt was placed during the snow event on December 9 and magnesium chloride was used on the sidewalks. There were no equipment issues. The Mayor and Council asked for the snow emergency information and the Nixle sign up information be added to the bottom of future newsflashes sent by the Town.

3. Introduction of Ordinance NO. 301 – to amend, adopt, and enact sections of the Town Code of Sykesville to: (1) Amend Chapter 51 to reference the existing section as Article I and update the references therein to the County animal regulations; and (2) Adopt and enact a new article II in Chapter 51 regarding animals at Town events

The ordinance was introduced. The public hearing will be held on January 8, 2018.

4. Authorization for the Mayor to sign the environmental covenant for 7520 Main Street

Dennis Hoover, Town Attorney, explained that the Saslow property was a junkyard. An assessment was done for chemicals in the soil and the Department of the Environment recommended to pave the area. The environmental covenant was supposed to be signed at the time of the assessment, but it was not recorded. An annual report and a report after repaving is required through the covenant.

MOTION: Council Member Grasley motioned and Council President Betz seconded to authorize the Mayor to sign the environmental covenant for 7520 Main Street.

The motion carried unanimously.

MOTION: Council President Betz motioned and Council Member Grasley seconded to take a five minute recess at 8:10 P.M.

The motion carried unanimously.

MOTION: Council Member True motioned and Council Member Keenan seconded to go back into open session at 8:15 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 Betz motioned and Council Member Grasley seconded to go into closed session at 8:16 P.M.

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The motion carried unanimously.

Those in attendance were: Mayor Shaw, Council President Betz, Council Members Carter, Grasley, Keenan, Link, and True, Interim Town Manager David Deutsch, Town Attorney Dennis Hoover, and Police Chief Spaulding for the first item discussed.

Items discussed were:

- **Personnel – Confidential Personal Information**
- **Consult with Legal Counsel – Airbnb zoning**

MOTION: Council Member Grasley motioned and Council Member Link seconded to go back into open session at 9:04 P.M.

The motion carried unanimously.

ADJOURN: There being no further business to come before the Council, Mayor Shaw motioned and Council Member Grasley seconded to adjourn meeting at 9:05 P.M.

The motion carried unanimously.

**Respectfully submitted
Town Clerk Kerry Chaney**