



## *Town of Sykesville*

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## *Town House*

*Ian Shaw, Mayor*

*Joseph Cosentini, Town Manager*

*Craig Weaver, Town Treasurer*

*Kerry G. Chaney, Town Clerk*

## **OFFICIAL MINUTES OF MARCH 8, 2021 REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING** **NO. 21-05**

The Council meeting of the Town of Sykesville was held on Monday, March 8, 2021. Mayor Shaw called the meeting to order at 7:00 P.M. via Zoom.us. Mayor Shaw led the Pledge of Allegiance and a moment of silence.

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

**STAFF:** Joseph Cosentini, Town Manager  
Police Chief Michael Spaulding  
Kerry Chaney, Town Clerk  
Jana Antrobus, Executive Assistant  
Derek Shreves, Public Works Director  
Craig Weaver, Town Treasurer

### **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

There were no public comments.

### **CONSENT AGENDA**

- I. Minutes from February 22, 2021
- II. Appointment of Jeannette Nichols to the Historic District Commission for a three-year term expiring March 2024

**MOTION:** Council President Grasley motioned to approve the items on the Consent Agenda. Council Member Link seconded the motion.

The motion carried unanimously.

### **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

- III. Public Hearing on and Consider/Discuss/Act on Ordinance NO. 2021-02 Sykesville Parks and Recreation Commission

There were no public comments and no comments from the Council.

**MOTION:** Council Member Carter motioned to approve Ordinance NO. 2021-02 establishing the Sykesville Parks and Recreation Commission. Council Member Link seconded the motion.

**The motion carried unanimously.**

#### **NEW BUSINESS**

**IV. Consider/Discuss/Act on Resolution No. 2021-02 for Alcohol at the Sippin' on Summer DSC event**

Council Member Keenan explained that this event was added due to an event that was cancelled in March. It will be a block party style event, though it will be a ticketed event due to limitations on crowd size.

**MOTION: Council Member Link motioned to approve Resolution NO. 2021-02 for Alcohol at the Sippin' on Summer DSC event. Council President Grasley seconded the motion.**

**The motion carried unanimously.**

#### **ANNOUNCEMENTS/REPORTS**

- Next Mayor and Town Council Meeting is on Monday, March 22, 2021. This will be a Zoom meeting.
- We have volunteer opportunities available on the Historic District Commission, SPARC, Police Auxiliary, and Crossing Guard. Email [town@sykesville.net](mailto:town@sykesville.net) for more information about volunteering with the Town.
- The Town is accepting Nominations for Council and Mayor. Nomination forms can be found on the Town Website: [townofsykesville.org](http://townofsykesville.org). Nominations will also be taken during the Council meeting on March 22, 2021.
- Staff Updates
  - Joe Cosentini, Town Manager, announced that the Comprehensive Plan is currently available for review. Feedback can be emailed to [town@sykesville.net](mailto:town@sykesville.net). There will be a public hearing at the May 3 Planning Commission meeting followed by the Commission providing a recommendation to the Town Council.

The Warfield Developers are working on a catalytic tax credit bill through the State Legislature to increase the amount of tax credits that are available to help them close their funding gap.

Staff has begun work on the FY2022 budget, and it is planned to be introduced at the April 12 Council meeting.

- Treasurer's Report  
Craig Weaver, Town Treasurer, presented the February 2021 Treasurer's Report. The budget is still ahead of expenditures with revenues tracking at about half of what has been predicted for the year. An income tax payment was received, as was property taxes and further Highway User Revenue funding.

Council Member Carter asked if there has been a drop in BGE bills due to the retrofit of the street lights. Mr. Weaver explained that the Town has not yet seen a decrease, however staff is working with BGE to ensure that they correctly update their billing structure to reflect the LED lights and issue a retroactive credit.

**MOTION: Council President Grasley motioned to approve the February 2021 Treasurer's report. Council Member Schofield seconded the motion.**

**The motion carried unanimously.**

- Public Safety Report  
Chief Spaulding presented the Public Safety Report for the period of February 16 through February 28. There was a total of 295 reports including four assist other agencies, two community policing events, seven foot patrols, six incident reports, 199 patrol checks, and 23 traffic enforcement initiatives. Chief Spaulding explained that the "swatting" incident occurred outside of Town and was an assist other agency call. The 9-1-1 system does track the calls that are placed, and they are trained on how to determine if an incident is fake.

Mayor Shaw thanked Chief Spaulding for writing a letter to the local legislature regarding the police reform bills and how they would impact a small-town police department.

Chief Spaulding announced that the new Police Department website will be live in the next few weeks. Chief Spaulding thanked Council Member Link for the donation of her her Civic Plus Volunteer award, in the form of a free website design, to the Police Department.

- Council/Committee Reports
  - Council Member Dyer announced that the Comprehensive Plan has been released and is available on the Town's website for review and comment. The Fogel property, located just outside of Town limits, was approved by the County to be rezoned from Conservation to Light Industrial.
  - Council Member Schofield announced that there wasn't a Raincliffe Home Owners' Meeting since the last Council meeting.
  - Council Member Link announced that SPARC met on February 25 and discussed a modified Easter Egg Hunt event that will be starting on April 2 at Millard Cooper Park, a park cleanup that will occur on April 24 with the location to be determined, sponsorships of the Movies in the Park series will be covered by the Town due to potential hardships of merchants, and a one-day music festival that will occur on October 2. The Girl Scouts' Buddy Bench will be placed in Millard Cooper Park near the new playground.
  - Council President Grasley announced that the merchants met on February 26. They voted to use merchant funds to repair the DSC tent. The Shiver Shuffle was held on February 28 and was well attended despite the weather. Upcoming events include St. Patrick's Day bingo on March 17, Storybook Character night on May 21, and Pride Day on June 13. Their next meeting will be March 26.
  - Council Member Carter announced that there were no applications for the Historic District Commission, so they did not meet in February. Mr. Cosentini is looking into training through the Maryland Association of Historic District Commissions and an orientation process for new Commissioners. Council Member Carter also noted that the current HDC guidelines need to be updated due to many new products being available that would meet historic standards.
  - Council Member Keenan announced the Art and Wine Festival is still scheduled to occur on May 22, on a much smaller scale than previous years. The DSC received a grant to help businesses with rent relief. Julie Della-Maria, Executive

Director, is participating in a class on managing a nonprofit and in a fundraising bootcamp. They are continuing to plan the Farmers' Markets and the Fourth of July parade. There is a Trotting for Trash and No Butts About It event on March 27 for people to pick litter and jog. The DSC is holding a virtual retreat on March 12.

- Mayor Shaw announced the Gate House George Leakin Jr. exhibit has been completed and is available for view on the Gate House website. Staff is still working on replacing the damaged floor at the Schoolhouse. He also announced that it is International Women's Day, which was started in 1909, and he thanked the women on the Council and staff.

**ADJOURN: There being no further business to come before the Council, Council President Grasley motioned and Council Member Keenan seconded to adjourn meeting at 7:43 P.M.**

**The motion carried unanimously.**

**Respectfully submitted  
Town Clerk Kerry Chaney**