

Dear

OFFICIAL MINUTES OF MARCH 22, 2021 REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
NO. 21-06

The Council meeting of the Town of Sykesville was held on Monday, March 22, 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
Jared Schumacher, Circuit Rider and Grants Manager
Craig Weaver, Town Treasurer
Derek Shreves, Public Works Director

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Diana Eignor gave a public comment regarding the Piney Run Lake retrofit plans. She explained that she administers a Facebook page and website with more information regarding the plans.

CONSENT AGENDA

- I. Minutes from March 8, 2021

MOTION: Council Member Carter motioned to approve the item on the Consent Agenda with the changes provided by Council Member Link. Council Member Schofield seconded the motion.

The motion carried unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS

II. **Call for Nominations for Mayor and for Council Members**

Mayor Shaw called for nominations for Mayor. There were no nominations at the meeting. Kerry Chaney, Town Clerk, announced that paper nominations were received for:

- Ian Shaw
 - o Motion by Joann Shaw
 - o Second by Jessica Zador
- Stacy Link

- o Motion by Eugene Johnson, Sr
- o Second by Wayne Carroll Glenn

Mayor Shaw called for nominations for Council Member. There were no nominations at the meeting. Kerry Chaney, Town Clerk, announced that paper nominations were received for:

- Alan Grasley
 - o Motion by Doug Flaming
 - o Second by Greg Glenn
- Elizabeth Guroff
 - o Motion by Stacy Link
 - o Second by Patricia Meyer
- Leo Keenan
 - o Motion by John Bryant, Sr
 - o Second by Patricia Keenan
- William Mathis
 - o Motion by Michele Mathis
 - o Second by John Mathis
- Frank Robert
 - o Motion by Alan Grasley
 - o Second by Ian Shaw

III. Appointment of SPARC Commissioners

Joe Cosentini, Town Manager, explained that due to the adoption of the SPARC ordinance at the previous meeting, the SPARC commissioners need to be officially appointed. All individuals being appointed have been on the committee previously. Term limits were determined based on longevity on the committee.

MOTION: Council Member Link motioned to appoint Chris Sevic and Billy Shifflett to one year terms, Alex Ries and Bryan Troast to two year terms, and Nick Sheets and Eric Valenstein to three year terms on the Sykesville Parks and Recreation Commission. Council Member Dyer seconded the motion.

The motion carried unanimously.

IV. Consider/Discuss/Act on Assigned Fund Balances

Joe Cosentini, Town Manager, presented this item. Just over \$1,400,000 is currently assigned. \$285,445 is proposed to be unassigned from that amount.

The Town does have a General Obligation bond currently outstanding. Mr. Cosentini explained that \$190,000 from the unassigned funds can be used to pay off the debt. The current interest rate is around 4-5%. Council Member Schofield wondered if \$190,000 could be used for more pressing needs rather than paying off the debt. Council President Grasley prefers paying off the debt as it will allow the Town to save \$10,000 or more in interest payments. Mayor Shaw noted that borrowing money may even be cheaper in today's market.

Council Member Link noted that the Historic Commission item may have been designated as a fund for a Historic District Grant for approved projects. It has not been used in recent years, and there is no criteria known to staff for the grant

program. Funds can be appropriated for a Historic District Grant program without an assigned fund balance for it. Council Member Carter, the liaison to the Historic District Commission, will ask the Commission to review the grant program and create criteria as needed.

MOTION: Council President Grasley motioned to authorize the release of \$285,445 from the assigned fund balances and to pay off the General Obligation bond using the newly released funds not to exceed \$190,000. Council Member Dyer seconded the motion.

The motion carried unanimously.

V. Consider/Discuss/Act on Community Parks and Playgrounds Splash Pad – BGE Electric Installation

Joe Cosentini, Town Manager, presented this item. He explained that the Town received a \$150,000 grant and was matching \$100,000 for the creation of a Splash Pad in Millard Cooper Park. BGE will need to install a new underground electric service for the park due to an already maxed out electric capacity in the area. This will increase the ability for other things in Millard Cooper Park, such as getting the street lights along Cooper Drive working. The line will be bored under Cooper Drive.

Contingency funds will be added to each grant project budget in the future. Ongoing costs and plans will also be thought through with future projects as well.

Frank Robert, citizen, asked if WIFI would be available for use in Millard Cooper Park. Mr. Cosentini explained that WIFI is not currently part of the upgrade plans.

MOTION: Council Member Link motioned to approve the additional electrical work needed at Millard Cooper Park in the amount not to exceed \$30,000 with funds being allocated from the unassigned fund balance. Council Member Carter seconded the motion.

The motion carried unanimously.

ANNOUNCEMENTS/REPORTS

- Next Mayor and Town Council Meeting is on Monday, April 12, 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 for more information about volunteering with the Town.
- The Election is May 4! Mail-in voting applications are currently available on the Town website: townofsykesville.org or at the Town House. Polls are open May 4 from 8 AM to 8 PM.
- Staff Updates
 - o Joe Cosentini, Town Manager, announced:
 - He sat in on the County Technical Review Committee meeting regarding a concept plan for a project at Raincliffe Road and Buttercup Road. Brandon Smith, President of the Raincliffe

HOA, was also in attendance. A sidewalk connection from the existing sidewalk at on Raincliffe Road to Freedom Park is not currently on the plan, but the County is working with developers and a consultant for the connection.

- The Warfield Catalytic Tax Credit was voted out of its State Legislature Committee unanimously.
- The Department of Housing and Community Development is working with the Town for the strategic demolition grant that was received for Warfield, originally to stabilize historic buildings but now to be used for wetlands remediation and mitigation. A subrecipient agreement will be drafted between the Town and Warfield.
- The FY2022 budget will be introduced on April 12 and a budget workshop will be held later in April.

o Public Safety Report

Chief Spaulding presented the Public Safety Report for the period of March 1 through March 14. There was a total of 334 reports, including seven assist other agencies, two community policing events, 14 foot patrols, 12 incident reports, 195 patrol checks, and 41 traffic enforcement initiatives.

Council Member Link asked if there were security cameras in the tunnel during the graffiti tagging incident. Chief Spaulding explained that there are cameras in place, and Officer Kirkner will be pulling the memory card to check if any suspects are seen on the video.

Council Member Keenan reached out to family members of the Willow Bottom incident to see if they can help. Chief Spaulding explained that his officers have responded to that address over 20 times in the past year and 9-1-1 was called over 25 times. Resources and assistance are being provided, and some progress is being made.

Mayor Shaw thanked Chief Spaulding for handing out the Behavioral Health directory whenever the situation warrants one.

Chief Spaulding announced that Radcliffe Darby was hired and will be starting Friday, March 26. He was a Westminster Police Department Lieutenant.

Officer Kirkner was named Officer of the Year. Officer Schlaerth was named Community Policing Officer of the Year. Annalise Young was named Auxiliary Officer of the Year.

• Council/Committee Reports

- o Council Member Carter announced the March Historic District Commission meeting was cancelled due to no applications. She is planning on asking the Commission to review the guidelines and will bring up the grant.
- o Council Member Link announced the first Plogging event is on March 27 at 1 PM. It will begin at the Fountain Park and is sponsored by

Immaculate Clean. There will also be a No Butts About It event the same day and time for cleanup of cigarette butts. The next Sykesville Parks and Recreation Commission is on March 25 at 6 PM.

- o Council President Grasley announced that the merchants will meet on March 27.
- o Council Member Keenan announced that there is a garden cleanup on April 10. The Downtown Sykesville Connection received two grants for the garden and also for trash cans. Corporate grants are being worked on currently. There was a retreat on March 17. The next DSC board meeting is April 19. The Art and Wine Festival is still planned for May 22 on a much smaller scale than previous years.
- o Council Member Schofield announced that there was not a Raincliffe Home Owners' Association meeting. The Maryland Municipal League Legislative Committee met to discuss Highway User Revenues and COVID relief bill funding. The Town will be receiving around \$3,300,000 with restrictions on what it can be spent on.
- o Council Member Dyer announced there was no Planning Commission meeting. The Comprehensive Plan is available for review on the Town website.
- o Mayor Shaw announced that the Maryland Municipal League scholarship is available on www.HampsteadMD.gov. The deadline to apply is May 7.

ADJOURN: There being no further business to come before the Council, Council Member Keenan motioned and Council Member Carter seconded to adjourn meeting at 8:10 P.M.

The motion carried unanimously.

**Respectfully submitted
Town Clerk Kerry Chaney**