



Town of Sykesville

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townofsykesville.org

Town House

Stacy Link, Mayor

Joseph Cosentini, Town Manager

Craig Weaver, Town Treasurer

Kerry G. Kavaloski, Town Clerk

OFFICIAL MINUTES OF OCTOBER 24, 2022 REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING **NO. 22-18**

The Council meeting of the Town of Sykesville was held on Monday, October 24, 2022. Mayor Link called the meeting to order at 7:02 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 Alan Grasley, Elizabeth Guroff, and Jeremiah Schofield.

ABSENT: Council Members Mark Dyer and Leo Keenan

STAFF: Joseph Cosentini, Town Manager
Police Chief Michael Spaulding
Police Lieutenant Shawn Kilgore
Police Sergeant Carl Bird
Police Sergeant Jason Kirkner
Kerry Kavaloski, Town Clerk
Public Works Director Derek Shreves

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

There were no public comments.

CONSENT AGENDA

- I. Minutes from October 11, 2022
- II. Proclamation – Municipal Government Works Month

MOTION: Council President Carter motioned to approve the items on the Consent Agenda. Council Member Schofield seconded the motion.

The motion carried unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS:

- III. **Chief of Police – Proclamation for Sgt. Carl Bird**
Chief Michael Spaulding presented Sergeant Carl Bird with a proclamation for his years of service and wished him a happy retirement.
- IV. **Consider/Discuss/Act on FY2023 Paving Amendment**

Joe Cosentini, Town Manager, explained that staff met with the paving contractor and discussed a higher grade asphalt mix, a larger paving area on Springfield Avenue, and more durable striping. Mr. Cosentini further explained that the addition is covered by the Highway User Revenue funding. Other items that will be done with the remaining Highway User Revenue funding includes some sidewalk repairs and solar signage on Spout Hill Road.

MOTION: Council Member Schofield motioned to approve an additional \$75,000 of work for a total of \$225,000 for FY2023. Council President Carter seconded the motion.

The motion carried unanimously.

V. Introduction of Ordinance NO. 2022-05 – Elections

Mr. Cosentini explained that this ordinance was brought before the Council in August; however a charter amendment was required before this ordinance could be introduced. This ordinance will codify processes that have already been in place for the elections. There is nothing in the ordinance that would significantly change the way the elections are administered.

Mayor Link provided a list of minor typos that will be corrected before the next meeting. She asked if the assistant election secretary should be defined as for only one election. The appointment of the assistant election secretary could be done in perpetuity or for one election cycle by the Council. Another change includes changing the Town House to designated municipal facility. Gender pronouns will be removed from this ordinance, and the pronoun “they” will be used instead. An addition regarding the Americans with Disabilities Act and the accommodations provided will be added.

There was a discussion regarding the use of personal electronic devices used by election judges within the polling place. Mayor Link explained her concern is communication of results before the official results are released. Judges would still be allowed to bring paper books or reading materials but not electronic devices. Staff will look into this and will make a recommendation at the next meeting.

There was a discussion regarding the limit for designated agents. Mayor Link does not find anything negative about having no limit on the number of people a designated agent could help. State law does not limit the designated agents. Council Member Schofield agreed with Mayor Link. Council Member Grasley expressed his concerns regarding no limit and explained that he would prefer a limit of four people. Council President Carter expressed concerns about coercion in the designated agent process. Mayor Link expressed concerns about limiting the designated agents and opening the door for integrity questions regarding the elections. Council Member Guroff explained that she does not have issues with raising the number and believes engaging the public is beneficial.

Mayor Link asked if there are issues with mail-in voting occurring at the Town House and being perceived as early voting, specifically if Council Members are in the building. Mr. Cosentini explained that there are no issues with residents completing the entire process in the Town House. The conference room will be set up to offer a private location for a person to vote, similar to how it is set up on Election Day.

MOTION: Council Member Schofield motioned to introduce Ordinance NO. 2022-05 with the administrative revisions from Mayor Link and the removal of §10-4(H:3), the limit on the designated agents. Council Member Guroff seconded the motion.

The motion passed 4-1 with Mayor Link, Council President Carter, and Council Members Guroff and Schofield in favor, and Council Member Grasley against the motion.

ANNOUNCEMENTS/REPORTS

- The next meeting is Monday, November 14, 2022.
- We have volunteer opportunities available on the Historic District Commission, Board of Zoning Appeals, and Police Auxiliary. Email town@sykesville.net for more information about volunteering with the Town.
- Staff Updates
 - Town Manager Report
Joe Cosentini, Town Manager, announced that work has begun at the Post Office to repair the roof, stucco, and paint. There was money set aside in the FY2023 budget for this work.

Mr. Cosentini also thanked Public Works for dealing with numerous vandalism issues at the Cooper Park bathrooms.

- Public Safety Report
Chief Spaulding presented the Public Safety Report for the period of October 3 through October 16. There was a total of 312 reports including 10 assist other agencies, 15 community policing initiatives, 26 foot patrols, 10 incident reports, 132 patrol checks, and 22 traffic enforcement initiatives. Chief Spaulding highlighted Officer Young's community policing initiatives of leaving unlocked car report cards for residents. These report cards will hopefully help prevent future thefts from vehicles.

Mayor Link asked about report number 22-SPD-00194. Chief Spaulding explained that a complaint was received regarding marijuana in an unapproved container. Officers located a subject who fit the description. The person did have a medical card, however since the marijuana was not properly packaged, it was seized.

Chief Spaulding explained that the visual presence of the officers on Main Street is still ongoing and seems to be going well. The officers

are balancing their time between Main Street and patrolling the rest of the town.

Council President Carter asked about recruiting. Chief Spaulding explained that there is a nationwide shortage for recruiting. He currently has several viable candidates going through the process. The other issue is finding a lateral transition position instead of sending a person through the academy. Sending someone through the academy would take close to a year.

- Council Committee/Commission Reports
 - Council Member Schofield announced that the next Planning Commission meeting will be on November 7. He also announced that he will be missing the December 12 Council meeting.
 - Council President Carter announced that the Historic District Commission will be meeting on October 25 and there are openings on the Commission if anyone is interested in volunteering.
 - Council Member Guroff thanked the Downtown Sykesville Connection for the Fall Fun Fest. The Parks and Recreation Commission will meet on October 27 to discuss Santa's Arrival on Main Street which will be on December 3. She also gave an update regarding mental health first aid and classes from the County Health Department.
 - Mayor Link gave the update regarding the Downtown Sykesville Connection (DSC) in Council Member Keenan's absence. She announced that the Fall Fun Fest was a great success. She thanked the DSC and the Friendship Baptist Church. She also thanked Public Works, the Police, and the Auxiliary for their work during the event. Trick-or-treating on Main Street is on Saturday, October 29.

Mayor Link also announced that Town trick-or-treating is on October 31 from 6 P.M. to 8 P.M. After Halloween, the Hatton Animal Rescue will be at Little Sykes Railroad Park on November 5 to take any dropped off pump[kins to feed their animals.

- Council Member Schofield congratulated Mayor Link on being named a Woman to Watch.

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

The motion carried unanimously.

**Respectfully submitted
Town Clerk Kerry Kavaloski**