

OFFICIAL MINUTES OF JANUARY 23, 2017 REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
NO. 17-02

The Council meeting of the Town of Sykesville was held on Monday, January 23, 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 Leo Keenan, and Council Members Julia Betz, Anna Carter, William "Chip" Blead, Chris True, and Stacy Link.

STAFF: Dawn Ashbacher, Town Manager
Kerry Chaney, Town Clerk
Dennis Hoover, Town Attorney
Police Chief Spaulding
Sergeant Shawn Kilgore
Julie Della-Maria, Interim Main Street Coordinator

PUBLIC CONCERNS: **None**
Mayor Shaw welcomed Butch Willard, Senior Warden, and Reverend Meredith Kefauver-Olsen from St. Barnabas Episcopal Church.

MINUTES: **January 9, 2017**

MOTION: **Council Member Link motioned and Council Member Betz seconded to approve the minutes with the revisions provided.**

The motion carried unanimously.

TREASURER'S

REPORT: **November 2016**
Evelyn Sweet, Town Treasurer, explained that the Admissions Tax issue that has been discussed before has not been fully resolved. It was overpaid to the Town, so the Town paid back the difference, and recently it was overpaid again.

MOTION: **Council Member True motioned and Council Member Link seconded to approve the November 2016 Treasurer's Report.**

The motion carried unanimously.

PUBLIC SAFETY

REPORT: Police Chief Spaulding presented the Public Safety Report for the period of January 5 through January 18. There were a total of 282 reports including 47 Calls for Service. The Council expressed concern over the stop sign at West Friendship Road and Forsythe Road. This stop sign is frequently knocked over.

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Chief Spaulding explained that it is a tough intersection and it is possible the sign hasn't been fixed correctly from all the times it has been knocked over.

In response to a Council inquiry at the last meeting, Chief Spaulding also reported that there have only been nine crashes at the intersection of Springfield Avenue and Third Avenue. Five of the crashes have occurred within six months. He will be researching through the State Highway Administration to see if there were any crashes not reported to the Sykesville Police Department.

Based on his preliminary end of the year tabulations, Chief Spaulding reported that Calls for Service have increased by 8%, arrests increased 32%, and Traffic Enforcement Initiatives increased 153% from 2015. He will have more details in his official year-end report soon. He also reported that there were no sustained complaints against the Police Department in the past year and that Part I offenses, which are serious crimes, like murder and rape, which get reported to the FBI, were down by 11%.

A concern was raised about drivers who do not stop, or who partially stop, at stop signs. Chief Spaulding announced that this is part of what the officers are trained to watch for during Traffic Enforcement Initiatives and while patrolling.

The speed trailer is up and functioning. In just one hour, it recorded 37 vehicles driving 24 MPH and under and 13 vehicles driving 25 MPH and over. The average speed was 24.7 MPH and the 85 percentile of speed, which is used for enforcement, was 29 MPH.

The Police Department is currently interviewing prospective Auxiliary Officers. If anybody is interested in joining the Auxiliary Police, they should look on the Town website or contact the Police Department. Chief Spaulding commended Kevin Cox for all the work he has done with the Auxiliary Police.

COUNCIL COMMITTEE REPORTS:

- **Historic District Commission (HDC)** – Council Member Link announced that the next HDC meeting is January 24, 2017 at 6:30 P.M. with an orientation for the two new Commissioners. There will be public input on the new street furniture and sandwich board guidelines at this meeting as well. Jack White, the Curator of the Gate House Museum, is continuing to work with Springfield Hospital to complete the exhibit. He is developing a new way of displaying information that will hopefully be easier to manage than the previous method. Council Member Link will ask if he has a goal opening date.
- **Sykesville Parks and Recreation (SPARC)** – Council Member Carter announced that the next SPARC meeting will be on January 26, 2017 at 7 P.M. They will be discussing summer events, movies, and concerts.
- **Warfield Development Committee (WDC)** – The Mayor announced that the sixth amendment to the contract has been sent. The WDC is now awaiting review and comment from the purchaser. There was also a meeting with key stakeholders to discuss the Maryland Historical Trust review process. The Mayor also attended a Warfield meeting with the Town's delegation in Annapolis. Building G is now open with the new tenant – Zeteo Tech.

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- **Main Street Association (MSA)** – The MSA is working on Ice Fest, which is on February 4. They have finalized the traffic plan, which will have Norwood Avenue be a one way street to avoid congestion on it. The Art and Wine festival is on May 7. Julie Della-Maria, Main Street Coordinator, announced that she will be completing an intent to apply for the Maryland Heritage Area grant. This grant will be used to update the History Window at State Farm Insurance and potentially for a train shaped bike rack to be placed on the old railroad tracks near the Fountain Park. It is a matching grant and the \$3,750 match is still within the scope of the Main Street Association's funds.
- **Planning Commission** – Council Member Betz announced that the next Planning Commission meeting is on February 6 at 7 P.M.
- Council Member True announced that the Raincliffe Home Owners' Association is meeting on January 24 at Sykesville Middle School at 7 P.M.
- There is a meeting on January 30 for a working group that is examining compensation for the Police Department.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- Warming Hearts and Hands, First Friday, February 3 – bring a pair of gloves, mittens, or a hat to donate to the mitten tree and receive 20% off at participating stores
- Ice Fest, February 4, 1 P.M. – 6 P.M.

OPEN SESSION:

Consent Agenda:

1. **Approval of Town Employee pricing for rentals of the Tower**
2. **FY 17 Budget Amendment for 714 Sandosky Road purchase**

MOTION: Council President Keenan motioned and Council Member Betz seconded to approve the items on the Consent Agenda.

The motion carried unanimously.

3. FY 2018-2022 CIP Prioritization Instructions

Evelyn Sweet, Town Treasurer, explained that the Mayor and Council Members will prioritize the discretionary items; the items that are required this fiscal year do not need to be prioritized. The prioritizations are due by February 2.

4. Introduction of Ordinance NO. 298 – To amend, adopt, and enact sections of the Town Code of Sykesville to amend sections 19-1 and 19-2 to increase the compensation of the Mayor and members of the Town Council

The Mayor introduced this Ordinance. The public hearing will take place at the next meeting on February 13, 2017. Mayor Shaw said the pay hadn't been adjusted for over 10 years. Council Member Betz asked if this pay increase will affect all Council Members or just those who are elected this year. She stated that she was fairly certain that the increase will only be effective for those individuals elected in the next election and thereafter. This ensures that current Council members cannot vote for a pay increase for themselves. Dennis Hoover, Town Attorney, will look into this question. A question arose wondering why the pay reductions for missed meetings was

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necessary. Pay is reduced if the Mayor or a Council Member misses three or more meetings in a quarter. It is important to have each Council Member be present for votes. The meetings aren't well attended by the public, so they wouldn't be able to tell if a Council Member has missed meetings. It was agreed to include language to state that the quarters will start July 1 and will be based on the fiscal year.

5. Main Street Program Goals

To develop a plan for the Main Street Association (MSA), the Mayor and Town Council is asked to submit their goals for Main Street by January 31. This will help provide direction to the MSA. The MSA Board will determine their annual goals during their annual work plan session, and their goals should be consistent with the Maryland Main Street designation as well as be consistent with the goals of the Mayor and Town Council.

MOTION: Council Member Betz motioned and Council Member True seconded to take a five minute recess at 8:00 P.M.

The motion carried unanimously.

MOTION: Council Member True motioned and Council Member Carter seconded to go back into open session at 8:08 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 Member Betz motioned and Council Member True seconded to go into closed session at 8:09 P.M.

The motion carried unanimously.

Those in attendance were: Mayor Shaw, Council President Keenan, Council Members Betz, Bleam, Carter, Link and True, Town Attorney Dennis Hoover, and Town Manager Dawn Ashbacher.

Items discussed were:

- Consult with Legal Counsel – Warfield Contract Negotiations – no action
- Consult with Legal Counsel – Downtown Parking – no action
- Consult with Legal Counsel – Main Street Organization – no action
- Personnel – Main Street Program Coordinator – confidential personal information – no action

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MOTION: Council Member True motioned and Council Member Bleam seconded to go back into open session at 10:04 P.M.

The motion carried unanimously.

ADJOURN: There being no further business to come before the Council, Council Member True motioned and Council Member Bleam seconded to adjourn meeting at 10:05 P.M.

The motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,
Town Clerk Kerry Chaney