

DRAFT

OFFICIAL MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 27, 2017 REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
NO. 17-04

The Council meeting of the Town of Sykesville was held on Monday, February 27, 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" Blean, Chris True, and Stacy Link.

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

PUBLIC CONCERNS: A citizen was in attendance to express his concern over the leash laws. See Open Session number 2.
Dawn Ashbacher, Town Manager, asked to add a discussion about the Mayor and Town Council retreat. See Open Session number 6.

MINUTES: February 13, 2017

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

The motion carried unanimously.

PUBLIC SAFETY

REPORT: Police Chief Spaulding presented the Public Safety Report for the period of February 9, 2017 through February 22, 2017. There were a total of 291 reports, including 40 Calls for Service, nine Community Policing, and 28 Traffic Enforcement Initiatives.

Chief Spaulding reported that no one was apprehended in the Warfield burglaries. The officers have a hard time distinguishing between old damage and new damage. There are many broken windows and graffiti marks, among other damages. Chief Spaulding has directed his officers to document the current damage, so there is a record and old damage is not reported more than once. This documentation will be updated regularly.

Chief Spaulding believed the Controlled Dangerous Substance (CDS) that was found in a playground area was a smoking device with residue that a resident

COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

February 27, 2017

Cont.

turned in. The officers will be keeping an eye on the situation in an effort to catch users in the act, reduce the amount of CDS in and around children, and prevent this from happening further.

Chief Spaulding announced that the Carroll County Sheriff's Office will be having a Citizens Police Academy running every Thursday from 8:30 A.M. to 9:00 P.M. between April 6 and May 11. Anyone interested should contact the Sheriff's Office.

Chief Spaulding has arranged for a Civilian Response to Active Shooting Events training for all Town employees in March.

The speed trailer had some issues, and, after troubleshooting done by the officers, the company who makes the trailer believes the computer chip in it may be faulty. They are sending a replacement.

The Mayor brought to the Chief's attention that juveniles have been hanging out by the railroad tracks. Chief indicated that he will increase the police presence through increased patrol checks of the area, including having the officers walk down the tracks.

COUNCIL COMMITTEE REPORTS:

- **Historic District Commission** – Council Member Link announced that there was a special meeting held to have an orientation for the Historic District Commissioners. The next meeting will be on February 27 28 at 7 P.M.
- **Sykesville Parks and Recreation (SPARC)** – Council Member Carter announced that SPARC had a meeting on February 23. There will be a rain date for the Movies in the Park on September 9. The Easter Egg Hunt will be on April 14. The next meeting is on March 23, and they will be discussing mulching and the Concerts in the Park series.
- **Warfield Development Corporation (WDC)** – The Mayor announced that the WDC hasn't met since the last Mayor and Town Council meeting. Their next meeting is on March 1.
- **Main Street Association (MSA)** – Council President Keenan announced that the Art and Wine Festival is on May 7. They are still working on the Farmers' Market location proposal. There will be an update from the staff on the Farmers' Market location at the next Mayor and Town Council meeting. The MSA is currently in a good financial standing, with about \$53,500 in the bank.

Julie Della-Maria, interim Main Street Coordinator, announced that there would be a change to the proposed grant she discussed at the last meeting. The grant proposal will only include the State Farm History Window for a total of \$2,420. The MSA will be partnering with the Carroll County Art League for the bike rack.

MOTION: Council President Keenan motioned and Council Member Bleam seconded to authorize the Main Street Association to apply for \$2,420 from the Maryland Heart of the Civil War Certified Heritage Area Grant.

The motion carried unanimously.

COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

February 27, 2017

Cont.

- **Planning Commission** – Council Member Betz announced that the Planning Commission has not met since the last Mayor and Town Council meeting. The next meeting is on March 6 at 7 P.M.
- **Compensation** – Council Members Bleam and True announced that a proposal will be coming to the Mayor and Town Council shortly so it can be included in the budget process.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- Nominations will be taken at the March 27 meeting for the three Council positions and the Mayor position. The election is on May 2.
- The Mayor and Town Council will have their annual retreat on March 4.

OPEN SESSION:

Consent Agenda:

1. **Approval of Resolution NO. 2017-01 adding sandwich board sign and street furniture guidelines to the Historic District Design Guidelines**

MOTION: Council Member True motioned and Council Member Carter seconded to approve the item on the consent agenda.

The motion carried unanimously.

2. Discussion of Town Leash Law

Kurt Hider asked that this be discussed. He has had problems while walking along Town trails. He has been attacked by a dog that was not on a leash before and now carries a stick with him for defense. He has reported the incidents to the police. He would like a leash law that is stricter than the current one before a major incident occurs. Mayor Shaw thanked Mr. Hider and said the staff and Chief Spaulding will look into the issue.

3. Appointment of the Board of Election Supervisors

The Mayor recommended the appointment of Marianne Sickler, Carmen McEvoy, and Rachel Bederka to the Board of Election Supervisors. Ms. Sickler originally wrote a letter of interest in becoming an alternate. She indicated that she agreed to be appointed as a full member of the Board of Election Supervisors.

MOTION: Council President Keenan motioned and Council Member True seconded to appoint Marianne Sickler, Carmen McEvoy, and Rachel Bederka to the Board of Election Supervisors for two-year terms ending in 2019.

The motion carried unanimously.

4. Public Hearing on Ordinance NO. 299 – An ordinance to (1) Adopt and enact a new Article V in Chapter 165 regarding speed limits on Town roads – Willow Bottom Road; and (2) Amend Chapter 80, Article II on parking impact fees to add provisions on setting the amount of a parking impact fee by resolution.

One member of the audience expressed concern about the capability of the Mayor and Town Council to set the parking impact fee by a resolution. He does not want to miss an opportunity to comment on the parking impact fee discussion. The Mayor assured him that there will be plenty of time for public input and discussion before the adoption of a resolution changing the parking impact fee.

COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

February 27, 2017

Cont.

- 5. Consideration of Ordinance NO. 299 – An ordinance to (1) Adopt and enact a new Article V in Chapter 165 regarding speed limits on Town roads – Willow Bottom Road; and (2) Amend Chapter 80, Article II on parking impact fees to add provisions on setting the amount of a parking impact fee by resolution.**

Council Member True asked if this ordinance would cause the impact fee that is currently in place to be eliminated. Dennis Hoover confirmed that a resolution will need to be passed for the parking impact fee to be set. The Mayor and Town Council agreed to keep the same fee as before this ordinance for now. The adoption of the resolution will take place at the next meeting.

MOTION: Council Member True motioned and Council Member Betz seconded to approve ordinance NO. 299 – to (1) Adopt and enact a new Article V in Chapter 165 regarding speed limits on Town Roads; and (2) Amend Chapter 80, Article II on parking impact fees to add provisions on setting the amount of a parking impact fee by resolution.

The motion carried unanimously.

6. Discussion of the Mayor and Town Council Retreat

Dawn Ashbacher, Town Manager, asked to add this to the discussion. So far, the agenda for the retreat includes a discussion on Main Street Organization, a Public Works update, a Gate House update and tour, a Town projects update, and a review of the dashboard from last year.

MOTION: Council Member Betz motioned and Council Member True seconded to take a five minute recess at 7:50 P.M.

The motion carried unanimously.

MOTION: Mayor Shaw motioned and Council Member Carter seconded to go back into open session at 8:01 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): (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 8:02 P.M.

The motion carried unanimously.

Those in attendance were: Mayor Shaw, Council President Keenan, Council Members Betz, Blean, 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.**

COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

February 27, 2017

Cont.

- **Consult with Legal Counsel – Main Street Organization – no action.**

MOTION: Mayor Shaw motioned and Council Member True seconded to go back into open session at 8:35 P.M.

The motion carried unanimously.

There was further discussion about the Mayor and Town Council retreat. The agenda was finalized, and it was decided to hold the retreat from 8:00 A.M. to 1:00 P.M. on March 4, 2017.

ADJOURN: There being no further business to come before the Council, Council Member Betz motioned and Council Member Blean seconded to adjourn the meeting at 8:47 P.M.

The motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted
Town Clerk Kerry Chaney