



## *Town of Sykesville*

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## *Town House*

*Stacy Link, Mayor*

*Joseph Cosentini, Town Manager*

*Craig Weaver, Town Treasurer*

*Kerry G. Kavaloski, Town Clerk*

### **OFFICIAL MINUTES OF APRIL 10, 2023 REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING** **NO. 23-06**

The Council meeting of the Town of Sykesville was held on Monday, April 10, 2023. Mayor Link called the meeting to order at 7:00 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 Mark Dyer, Elizabeth Guroff, Leo Keenan, and Jeremiah Schofield.

**ABSENT:** Council Member Alan Grasley

**STAFF:** Joseph Cosentini, Town Manager  
Police Chief Michael Spaulding  
Kerry Kavaloski, Town Clerk  
Derek Shreves, Public Works Director  
Craig Weaver, Town Treasurer

#### **PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

There were no public comments.

#### **CONSENT AGENDA:**

- I. Minutes from March 13, 2023
- II. Appointment of Michael Marsden to the Historic District Commission for a 3-year term expiring April 2026

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

The motion carried unanimously.

#### **NEW BUSINESS:**

- III. Introduction of Ordinance NO. 2023-02 – AN ORDINANCE TO ADOPT AND APPROVE THE ANNUAL BUDGET AND SET TAX RATES FOR THE TOWN OF SKESVILLE, MARYLAND FOR FISCAL YEAR 2023-2024

Joe Cosentini, Town Manager, presented this item. He explained that property taxes and income taxes are the two highest categories for revenues. The budget was prepared using the current tax rate of \$0.33 per \$100 of assessed value. This is higher than the constant yield rate.

Council Member Schofield asked if other Council Members would be in support of lowering the taxes to the constant yield rate, resulting in a reduction in the budget of approximately \$73,000. Mr. Cosentini explained that he would recommend not changing the budget this year as the staffing increases have not been fully realized in the Police Department and there are other areas that are still relatively new within the budget. Council Member Dyer expressed his desire to keep the tax rate steady instead of raising and lowering it frequently. Other Council Members expressed interest in looking at reducing the tax rate in the future and ensuring things continue to be addressed before lowering the rate.

Mr. Cosentini explained operating expenditures include a 2% cost-of-living-adjustment for every full-time employee, and further merit-based increases will occur at each employee's anniversary date. Health insurance increased by 4%, and other employee benefits increased at a similar rate. The budget includes a slight increase for gas for vehicles, and the existing trash rebate for Raincliffe. Conversations will occur to bring the Raincliffe and Warfield communities under the pickup for trash and recycling and to bring the roads under Town control and ownership as well.

Council Member Schofield asked if the legal expenses would be enough to cover the entire year. Mr. Cosentini explained that the amount is more than what is typically budgeted, but an amendment can be made at a later date if needed.

Capital expenditures are lower than in previous years. The electric vehicle charger for the Police Department can be grant funded, however most grants are for public chargers. The charger would be attached to the building, close to the storage shed. The leaf vacuum and trailer would allow for the establishment of a leaf collection program. Parks and recreation projects are all grant funded. Council priority items are American Rescue Plan Act funding items and include improvements to Baldwin's Drive, stormwater improvements, the Town House lawn and 714 Sandosky improvements.

**MOTION: Council President Carter motioned to introduce Ordinance NO. 2023-02 – AN ORDINANCE TO ADOPT AND APPROVE THE ANNUAL BUDGET AND SET TAX RATES FOR THE TOWN OF SKESVILLE, MARYLAND FOR FISCAL YEAR 2023-2024 and to set the public hearing for May 8. Council Member Schofield seconded the motion.**

**The motion carried unanimously.**

Council Member Schofield thanked Mr. Cosentini, Town Treasurer Craig Weaver, and Mayor Link for their work on the annual budget.

**IV. Resolution NO. 2023-03 – A Resolution Establishing Parameters of a One-Time Annual Contribution Advance to the Downtown Sykesville Connection for the Purpose of a Building Purchase**

Mr. Cosentini explained that this item was an advance on the \$50,000 that is annually given to the Downtown Sykesville Connection (DSC). The \$50,000 annual contribution would be removed from the Town's budget for the next 10 years. All money will be used for the purchase of the building. The interest rate is established at 1.5% annually and will be amortized. Closing is April 17, and all legal recommendations will be included in the closing documents.

Mayor Link announced that the Capital Reserve and Stabilization Reserve are not affected by this one-time advance.

**MOTION:** Council Member Keenan motioned to approve Resolution NO. 2023-03 – A Resolution Establishing Parameters of a One-Time Annual Contribution Advance to the Downtown Sykesville Connection for the Purpose of a Building Purchase. Council President Carter seconded the motion.

The motion carried unanimously.

Council Member Schofield thanked Council Member Keenan for all his work for this item. Mr. Cosentini announced that though Council Member Grasley is absent at this meeting, he did express his support via email.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS/REPORTS**

- The next meeting is Monday, April 24, 2023
- Spring Cleanup Day is April 15. Place unwanted items curbside the night before for pickup.
  - Mayor Link announced that there is a Habitat for Humanity “fill the truck” event the same day. Donations to Habitat for Humanity can be brought to the Little Sykes parking lot, or arrangements can be made to have Habitat for Humanity pick up larger items.
- We have volunteer opportunities available on the Historic District Commission and Police Auxiliary. Email [town@sykesville.net](mailto:town@sykesville.net) for more information about volunteering with the Town.
- Election Day is May 2
- Staff Updates
  - Mr. Cosentini thanked Parks and Recreation volunteers for their hard work during the Easter Egg Hunt. It was well attended.
  - Mr. Cosentini also announced that the work on Main Street has moved in front of the Town House. They are digging up a water line to replace it. Current estimations have completion in June. The work on Springfield Avenue continues with a new rock crusher machine to help dig the lines. The State has bid out the storm water work, which is scheduled to start in July.
  - Treasurer's Report

Craig Weaver, Town Treasurer, presented the March 2023 Treasurer's Report. He explained that the revenues are still ahead of budget.

- Public Safety Report

Chief Spaulding presented the Public Safety Report for the period of March 6 through April 2. There was a total of 929 reports including 22 assist other agencies, 22 community policing events, 35 foot patrols, 21 incident reports, 454 patrol checks, and 55 traffic enforcement initiatives.

There was one catalytic converter theft inside Town limits. Nighttime patrols have increased, and residents are encouraged to stay vigilant and park their car in their garage if possible.

Council Member Guroff asked if the continuing requests for a female officer to do a search have become an issue. Chief Spaulding does not see it as an issue yet.

Chief Spaulding highlighted incident #00045, in which Officer Jacobs initiated a traffic stop for speeding and revealed a large amount of drugs and stolen goods. There was also another incident where Officer Pichardo initiated a stop for failure to dim high beams and discovered drugs and warrants.

Council Members thanked the Police for their increasing community policing events.

- Council/Committee Reports

- Council Member Schofield announced that there was a Planning Commission meeting on April 3, and two topics were discussed: the previous Dunnerite building concept plan, and the preliminary plan for the Enclave at Parkside which will include 47 townhomes.
- Council Member Dyer announced that there is a meeting of the Carroll Cable Regulatory Commission this week, and he continues to work on creating a technology training seminar.
- Council Member Guroff announced that the Parks and Recreation Commission is taking sponsors for their summer cinema series, and they are working on the Music in the Park events and their first skateboard event.

Council Member Guroff also asked about possible reimbursement for the Leadership, MD training that she is going through. The other Council Members asked Council Member Guroff to return with syllabi and class information that shows exactly how the Town will benefit from the training.

- Council Member Keenan announced that Baldwin's Dream is a new store that opened on Main Street. Their grand opening is Saturday.

There is also a hotdog specialty store opening up at 7556 Main Street. Art and Wine Festival is May 6.

- Mayor Link announced that the Gate House is conducting a Linear Trail history walk on April 15. The Town was awarded a 2022 Green award in recognition for hard work in planting and caring for trees. Springfield Hospital Center is having a tree planting on April 21.

**ADJOURN: There being no further business to come before the Council, Council Member Keenan motioned and Council President Carter seconded to adjourn meeting at 8:27 P.M.**

**The motion carried unanimously.**

**Respectfully submitted  
Town Clerk Kerry Kavaloski**