



## *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 MAY 8, 2023 REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING** **NO. 23-08**

The Council meeting of the Town of Sykesville was held on Monday, May 8, 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 Alan Grasley, Elizabeth Guroff, Mark Dyer, Leo Keenan, and Jeremiah Schofield.

**STAFF:** Joseph Cosentini, Town Manager  
Police Chief Michael Spaulding  
Kerry Kavaloski, Town Clerk  
Craig Weaver, Town Treasurer  
Elissa Levan, Town Attorney

#### **PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

There were no public comments.

#### **CONSENT AGENDA:**

##### **I. Minutes from April 24, 2023**

**MOTION:** Council Member Grasley motioned to approve the item on the Consent Agenda. Council Member Dyer seconded the motion.

The motion carried unanimously with Council Member Schofield abstaining due to not being present at the April 24 meeting.

#### **NEW BUSINESS:**

##### **II. Public Hearing and Consider/Discuss the FY2024 Tax Rate – Proposed Rate is Higher than the Constant Yield Rate**

**MOTION:** Council Member Grasley motioned to open the Public Hearing for the FY2024 Tax Rate at 7:04 P.M. Council Member Schofield seconded the motion.

The motion carried unanimously.

There were no public comments. Joe Cosentini, Town Manager, announced that there was one phone call from a resident with some

questions regarding the tax rate and budget; however, there were no comments made via phone or email.

**MOTION:** Council Member Grasley motioned to close the Public Hearing for the FY2024 Tax Rate at 7:05 P.M. Council Member Schofield seconded the motion.

**III. Public Hearing and Consider/Discuss/Act on Ordinance NO. 2023-02: AN ORDINANCE TO ADOPT AND APPROVE THE ANNUAL BUDGET AND SET TAX RATES FOR THE TOWN OF SYKESVILLE, MD FOR THE FISCAL YEAR 2023-2024**

Council President Carter announced that the tax rate was not increased, and it remains at \$0.33 per \$100 of assessed value. This has been the rate for the past several years.

Council Member Schofield asked to have a discussion regarding the tax rate in September or October to allow for a robust discussion without the pressure of having to pass a budget.

**MOTION:** Council Member Grasley motioned to open the Public Hearing on Ordinance NO. 2023-02: AN ORDINANCE TO ADOPT AND APPROVE THE ANNUAL BUDGET AND SET TAX RATES FOR THE TOWN OF SYKESVILLE, MD FOR THE FISCAL YEAR 2023-2024 at 7:08. Council Member Dyer seconded the motion.

The motion carried unanimously.

There were no public comments. No comments were received via email.

**MOTION:** Council Member Grasley motioned to close the Public Hearing on Ordinance NO. 2023-02: AN ORDINANCE TO ADOPT AND APPROVE THE ANNUAL BUDGET AND SET TAX RATES FOR THE TOWN OF SYKESVILLE, MD FOR THE FISCAL YEAR 2023-2024 at 7:09. Council Member Dyer seconded the motion.

The motion carried unanimously.

Council Member Schofield thanked the current and previous Councils for the ability to go through the budget process. He noted the ability to donate a decent portion of money to the Sykesville Freedom District Volunteer Fire Department has grown over the years.

Council Member Grasley announced that the budget is available on the website, and after the adoption, it will be added to the Financial Documents section of the website.

**MOTION:** Council Member Grasley motioned to adopt Ordinance NO. 2023-02: AN ORDINANCE TO ADOPT AND APPROVE THE ANNUAL BUDGET AND SET TAX RATES FOR THE TOWN OF SYKESVILLE, MD FOR THE FISCAL YEAR 2023-2024 at 7:08. Council President Carter seconded the motion.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS/REPORTS

- The next meeting is Monday, May 15, 2023 for swearing in the newly elected Council Members. There will be a meeting on Monday, May 22, 2023, to discuss business.
- 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.
- Staff Updates
  - Announcement of Election Results  
Mr. Cosentini announced the election results. Anna Carter received 86 votes, Mark Dyer received 78 votes, and Jeremiah Schofield received 79 votes. There were four write-in candidates who each received one vote, Jane Mergler, Mickey Mouse, Minnie Mouse, and Donald Duck. Mr. Cosentini also noted that one person voted “no choice”.

Mayor Link noted the low voter turnout of 91 voters total. She emphasized the importance of participating in the local government election process.

Council Member Schofield thanked the Carroll Media Center and the Carroll County Times for informing Carroll County residents of all the various elections throughout the County. He also emphasized the importance of participating and being involved and engaged.

- Mr. Cosentini announced that Springfield Avenue sewer work will hopefully be finished by the end of the month, and then they will begin work on the water lines. The stormwater work will be pushed back to the end of summer. The completion date for the Main Street work will likely be pushed back to later in the summer as well. The contaminated soil concerns are contained to the direct area near where a gas station was once located. The Main Street work will not connect into a system for the Cannery Building in South Branch Park.
- Public Safety Report  
Chief Spaulding presented the Public Safety Report for the period of April 15 through May 1. There was a total of 521 reports including 13 assist other agencies, 12 community policing events, 18 foot patrols, 13 incident reports, 269 patrol checks, and 31 traffic enforcement initiatives. Chief Spaulding explained that Cpl. Schlaerth was doing community policing at several Main Street merchants when multiple reported thefts that occurred weeks prior. Cpl. Schlaerth took full reports from the multiple merchants. He explained that these incidents, or even attempted thefts, are easier to solve if they are reported right away. Incident 23-SPD-00090 was a welfare check that turned into a death from natural causes.

Chief Spaulding announced that there were no major incidents during the Art and Wine Festival. There were some minor parking tickets issued.

Chief Spaulding announced that Lt. Kilgore and Sgt. Kirkner will be presented awards during the Carroll County Chamber of Commerce Public Safety Awards. Sgt. Kirkner will be graduating from his Northwestern School of Police Command on May 19, and Lt. Kilgore recently participated in a First Line Administrative course.

Council Member Dyer thanked the police for all of the continued community policing efforts.

- Council/Committee Reports
  - Council Member Keenan announced that the Art and Wine Festival went well. He thanked the volunteers, Police Department, and the Public Works Department for working all day. Mayor Link thanked Council Member Keenan and Council President Carter for volunteering the entire event.

Council Member Keenan will not be present at the May 15 or the May 22 meetings.

- Council Member Guroff announced that the Sykesville Parks and Recreation Commission has the Movies in the Park and the Music in the Park planned for this summer. They will both be in Millard Cooper Park.

Council Member Guroff explained her recent Leadership Maryland course experiences.

- Council President Carter announced the Historic District Commission met April 26 to review three applications, one residential and two commercial.
- Council Member Schofield announced that BGE released a report on 2022, which was the fourth best year in terms of electrical outages. He recommended residents go online and sign up for BGE alerts. Another helpful resource is FEMA, which has lists that can be used to create prep kits for any sort of natural disaster or electricity disruption.

**MOTION: Council Member Keenan motioned and Council Member Dyer seconded to take a five minute recess at 7:41 P.M.**

**The motion carried unanimously.**

**MOTION: Council Member Grasley motioned and Council Member Schofield seconded to go back into open session at 7:48 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 Grasley motioned and Council Member Schofield seconded to go into closed session at 7:49 P.M.**

**The motion carried unanimously.**

**Those in attendance were: Mayor Link, Council President Carter, Council Members Dyer, Grasley, Guroff, Keenan, and Schofield, Town Manager**

**Joseph Cosentini, Town Clerk Kerry Kavaloski, and Town Attorney Elissa Levan.**

**Items discussed were:**

- **Consult with Legal Counsel – Warfield Contract – no action**

**MOTION:** Council Grasley motioned and Council Member Schofield seconded to go back into open session at 8:52 P.M.

**The motion carried unanimously.**

**ADJOURN:** There being no further business to come before the Council, Council Member Grasley motioned and Council Member Schofield seconded to adjourn meeting at 8:53 P.M.

**The motion carried unanimously.**

**Respectfully submitted  
Town Clerk Kerry Kavaloski**