

DRAFT

OFFICIAL MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 11, 2017 REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
NO. 17-1617

The Council meeting of the Town of Sykesville was held on Monday, September 11, 2017. Council President Betz called the meeting to order at 7:00 P.M. in the Council Meeting Room at the Town House. Council President Betz led the Pledge of Allegiance and a moment of silence.

PRESENT: Council President Betz and Council Members Anna Carter, Alan Grasley, Leo Keenan, Chris True, and Stacy Link.

ABSENT: Mayor Ian Shaw

STAFF: David Deutsch, Interim Town Manager
Police Corporal Carl Bird
Evelyn Sweet, Town Treasurer
Kerry Chaney, Town Clerk
Julie Della-Maria, Main Street Coordinator

PUBLIC CONCERNS: Members of the public were present to discuss a safety concern on Springfield Avenue; see number 5.

MINUTES: July 24, 2017
August 14, 2017
August 17, 2017

MOTION: Council Member True motioned and Council Member Link seconded to approve the July 24, 2017 minutes with the revisions provided.

The motion carried unanimously.

MOTION: Council Member True motioned and Council Member Grasley seconded to approve the August 14, 2017 minutes with the revisions provided.

The motion carried unanimously.

MOTION: Council Member True motioned and Council Member Link seconded to approve the minutes for August 17, 2017 with the revisions provided.

TREASURER'S REPORT: July 2017

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Evelyn Sweet, Town Treasurer, explained that no real estate taxes were collected in July, so the expenses were greater than the revenues. Real estate taxes began coming in in August.

MOTION: Council Member Keenan motioned and Council Member Link seconded to approve the July 2017 Treasurer's Report.

The motion carried unanimously.

PUBLIC SAFETY

REPORT: Corporal Bird presented the Public Safety Report for the period of August 10, 2017 through September 6, 2017. There were a total of 887 reports including 108 calls for service, 16 community policing events, 504 patrol checks, and 78 traffic enforcement initiatives. Corporal Bird explained that the sobriety checkpoints are conducted in collaboration with either the State Police or the local Sheriffs. There is not a point in Town that meets the qualifications for a sobriety checkpoint. He also explained that the amount of people driving with suspended licenses is typical for a month.

Kerry Chaney, Town Clerk, reported that the accident in 6413 was minor tire damage and was not reported to the insurance.

COUNCIL COMMITTEE

REPORTS:

- See written reports.
- **Parks and Recreation (SPARC)** – Council Member Carter presented, in addition to her written report, that artists from Liberty High School will put together sketches and ideas to submit for the snack shack mural.

She also asked for the Council's comments on showing the rated-R movie, Blair Witch Project, in October. SPARC is trying to draw in a different crowd with this movie; they hope to target teenagers and young adults to raise attendance at the movies. Unaccompanied minors can will be asked to leave the park during the movie. Also, the screen cannot be seen from the road and the sound will not carry that far. It will be advertised as a rated-R movie.

Council Member Carter also asked if there were any objections to using the Town House as a meeting point for the Ghost Tours. There were no objections.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- Farmers' Market and Little Sykes, every Sunday 9:00 A.M to 1:00 P.M.
- Harvest Festival on October 8 from 9:00 A.M to 4:00 P.M.
- Civilian Response to Active Shooter Events training on October 5 from 6:30 P.M. to 8:30 P.M. All are welcome. Please RSVP to Kerry Chaney, Town Clerk, prior to the event.

OPEN SESSION:

Consent Agenda:

1. Authorization for the use of Town property for a cigar lounge in Centennial Fountain Park during the Craft Beer Festival

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- 2. Authorization for the use of Town property for a hot dog social to take place on the Town House porch during the Harvest Festival**
- 3. Approval of the use of Town property for the Syklocross event including a beer garden – Mike Neary - V.P. Western Howard County Cycling**

MOTION: Council Member True motioned and Council Member Grasley seconded to approve items 1 and 3 on the Consent Agenda.

The motion carried unanimously.

2. Authorization for the use of Town property for a hot dog social to take place on the Town House porch during the Harvest Festival

This was removed from the Consent Agenda to confirm there would be Council Members at the event. After discussion, it was determined that there would be a Council Member present during all hours of the Festival. Council Member Keenan offered to have his business donate the hot dogs and buns.

MOTION: Council President Betz motioned and Council Member Carter seconded to authorize the use of Town property for a hot dog social to take place on the Town House porch during the Harvest Festival on October 8, 2017.

The motion carried unanimously.

Business:

4. Discussion of the time and date for the bike rack inauguration

There was some confusion as to what was requested for this topic. Julie Della-Maria wanted to inform the Mayor and Council about the inauguration of the bike rack and that they were all invited; she did not want them to pick a date for it.

5. Safety Concern – Springfield Avenue

Residents were present to discuss a safety concern on Springfield Avenue at Jeroby Road and Central Avenue. They are concerned about the speeding along this road, motorists not yielding to pedestrians in the crosswalk, and the lack of sidewalks along either side of the road. This area is right before Sykesville Middle School and is used by many school students each day.

The Council explained that Springfield Avenue is a State Highway road, and as such, the Town cannot make changes such as speed bumps or stop signs on it. The Streetscape redesign does continue from Main Street up Springfield Avenue, but there is currently not funding for it. During this time, when there is not a permanent Town Manager, the Town Council is not taking on new projects. They will use what is currently at their disposal, such as the radar speed camera and police patrols, to handle this issue until a permanent Manager is found, and will do additional research as time allows.

MOTION: Council President Betz motioned and Council Member Grasley seconded to take a five minute recess at 7:45 P.M.

The motion carried unanimously.

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MOTION: Council Member True motioned and Council Member Grasley seconded to go back into open session at 7:55 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.

MOTION: Council President Betz motioned and Council Member Keenan seconded to go into closed session at 7:56 P.M.

The motion carried unanimously.

Those in attendance were: Council President Betz, Council Members Carter, Grasley, Keenan, Link, and True.

Mayor Shaw was absent.

Items discussed were:

- Personnel – Employment Information – Confidential Personal Information

MOTION: Council Grasley motioned and Council Member True seconded to go back into open session at 8:00 P.M.

The motion carried unanimously.

The Council briefly discussed the 12 day policy for requesting items to be added to the agenda.

ADJOURN: There being no further business to come before the Council, Council Member Link motioned and Council President Betz seconded to adjourn meeting at 8:03 P.M.

The motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted
Town Clerk Kerry Chaney