

OFFICIAL MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 26, 2018 REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
NO. 18-04

The Council meeting of the Town of Sykesville was held on Monday, February 26, 2018. 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 Julia Betz, and Council Members Anna Carter, Alan Grasley, Leo Keenan, and Chris True.

ABSENT: Council Member Stacy Link

STAFF: Aretha Adams, Town Manager
Police Chief, Michael Spaulding
Evelyn Sweet, Town Treasurer
Kerry Chaney, Town Clerk
Derek Shreves, Public Works Director

PUBLIC CONCERNS: None

PUBLIC SAFETY

REPORT: Chief Spaulding presented the Public Safety Report for the period of February 9 - 22, 2018. There was a total of 329 reports including one community policing event, 20 foot patrols, 13 incident reports, 186 patrol checks, and 21 traffic enforcement initiatives.

Chief Spaulding explained that the five incidents of reported patient on patient assaults at Transitions Healthcare were different people, not the same patient.

Chief Spaulding also addressed the incident regarding a possible threat to Sykesville Middle School. There were reports that a former student had made threatening remarks on social media. Officers Kirkner and Almenas investigated and determined that it was a non-credible rumor. The former student showed no indications of possessing weapons or an intent to cause harm at the school. Chief Spaulding explained that in situations such as these, the first thing is to investigate the credibility of the claims, and, if it is determined to be a credible threat, he would reach out to the Carroll County Sheriff's Office, the Maryland State Police, and the Federal Bureau of Investigation. Chief Spaulding is also confident that if one of the other organizations received a tip regarding the Town, they would reach out to him and involve the Sykesville Police Department in their investigation as well.

Chief Spaulding updated the Council on the issue with the speed trailer. A new part was sent by the manufacturer, and during installation, a bent connection pin was discovered. The Police Department will be conducting test runs soon to determine if the issue is resolved.

COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

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Cont.

COUNCIL COMMITTEE

REPORTS:

- Council Member Grasley announced that he will send out the meeting minutes from the last merchants meeting he attended. He explained that Aretha Adams, Town Manager, was in attendance, and the merchants were very happy to meet her.
- Council Member True thanked Ms. Adams for her weekly report and the new layout of the Mayor and Town Council meeting agenda and staff report.

OPEN SESSION:

Consent Agenda:

(2018-01) Town Council Minutes from February 12, 2018

(2018-02) Reappointment of Richard Barry to the Board of Zoning Appeals

MOTION: Council Member True motioned for approval of the Consent Agenda and Council Member Keenan seconded the motion.

The motion carried unanimously.

Business:

(2018-03) Swearing in ceremony for Officer Eric Almenas

Officer Eric Almenas was sworn in by Mayor Shaw.

(2018-04) Discussion of the FY19 Capital Improvements Program

Evelyn Sweet, Town Treasurer, presented the FY 2019 proposed Capital Improvement Projects (CIP) list, separated between Council-identified priorities and unranked project requests. Ms. Sweet explained that there is approximately \$220,000 in the Gate House Reserve Fund that can be used toward the cost of museum related projects rather than using CIP funding.

MOTION: Council Member Keenan motioned for approval to use \$26,000 from the Gate House Reserve Fund toward the cost of renovations and basement repair at the Gate House Museum. Council Member True seconded the motion.

The motion carried unanimously.

The Town House landscaping was discussed. The Council would like the bushes removed. Mayor Shaw presented a picture from the Carroll County Times showing pictures of the Town House in the 1970s and today. Council agreed that the property looked much better before the bushes were planted. Derek Shreves, Public Works Director, explained that the maintenance workers can remove the excessive and overgrown bushes, however the department does not have the capacity or experience to take on a total landscaping overhaul. Ms. Adams will talk to landscapers. The Mayor and Town Council discussed the proposed cost of the project and agreed that \$10,000 should be allocated instead of the originally proposed \$5,000.

The Girls Shelter was discussed. The project will require a study to determine if it can be renovated and for what purposes it can be used. It was agreed to use \$10,000 for the study.

Mr. Shreves will find out who owns the oil recycling shed and whether the Maintenance Workers can pressure wash and seal the building. This item was removed from the CIP.

A skid steer pickup attachment was chosen by majority vote. However, this item is useless without a heavy duty trailer used to transport the skid steer, which was not chosen by majority vote. It was agreed that both items will be funded.

Staff will inspect the equipment along the Linear Trail and determine which items can be repaired and which items need to be removed.

The Mayor and Council discussed a sidewalk maintenance policy. There will need to be a study to determine how many sidewalks the Town owns and a schedule for maintenance to be done by the Town. This will be looked into by staff.

MOTION: Council Member True motioned for approval of all the projects on the proposed CIP (with the removal of the Gate House items from the previous motion, and the Oil Shed) with the increase of landscaping to \$10,000, a decrease for the girls shelter to \$10,000 for a study, and the addition of the heavy duty trailer. Council Member Keenan seconded the motion.

The motion carried unanimously.

ADJOURN: There being no further business to come before the Council, Council Member Grasley motioned to adjourn the meeting at 8:17 P.M. Council Member True seconded the motion.

The motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted
Town Clerk Kerry Chaney