

OFFICIAL MINUTES OF APRIL 23, 2018 REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
NO. 18-08

The Council meeting of the Town of Sykesville was held on Monday, April 23, 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, Chris True, and Stacy Link.

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- Spring Cleanup Day is April 28. Place your unwanted bulk pickup items at the curb the night before. Appliances will be picked up on April 30.
- Pots of Posies Open House at the Historic Colored Schoolhouse on April 29 from 2 P.M. to 4 P.M.
- Art and Wine Festival on May 6 from 12 P.M. to 5 P.M.

PUBLIC

CONCERNS: None

PUBLIC SAFETY

REPORT: Chief Spaulding presented the Public Safety Report for the period of April 4 through April 15. There was a total of 331 reports including four assists of other agencies, three community policing events, eight incident reports, 175 patrol checks, and 40 traffic enforcement initiatives. Chief Spaulding explained that a distracted driver stop led to discovery of marijuana. The driver claimed he had a medical card allowing him to have the marijuana, but further questioning allowed the officer to determine the marijuana was illegally purchased. Driving impaired is still illegal, even with a medical marijuana card. The distracted driving charge carries a bigger fine than the civil citation for marijuana.

Chief Spaulding announced that Saturday, April 28 is National Drug Takeback Day. The Sykesville Police Department has a prescription drug drop off bin that is accessible during all business hours. The Department will be open extra hours on Saturday, April 28, for Takeback Day.

COUNCIL COMMITTEE

REPORTS:

- Written reports were provided

OPEN SESSION:

COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

April 23, 2018

Cont.

Consent Agenda:

I. (2018-20) Town Council Minutes from April 9, 2018

MOTION: Council Member True motioned to approve the item on the Consent Agenda. Council Member Grasley seconded.

The motion carried unanimously.

II. (2018-21) Discussion of Warfield Wetlands Mitigation Plan (Sean Davis, MRA)

Sean Davis, Morris Richie Associates, presented the Warfield Wetlands Mitigation Plan to the Mayor and Town Council. They are proposing a weir system, two foot bridges, and a softer edge to the current storm water management pond. There would not be a change to the existing path other than the addition of the two bridges. The bridges would not have railings and will be wide enough for the Public Works' all-terrain vehicles to safely cross them.

The Maryland Department of the Environment may require a restrictive covenant to be signed by the Town stating the mitigation area will not be developed after the five-year maintenance period is completed. The applicant is responsible for the maintenance during the first five years, after that the area should be self-sustaining.

There were questions about if the water would be continuously flowing or if it would be a breeding area for mosquitos. Mr. Davis explained that the water will be flowing slowly, but it should cause a mosquito issue. There is also no concerns about a buildup of sediment.

MOTION: Council Member Keenan motioned to approve the Warfield Wetlands Mitigation Plan pending the minor changes from the Maryland Department of the Environment. Council Member Link seconded.

The motion carried unanimously.

III. (2018-22) Discussion of the Warfield Marketing Plan Update (Steve McCleaf, Langley Realty Associates)

Steve McCleaf, Langley Realty Associates and The Warfield Collaborative (TWC), presented an update of the Warfield Marketing Plan. He explained that they are hopeful to close on the sale of the property by mid-June. Parcels E/F are under contract with Elm Street Developers for the townhome portion, and Dennis Boyle, Lee and Associates, has been brought in for the commercial buildings.

Mr. McCleaf explained that once the sale has closed, they will begin utilizing social media and marketing the site more. Their plan is to start at Building F with lead and asbestos abatement. They would like to get multiple small users in the building before moving on to the next buildings.

Mr. McCleaf asked if the Town could try to secure the County's help for the remaining parcels. Aretha Adams, Town Manager, explained that the County is donating their help for Parcels E/F and would like to finish that before discussing extending their help to the remaining parcels.

COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

April 23, 2018

Cont.

Mayor Shaw asked Mr. McCleaf if zoning for medical marijuana had been discussed. Mr. McCleaf explained that TWC has some concerns regarding medical marijuana zoning to the Warfield campus. It was explained that the zoning for it does not have to be promoted and the landlords can decide to not rent to medical marijuana related business if they choose to do so.

Mr. McCleaf also explained that they were talking with a continuing care facility, but the zoning ordinance may have to be tweaked slightly. There has also been some interest from private schools.

Julie Della-Maria, Executive Director of the Downtown Sykesville Connection (DSC), suggested the TWC work with the DSC to limit the number of competing businesses. Mr. McCleaf explained that they are working to connect Main Street Sykesville with the Warfield campus. They are planning on changing the main entrance sign to read "Warfield Complex at Historic Sykesville" to connect the two.

Business:

II. (2018-23) Discussion/Action on the DSC Mural Project

Julie Della-Maria, Executive Director of the Downtown Sykesville Connection (DSC), presented the DSC mural project and the proposed Town owned locations. She explained that Jack White, Gate House Museum Curator, wrote a children's book about the Sykesville Snallygaster. The DSC has published the story and are planning on having multiple murals around Town as an attention grabber and scavenger hunt based on the book. The DSC would like to put a mural on the Post Office and Visitor's Center at 731 Oklahoma Avenue and on the floor of the gazebo at 7547 Main Street. At the Post Office and Visitor's Center, the mural will be painted onto a wood panel and then affixed to the building; at the gazebo, the mural will be painted directly onto the floor.

Ms. Della-Maria explained that the murals will be between one square foot and four square feet, although they will not necessarily be square based on the paintings. The DSC has also utilized a historical paint pallet from Sherwin Williams. After a year, the DSC will be speaking with the property owners to discuss keeping or removing the murals.

There was a question about whether the Town's contract with USPS would allow a mural on the Post Office and Visitor's Center. Staff will find out prior to installation of a mural.

MOTION: Council Member True motioned to authorize the Mayor to sign the Building Facility User Agreement for the DSC mural pending review of the United States Postal Service contract at the Post Office and Visitor's Center. Council Member Keenan seconded.

The motion carried unanimously.

III. (2018-24) Discussion of the 714 Sandosky Road Parking Study

Mark Onheiser, Special Projects Coordinator, presented the 714 Sandosky Road parking study. He explained that there can be a total of 84 spots including the necessary handicapped spots. To achieve these, retaining walls would need to be

COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

April 23, 2018

Cont.

built, the drive to the rear of the building would be made one-way only, and the entrance to the parking lot would be changed so it is only accessible via Townhouse Drive. This study did not include lights and islands.

Mr. Onheiser explained that there was 72 cars parked in the lot, and there should be room for 76 cars if the lot was striped with no upgrades. The Mayor and Council asked Mr. Onheiser to proceed with striping the lot without the upgrades.

Mayor Shaw explained that the Town will not be selling the building at the moment. They have decided to look into the possibility of using it for a municipal building. There are possibly grant opportunities for turning the building into a municipal use, but they have not been explored yet.

IV. (2018-25) Discussion of the FY 2019 Budget

Evelyn Sweet, Town Treasurer, presented the FY 2019 budget overview to the Mayor and Town Council. She explained that the Law Enforcement Officers Pension System (LEOPS) fee will not be billed until December 2019. The property tax rate is proposed to remain the same, and Ms. Sweet showed the Mayor and Council the property tax rates from comparable towns in our area. She further explained that all employees will be getting a 2% Cost Of Living Adjustment (COLA) raise; if it is decided to enter into LEOPS, the police department will not receive the COLA raise.

Ms. Sweet announced that there will be a public hearing on the FY 2019 budget on May 14.

MANAGER AND COUNCIL COMMENTS:

Mayor Shaw thanked the Council for reading the "If I Were Mayor..." essays. He announced that Sykesville has a finalist from the Maryland Municipal League contest, so the Council can use the submitted essays to decide upon a "Junior Council President".

Mayor Shaw and Council Member Carter were thanked for their work during the Earth Day Clean Up. Two and a half dumpsters were filled with trash that was collected.

Council Member True announced that he is working on a proposal to rename Warfield Park, and he will bring that before the Mayor and Council at a future meeting.

Council Member Keenan asked for an update on the Fireworks event. Mayor Shaw explained that all that was needed was a commitment from Carroll County Sheriff's Office for security for the day. An issue with the site has been worked out sufficiently.

ADJOURN: There being no further business to come before the Council, Council Member True motioned and Council President Betz seconded to adjourn meeting at 9:15 P.M.

The motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted

COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
April 23, 2018
Cont.
Town Clerk Kerry Chaney