

OFFICIAL MINUTES OF NOVEMBER 13, 2017 REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
NO. 17-21

The Council meeting of the Town of Sykesville was held on Monday, November 13, 2017. 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: David Deutsch, Interim Town Manager
Police Chief Michael Spaulding
Evelyn Sweet, Town Treasurer
Kerry Chaney, Town Clerk
Derek Shreves, Public Works Director
Dennis Hoover, Town Attorney

PUBLIC CONCERNS: None

MINUTES: October 23, 2017

MOTION: Council President Betz motioned and Council Member Grasley seconded to approve the minutes with the revisions provided.

The motion carried unanimously.

TREASURER'S REPORT: September 2017

MOTION: Council President Betz motioned and Council Member Grasley seconded to approve the September 2017 Treasurer's Report.

The motion carried unanimously.

PUBLIC SAFETY

REPORT: Chief Spaulding presented the Public Safety Report for the period of October 19, 2017 through November 8, 2017. There was a total of 496 reports including 84 calls for service, 15 community policing, and 343 patrol checks. He explained that the Warfield broken window was not an arrest, just an officer noticing and documenting a broken window.

Chief Spaulding announced that he and Officer Schlaerth presented about opioid awareness at Sykesville Middle School. Sergeant Kilgore and Officer Kirkner were both in Crisis Intervention Training; Sergeant Kilgore will be attending Firearms

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Instructor Certification classes. Officer Kirkner was a finalist for Police Officer of the Year for the Business Advocates for Veterans.

Chief Spaulding also announced that there have been no volunteers for the crossing guard position yet, but interested applicants can find the application on the Police Department website.

Chief Spaulding and Mayor Shaw gave their thanks to the Lion's Club for sponsoring the Junior CSI camp.

COUNCIL COMMITTEE

REPORTS:

Written reports were provided.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- Town Offices are closed on Thursday and Friday, November 23 and 24, for Thanksgiving
- Recycling Pickup has been changed from Thursday, November 23 to Monday, November 27. Recycling will not be picked up on Thursday, November 30
- The next Mayor and Town Council meeting will be on Tuesday, November 28 due to the Thanksgiving holiday.

OPEN SESSION:

Consent Agenda:

1. Approval of the Meeting Schedule and Town Holiday Schedule for 2018

MOTION: Council Member True motioned and Council Member Carter seconded to approve the item on the consent agenda.

The motion carried unanimously.

Business:

2. Rager, Lehman, and Houck FY17 Town Audit Presentation

Wanda Lynn, Partner from Rager, Lehman, and Houck, presented the Town Audit for the fiscal year (FY) ending June 30, 2017. There was no change in the audit opinions from FY 2016.

3. Paranormal Research in the Town House

Council Member Carter presented the proposal to do a paranormal research night in the Town House. They want to set up, have a group of 15-20 people attend, and will be in the house until 2 A.M. Council Member True asked about ADA accessibility for the Town House; only the first floor is truly ADA accessible. The group wants access to the basement and attic as well. Dennis Hoover, Town Attorney, suggested showing those who cannot access the attic and basement a video or presentation after the research occurs.

There were also concerns about the liability of allowing the researchers into the attic or basement. It was suggested to contact LGIT, the Town's insurance provider, prior to the investigation occurring for their recommendations. Mr. Hoover suggested having the group sign a waiver of liability, provide a certificate of insurance naming the Town as an additional

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insured, and locking up or otherwise roping off the areas where the researchers should not have access.

MOTION: Council Member Grasley motioned and Council Member Carter seconded to allow the paranormal research group to conduct an investigation in the Town House from 6 P.M. to 2 A.M.

The motion failed with Council Members Carter and Keenan voting for the motion and Mayor Shaw, Council President Betz, and Council Members Grasley and True voting against the motion.

4. Presentation by Downtown Sykesville Connection Board of the proposed events for 2018 for discussion and review by the MTC

Rachael Beck presented the proposed dates for the events held by the Downtown Sykesville Connection in 2018. She explained that the Farmers' Market will begin a week later in 2018 to try and alleviate the parking issues that occurred in 2017. An advisory committee has been created to discuss the location and time of the Farmers' Market. Council Member Grasley accepted a position on the committee offered to a Mayor and Town Council Member. It was also suggested to reach out to the local churches for the advisory committee.

Mayor Shaw announced that he has been working with the Lion's Club to have a fireworks show for the Fourth of July. They have gotten approval from Carroll County to use Freedom Park for the show.

The ghost tours were a hit in 2017. It was asked that there be better communication about the tours in 2018.

MOTION: Council Member Keenan motioned and Council Member True seconded to approve the proposed Downtown Sykesville Connection 2018 schedule.

The motion carried unanimously.

5. Town Decorating Contest Judging Date

It was decided to hold the decorating contest on December 12 starting at 6:30 P.M.

MOTION: Council Member Grasley motioned and Council Member Carter seconded to take a five minute recess at 8:03 P.M.

The motion carried unanimously.

MOTION: Council Member Grasley motioned and Council President Betz seconded to go back into open session at 8:10 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,

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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; and (7) to consult with counsel to obtain legal advice on a legal matter.

MOTION: Council Member Grasley motioned and Council Member True seconded to go into closed session at 8:11 P.M.

The motion carried unanimously.

Those in attendance were: Mayor Shaw, Council President Betz, Council Members Carter, Grasley, Keenan, and True, Town Manager David Deutsch, and Town Attorney Dennis Hoover.

Council Member Stacy Link was absent.

Items discussed were:

- **Personnel – Police Staff Update – Confidential Personal Information**
- **Consult with Legal Counsel – 714 Sandosky Road Disposition**
- **Consult with Legal Counsel – Warfield Negotiations**

MOTION: Council President Betz motioned and Council Member Grasley seconded to go back into open session at 9:25 P.M.

The motion carried unanimously.

The Loan Modification Agreement for the modification of terms of the IDA Loan and the County Loans (as defined in the Loan Modification Agreement) is hereby approved. The Mayor is hereby authorized (1) to execute and deliver the Loan Modification Agreement to the County and the IDA in the form and under the terms presented to the Mayor and Town Council and (2) is authorized to make such other and further revisions and modifications to the Loan Modification Agreement as the Mayor may deem necessary and appropriate.

The motion carried unanimously.

ADJOURN: There being no further business to come before the Council, Council Member Grasley motioned and Council President Betz seconded to adjourn meeting at 9:30 P.M.

The motion carried unanimously.

**Respectfully submitted
Town Clerk Kerry Chaney**