



Town of Sykesville

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Town House

Ian Shaw, Mayor

Aretha Adams, Town Manager

Evelyn M. Sweet, Town Treasurer

Kerry G. Chaney, Town Clerk

OFFICIAL MINUTES OF NOVEMBER 27, 2018 REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING **NO. 18-22**

The Council meeting of the Town of Sykesville was held on Tuesday, November 27, 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
Dennis Hoover, Town Attorney

Mayor Shaw introduced Eliza Sproul, the Junior Mayor who was district winner in the "If I Were Mayor..." contest. She sat with the Council and ran the meeting with Mayor Shaw.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Doug Howard, County Commissioner, thanked the Council for their partnership during his eight years as a County Commissioner.

I. 2018-85 Audit Presentation from Rager, Lehman, and Houck

Wanda Lynn and Ashley Hershey, Rager, Lehman, and Houck, presented a summary of the 2018 audit results. There were no issues or difficulties encountered. The material weakness is Warfield related. There was an unmodified or clean opinion on the governmental activities and the fund financial statements of the Town. There is an adverse opinion on the discretely presented component use of the Town, the Warfield Development Corporation (WDC), because they have not been audited. The WDC will be audited as they close.

Ms. Lynn cautioned the Town about becoming the primary funder for the Downtown Sykesville Connection (DSC). Currently, the Town provides one third of their funding. Providing the primary funding for the DSC would be a factor that could have them become a component unit of the Town.

TREASURER'S

REPORT: Evelyn Sweet, Town Treasurer, presented the September 2018 Treasurer's Report. There were no questions.

MOTION: Council Member True motioned to approve the September 2018 Treasurer's Report. Council President Betz seconded the motion.

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The motion carried unanimously.

PUBLIC SAFETY

REPORT: Chief Spaulding presented the Public Safety Report for October 15 through November 18. There was a total of 888 reports including 25 assist other agencies, 21 community policing events, 32 incident reports, 444 patrol checks, and 87 traffic enforcement initiatives. He explained that the incident at Northrup Grumman is considered an assist other agency, but due to the nature of the incident, it was documented as an incident report.

Chief Spaulding also informed the Council of the white racially motivated extremist leaflets that were found in the downtown area. No one has been identified yet. They are working with Headmasters, which has cameras placed outside, to see if they can identify any suspects.

Chief Spaulding explained that there was an assault on one of the police officers during the Craft Beer Festival. The person had too many drinks, was given a chance to walk away, and she didn't take it. She will be charged. There were also challenges with the traffic situation during the Festival. Chief Spaulding will discuss with the event planners prior to the next festival on how to make the traffic and pedestrian control safer.

The patient on patient assaults are almost all committed by people with cognitive impairments. There is new leadership at what was formerly Transitions Healthcare and is now Birch Manor Healthcare. Chief Spaulding will try to make contact with the new administration.

Chief Spaulding also explained that there was an incident at Warfield. Sergeant Kilgore noticed about 10 individuals aged from 17 to 21 that entered the service building at Warfield. Five were charged with burglary, trespassing, and destruction of property. A security plan is currently in the works from the owners.

COUNCIL COMMITTEE

REPORTS:

No reports were provided.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- Next Mayor and Council Meeting – Monday, December 10, 2018
- Santa's Arrival on Main Street – December 8, 2018
- Merry Main Street – December 8, 2018

OPEN SESSION:

Consent Agenda:

- II. (2018-79) Town Council Minutes from October 22, 2018
- III. (2018-80) Town Council Minutes from October 24, 2018
- IV. (2018-81) Town Council Minutes from November 13, 2018
- V. (2018-82) Reappointment of Norman Fogg to the Historic District Commission
- VI. (2018-83) Approval of Town Council Meeting Schedule and Holiday Schedule

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MOTION: Council President Betz motioned to approve the items on the Consent Agenda with the removal of item (2018-80) Town Council Minutes from October 24, 2018. Council Member True seconded the motion.

The motion carried unanimously.

MOTION: Council President Betz motioned to approve the Town Council Minutes from October 24, 2018. Council Member True seconded the motion.

The motion carried unanimously with Council Member Keenan abstaining.

Business:

VII. (2018-84) Proclamation for Detective Earl Kratsch for his 10 years of service to the Sykesville Police Department Jr. CSI Academy

The Mayor and Town Council presented Detective Kratsch with a proclamation for his 10 years of service.

VIII. (2018-86) Public Hearing on Resolution NO. 2018-11 for Annexation of the Buttercup Property

Brooks Leahy was in attendance to answer any questions regarding the annexation. He explained that he believes it is inappropriate to ask the petitioners to return with a different annexation including the additional 1.97 acres. The property owners were not looking to annex the additional 1.97 acres.

There were no other public comments.

IX. (2018-87) Discussion of and Action on Resolution NO. 2018-11 for Annexation of the Buttercup Property

Council Member Link asked if the 1.97 acres of additional property was the piece of property that was being discussed for use for the Public Works Department location. Aretha Adams, Town Manager, explained that, to her knowledge, the land the Council discussed as using for Public Works was within the 9.7 acres that is part of the original annexation.

Council Member Grasley explained that the property is within Sykesville's growth area and there is a builder ready to begin. He believes it should go through.

Council President Betz explained that the Planning Commission felt very strongly about the 1.97 acres.

There was discussion regarding the advertising that was done for this public hearing. Council Member Link believes that with such little resident input, perhaps more advertising should be given in the future. Council President Betz disagreed and explained that there were numerous public hearings and meetings both with the Council and the Planning Commission regarding the annexation.

MOTION: Council Member Grasley motioned to approve Resolution NO. 2018-11 for Annexation of the Buttercup Property. Council Member True seconded the motion.

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The motion failed 2-5. Council Members Grasley and True were in favor. Mayor Shaw, Council President Betz, and Council Members Carter, Keenan, and Link were opposed.

It was determined that had the annexation included the additional 1.97 acres, it would have passed.

MOTION: Council Member True motioned to close the Public Hearing. Council Member Keenan seconded the motion.

The motion carried unanimously.

**COUNCIL AND
MANAGER**

COMMENTS:

- Council Member True thanked Public Works for the great job they did during the first snow of the season.
- Aretha Adams announced that the rails have been removed from Main Street and the area was paved.
- Council Member Link announced that the Gate House is looking for volunteers.

MOTION: Council Member Grasley motioned and Council President Betz seconded to take a five minute recess at 8:17 P.M.

The motion carried unanimously.

MOTION: Council Member True motioned and Council Member Keenan seconded to go back into open session at 8:31 P.M. and then go into closed session.

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; (2) To protect the privacy or reputation of individuals with respect to a matter that is not related to public business; (7) to consult with legal counsel to obtain legal advice on a legal matter; and (14) Before a contract is awarded or bids are opened, discuss a matter directly related to a negotiation strategy or the contents of a bid or proposal, if public discussion or disclosure would adversely impact the ability of the public body to participate in the competitive bidding or proposal process.

Those in attendance were: Mayor Shaw, Council President Betz, Council Members Carter, Grasley, Keenan, Link, and True, Town Manager Aretha Adams, and Mickey and Calvin Day for the first item discussed.

Items discussed were:

- **Consult with Legal Counsel** – Town Owned Property
- **Privacy** – B & O Railcar on Town Property
- **Privacy** – Warfield Marketing and Development Update

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- **Personnel** – confidential personal information
- **Negotiation Strategy** – Negotiation Strategy for Potential Sale of Town Property

MOTION: Council Member Grasley motioned and Council Member True seconded to go back into open session at 11:26 P.M.

The motion carried unanimously.

Council discussed the Holiday Decorating Contest. They decided to not just the contest this year.

ADJOURN: There being no further business to come before the Council, Council Member Grasley motioned and Council Member True seconded to adjourn meeting at 11:27 P.M.

The motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted
Town Clerk Kerry Chaney