

Dear

DRAFT

OFFICIAL MINUTES OF JANUARY 13, 2020 REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
NO. 20-01

The Council meeting of the Town of Sykesville was held on Monday, January 13, 2020. 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 Alan Grasley, and Council Members Anna Carter, Mark Dyer, Leo Keenan, Stacy Link, and Jeremiah Schofield.

STAFF: Joseph Cosentini, Town Manager
Corporal Carl Bird
Craig Weaver, Town Treasurer
Kerry Chaney, Town Clerk
Derek Shreves, Public Works Director
Mark Onheiser, Special Projects Coordinator
Dennis Hoover, Town Attorney

OPEN SESSION:

Consent Agenda:

1. (2020-01) Minutes from December 9, 2019

MOTION: Council Member Link motioned to approve the item on the consent agenda, Council member Schofield seconded the motion.

The motion carried unanimously with Council Member Keenan abstaining.

PUBLIC

COMMENTS: There were no public comments.

Commissioner Rothstein was present and gave a brief update from the County. He announced that the Commissioners will be having a State of the County address on Tuesday, January 14. The focus is on growth, partnerships, rezoning and redefining zoning terms. They are also working on hiring the first Fire/EMS Director for the County.

Business:

I. (2020-02) Consider/Discuss/Act on Resolution NO. 2020-01 proclaiming Volunteer Appreciation Day

Town Intern, Jared Cohen, presented Resolution No. 2020-01, proclaiming the third Saturday of the month of January, in perpetuity, as "Volunteer Appreciation Day" in the Town of Sykesville. Mr. Cohen explained that this resolution is an appropriate way to thank all of the Town's volunteers.

MOTION: Mayor Shaw motioned to approve Resolution No.2020-01, proclaiming the third Saturday of the month of January, in perpetuity, as "Volunteer Appreciation Day" in the Town of Sykesville. Council Member Dyer seconded the motion.

The motion carried unanimously.

II. (2020-03) Quarterly Update from the Downtown Sykesville Connection

Julie Della-Maria, Executive Director of the Downtown Sykesville Connection (DSC), presented the quarterly update. She explained all of the projects the groups will be focusing on during the next quarter and year. She thanked local Girl Scout Junior Troop 1020 for maintaining the flowers at the Parklet during the months it was up. Ms. Della-Maria and Elizabeth Currence, Farmers' Market Manager, also thanked Mason Harrison, Eddie Watson, Kiera St. Pierre, and Nathan Godfrey for their dedication to volunteering during the Farmers' Markets.

Ms. Della-Maria announced that the DSC and the Farmers' Markets are always looking for more volunteers.

Council Member Keenan thanked Ms. Della-Maria for all of her hard work and dedication to the HappyThon event.

III. (2020-04) Consider/Discuss/Act on Resolution NO. 2020-02 for alcohol at Downtown Sykesville Connection events

This is the standard resolution brought to the Council each year which will allow the Downtown Sykesville Connection to apply for liquor licenses for their events.

MOTION: Council President Grasley motioned to approve Resolution No.2020-02 for alcohol at Downtown Sykesville Connection events. Council Member Carter seconded the motion.

The motion carried unanimously.

IV. (2020-05) Introduction of Ordinance NO. 2020-01 for Public Utilities

Joe Cosentini, Town Manager, presented this item. He explained that the Town received a request to renew the 50-year franchise agreement with Baltimore Gas and Electric (BGE). The Town Code does not currently include clear requirements for franchise agreements or public utility permits. Town Staff determined this would be the best time to modify the Code and also to establish basic deployment criteria and aesthetic requirements for small cell towers.

There were questions about the height of the towers (up to 50 feet tall) and the cubic foot dimensions (up to 28 feet cubed). Mr. Cosentini explained that there is no set distance between the towers, but justification will need to be provided for their placement. Generally, the distance is 500 to 1,000 feet. There is the possibility of co-locating the towers on existing BGE poles.

MOTION: Council President Grasley motioned to introduce Ordinance NO. 2020-01 for Public Utilities. Council Member Schofield seconded the motion.

The motion carried unanimously.

V. (2020-06) Introduction of the BGE Franchise Agreement

Mr. Cosentini presented this item. He explained that the Town was contacted to renew the franchise agreement with BGE. The proposed agreement would renew it for an additional 50-year period. If BGE gets sold during that time, the agreement would transfer to the new company.

MOTION: Council President Grasley motioned to introduce Ordinance NO. 2020-02 for a 50-year franchise agreement with BGE. Council Member Carter seconded the motion.

The motion carried unanimously.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS
AND REPORTS**

- Next Mayor and Town Council Meeting is on Monday, January 27, 2020.
- We have volunteer opportunities available on the Historic District Commission, BZA, SPARC, Police Auxiliary, and Crossing Guard. Email town@sykesville.net for more information about volunteering with the Town.
- Council Member Keenan announced that Ernie Beck, namesake of E.W. Beck's, passed away over Thanksgiving.

TREASURER'S

REPORT: Craig Weaver, Town Treasurer, presented the Treasurer's Reports for the months of October and November.

MOTION: Council President Grasley motioned to approve the Treasurer's Reports for the months of October and November. Council Member Carter seconded the motion.

The motioned carried unanimously.

PUBLIC SAFETY

REPORT: Corporal Carl Bird presented the Public Safety Report for the period of December 2, 2019 through January 5, 2020. There was a total of 870 reports, including; 14 assist other agencies, seven community policing events, 31 foot patrols, 41 incident reports, 512 patrol checks, and 77 traffic enforcement initiatives. There were questions about the number of car thefts. Corporal Bird explained they are still investigating. All the vehicles were unlocked, none showed signs of forced entry.

The Council thanked Corporal Bird for all of his hard work and the hard work of all the other officers during the winter events.

Mayor Shaw asked if the Police Department was aware of the Sante Group. They are a mobile crisis service that will help with addiction resources and after overdoses. Corporal Bird assured Mayor Shaw that each of the officers carries their information and will pass it along after an overdose.

There were questions about the graffiti and the potential timeline for the vandalism. For the graffiti that happened on the CSX property, it would have occurred between 12 AM and 4 AM. There is the possibility of using trailcams in the tunnel, at South Branch Park, and the Joy property.

COUNCIL COMMITTEE

REPORTS:

- **Sykesville Parks and Recreation (SPARC)** – Council Member Link announced that the January SPARC meeting has been cancelled due to a lack of a quorum. The next meeting will be on Thursday, February 27.
- **Planning Commission** – Council Member Dyer announced that the Planning Commission did not meet in January.
- **Downtown Sykesville Connection (DSC)** – There is a Promotions Committee meeting on January 14 at 7 PM at Market Tavern. The DSC will have a retreat on February 8.
- **Merchants** – Council President Grasley announced the Merchants met on December 27. It was lightly attended due to the holidays. They discussed First Fridays, the Cocoa Crawl, and the Shiver Shuffle. The next meeting is January 31, and Joe Cosentini, Town Manager, will be in attendance.
- **Museums** – Mayor Shaw announced that there is no update from the Gate House Museum or the Historic Colored Schoolhouse.
- **Historic District Commission (HDC)** – Council Member Carter announced the HDC reviewed applications for work in progress on Main Street including roofing and a business sign. They also reviewed a change in siding for a house on Norwood Avenue. Their next meeting is January 28.

- **Raincliffe Home Owners' Association (HOA)** – Council Member Schofield announced that the HOA will have their annual meeting on January 15. Joe Cosentini, Town Manager, will be in attendance.
- o **MML Legislative Committee** – Council Member Schofield announced that there are meetings every Wednesday in Annapolis.

STREET LIGHTING

Joe Cosentini, Town Manager, announced that there has been no decision on at what levels the streetlights will be set. Town staff is still working through the process.

Council Member Link voiced concerns that the posts aren't fully shielded, so color and brightness will have a big impact. She requested that the Town find out how many lumens the existing streetlights are and if the lights can be closer to yellow than blue.

Council Member Carter asked if the light samples can be moved to a place where they are closer together such as at the entrances to the Linear Trail on Kalorama Road. Town staff will ask BGE for new samples and for their placement to be closer together than the current sample bulbs.

Council Member Link asked about the possibility of turning off the lights after a certain time or dimming them rather than having them on full for the whole night. Council Member Carter suggested maybe turning off every other streetlight. Corporal Bird and Mayor Shaw were not in favor of the idea due to safety concerns.

ADJOURN: There being no further business to come before the Council, Council President Grasley motioned and Council Member Schofield seconded to adjourn meeting at 8:30P.M.

The motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted
Town Clerk Kerry Chaney