

Dear

DRAFT

OFFICIAL MINUTES OF DECEMBER 9, 2019 REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
NO. 19-18

The Council meeting of the Town of Sykesville was held on Monday, December 9, 2019. 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, Stacy Link, and Jeremiah Schofield.

ABSENT: Council Member Leo Keenan

STAFF: Joseph Cosentini, Town Manager
Police Chief Michael Spaulding
Kerry Chaney, Town Clerk
Derek Shreves, Public Works Director
Sergeant Shawn Kilgore
Jared Schumacher, Circuit Rider/Grants Manager

**CONSENT
AGENDA:**

- I. (2019-92) Approval of minutes from November 25, 2019
- II. (2019-93) Approval of the 2020 Meeting and Holiday Schedule
- III. (2019-94) Reappointment of Mike Johnston to the Historic District Commission

MOTION: Council President Grasley motioned to approve the items on the Consent Agenda. Council Member Schofield seconded the motion.

The motion carried unanimously with Mayor Shaw abstaining.

PUBLIC

COMMENTS: There were no public comments

OPEN SESSION:

Business:

- I. (2019-95) Consider/Discuss the Connectivity Study Completed by RK&K Engineering

- II. Jared Schumacher explained that the Town had received grant funding for this study. The project manager from RK&K, Melissa Miklus, explained that her focus is small town planning and architecture. She was at the Wine Fest in May to do community outreach. During that event, the most popular idea was a bicycle boulevard, but trails are wanted too.

The main challenges in Town are topography, narrow roadways, and funding. RK&K did try to include more than just the plain plan by adding curb bulb outs, vegetation, painted art walks, and other ideas to keep pedestrians safer.

Grants can be used for “projects” of different ideas are added together to help offset the funding. The community can also be involved by having a “chalk day” where they help paint a bicycle or walking path on a road. These would be temporary and could last as short or as long as the Town would like. This would be perfect for Oklahoma Ave during the festivals

Ms. Miklus explained that the projects in the connectivity study were not numbered in any sort of order and do not have to be completed in any specific order either. One that she thought would be the best place to start is a connection trail from Autumn Sky Court to Main Street. It will be particularly challenging due to the topography and terrain and will need numerous switchbacks to comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act requirements. There was discussion about connecting the Dinky train line to Main Street. There were numerous issues with terrain which made the connection impossible. Council Member Link asked about the possibility of a skyline and gondola system for the connection. That was not something that was considered by consultants.

All comments that the Council would like included in the plan should be sent to Mr. Schumacher who will compile and have RK&K add to the plans. The final plan can be utilized during the Master Plan process.

III. **(2019-96) Consider/Discuss the EmPower Maryland Smart Energy Savers Program**

Richard Taylor, EmPower Maryland, presented this item. Jared Schumacher, Circuit Rider/Grants Manager, explained that EmPower Maryland will use the \$25,000 grant money from the Maryland Energy Administration (MEA) and give a rebate to allow us to replace all streetlight and Town owned building lights with highly efficient LED lights. BGE has already identified which streetlights belong to the Town. Changing to LED lights can allow the Town to cut their energy bills by 40-55%, and the lights will have a lifespan of 10-12 years. There is also a two year service warranty and an eight year product warranty for the lights.

There are approximately 258 Town owned streetlights. The cost to convert to LED is around \$60,000. BGE will give the Town a \$42,000 rebate for the conversion. The cost to the Town will be around \$17,000, and the EmPower Maryland annual savings will be \$12,000 savings on

the energy bills. The lights are on a photocell that will turn on the lights automatically at dusk and will turn off at dawn.

Demo lights were placed on Norris Avenue near the intersection with Obrecht Road for the Council and public to view. Three lights were placed in the Town House for demonstration as well.

The Police Department interior and exterior lights will cost around \$16,000 to convert. The BGE rebate will be around \$11,000. The cost to the Town will be around \$4,700, and the EmPower Maryland annual savings will be \$3,000.

The Town House interior and exterior lights will cost around \$6,700 for the conversion. The BGE rebate will be \$4,700. The total cost for the Town is \$2,000.

The Public Works interior and exterior lights will cost \$17,000. The BGE rebate will be around \$12,000. The total cost to the Town will be \$5,000, and the EmPower Maryland annual savings will be \$2,000.

Mr. Taylor and Mr. Schumacher believe that the MEA grant will cover the cost for the entire conversion. The interior lights will last 10-12 years. All exterior lights are Dark Sky compliant. Information can be posted on the Town website to inform the residents about the benefits of the conversion.

IV. (2019-97) Consider/Discuss/Act on the Warfield Wetlands Mitigation

Joseph Cosentini, Town Manager, explained that this was presented at the last meeting. Since then, the developer has identified how they will access the area and where they will have a staging area. A bond is still outstanding but can be a condition of the approval.

MOTION: Council President Grasley motioned to approve the Construction Agreement conditioned on the verification by staff that all surety documents are in place prior to the start of construction. Council Member Carter seconded the motion.

The motion carried unanimously.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- Next Mayor and Town Council Meeting is on Monday, January 13, 2020.
- The holiday decorating contest is December 10, beginning at 6:15 PM, and it will include Downtown Businesses as well
- 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.

Town Updates:

- Mr. Cosentini announced that the Town received the Strategic Demo grant for the Girls Shelter. It will be demolished prior to the playground and splash pad construction. Council Member Link asked if any items were salvageable from the Shelter. Mr. Schumacher had previously made a list of salvageable items

and called Habitat for Humanity to come look at and potentially take some items. Council Member Link mentioned a non-profit called The Loading Dock. She will provide Mr. Schumacher with the contact information.

- An after action debrief of the Emergency Operations Plan tabletop exercise is scheduled for January 13 prior to the Council meeting.
- The staff holiday luncheon is on December 11 at 1 PM
- Mr. Cosentini thanked all the staff that worked Santa's Arrival and also thanked Kerry Chaney, Town Clerk, for working the full day for Merry Main Street.

PUBLIC SAFETY

REPORT: Chief Spaulding presented the Public Safety Report for the period of November 18 through December 1, 2019. There was a total of 279 reports including eight assist other agencies, seven community policing events, 26 foot patrols, seven incident reports, 135 patrol checks, and 24 traffic enforcement initiatives.

There was extensive discussion regarding the incident at the SETT housing facility. Council Member Schofield was very upset by this incident and plans on sending a letter to the State regarding how it was handled and to make contact and try to start communication between the security there and the Town government and Police.

Chief Spaulding announced that Officer Kirkner attended in car surveillance training in Texas thanks to a grant the Town received.

Officer Schlaerth is spearheading the donation drive for the local family in need. He will also be attending the Downtown Sykesville Connection's HappyThon and will be passing out stuffed animals to the children.

COUNCIL COMMITTEE

REPORTS:

- **Sykesville Parks and Recreation (SPARC)** – Council Member Link announced that SPARC had a craft for children at the Santa's Arrival event. They are looking for more volunteers and are considering a volunteer drive in the spring. There will not be a meeting in December. The next SPARC meeting is scheduled for January 23.
- **Planning Commission** – Council Member Dyer announced that the Planning Commission did not meet in December. Their next meeting is scheduled for January 6. He attended the District 5 meeting with Commissioner Rothstein
- **Main Street Merchants** – Council President Grasley announced that the merchants did not meet in November due to Black Friday. Their next meeting is scheduled for December 27.
- **Historic District Commission (HDC)** – Council Member Carter announced the next HDC meeting is scheduled for December 17.
- **Raincliffe Home Owners' Association (HOA)** – Council Member Schofield announced that the next HOA meeting is in January. He is waiting to hear

what date it is scheduled for. The County Chapter MML Dinner will be focused on legislative topics.

ADJOURN: There being no further business to come before the Council, Council President Grasley motioned and Council Member Schofield seconded to adjourn meeting at 8:47 P.M.

The motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted
Town Clerk Kerry Chaney