

Dear

OFFICIAL MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 14, 2020 REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
NO. 20-14

The Council meeting of the Town of Sykesville was held on Monday, September 14, 2020. Mayor Shaw called the meeting to order at 7:00 P.M. via Zoom.us. 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
Police Chief Michael Spaulding
Craig Weaver, Town Treasurer
Kerry Chaney, Town Clerk
Jana Antrobus, Executive Assistant
Derek Shreves, Public Works Director

PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments.

CONSENT AGENDA

I. Minutes from August 10, 2020

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

The motion carried unanimously with Council Member Keenan abstaining.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

I. Strategic Demolition Grant (Warfield) – Change of Scope Request
Joe Cosentini, Town Manager, explained that no information has been received from the developer, and he would request a deferral of this item until the next meeting.

MOTION: Council President Grasley motioned to defer the Strategic Demolition Grant (Warfield) – Change of Scope Request until the meeting on September 28, 2020. Council Member Link seconded the motion.

The motion carried unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS

II. Consider/Discuss/Act on the Adopt-a-Road Request

Mr. Cosentini presented this item. He explained that a request was received prior to COVID-19 from St. Paul's Church to adopt a portion of Obrecht Road. Mr. Cosentini drafted guidelines for an adopt-a-road program and reached out to the Town's insurance provider for any guidance or suggestions.

Dave Lewis, St. Paul's Church, noted that the church's insurance would cover off-site events, such as picking up trash, and the church would supply safety equipment, work supplies, and could dispose of the trash.

Council Member Link gave an update on Sykesville's new designation through Keep America Beautiful. She noted that there are grades and pictures needed for before and after trash pickup.

Mayor Shaw asked for an inventory of which roads have already been adopted and if the adopters would like to continue the maintenance of the roads. Mr. Cosentini will add a minimum requirement of trash pickup occurring twice a year on adopted roads.

MOTION: Mayor Shaw motioned to approve St. Paul's request to adopt a portion of Obrecht Road. Council Member Schofield seconded the motion.

The motion carried unanimously.

III. Consider/Discuss/Act on Bond Release for Raincliffe

Mayor Shaw presented this item. He explained that there is an outstanding performance bond for \$34,000 from the Raincliffe developers due to an unconstructed trail. The Raincliffe Home Owners' Association (HOA) has said they would not like the trail. The developers have offered and the HOA has accepted a \$10,000 payment in lieu of the trail construction.

Council Member Carter asked if the sinkhole issue had been resolved completely. Mayor Shaw explained that it was a defective storm drain which caused the issue. The storm drain has since been replaced and the issue was resolved.

Council Member Schofield asked if the HOA is interested in using the funds, could they potentially construct a sidewalk from the end of the existing one to Freedom Park. Mr. Cosentini explained that there is no limitation on what the funds can be used for as long as the HOA is in agreement. The area they are considering for the sidewalk is outside of the Town, so the County would have to be contacted regarding possible easements and construction.

MOTION: Council President Grasley motioned to approve the bond release request from Raincliffe Properties, LLC contingent upon a \$10,000 payment to the Raincliffe Home Owners' Association in lieu of the approved trail project. Council Member Schofield seconded the motion.

The motion carried unanimously.

IV. Consider/Discuss/Act on a License Agreement for Electric Vehicle Charging Stations

The charging stations are being installed at no cost to the Town. They will be in the first three spots next to the Town House. One will be a quick charger station and two will be standard stations. This location was chosen due to the nearby utilities. The agreement will give BGE access to maintain the stations once they are installed.

Council Member Link noted that she would like more fast charging stations instead of more standard stations. Mr. Cosentini explained that the fast charging stations are much larger than the standard stations. The design and addition of more fast charging stations at Cooper Park.

Council Member Carter asked if BGE will provide data from the charging station's usage. Staff will check with BGE.

There was a discussion regarding limiting parking of non-charging vehicles in the parking spaces. There is no ordinance at the moment, so it is not an enforceable offense, but signs will be placed limiting non-charging cars to 15 minutes or less.

MOTION: Mayor Shaw motioned to approve the License Agreement for Electric Vehicle Charging Stations at the Town House. Council Member Carter seconded the motion.

The motion carried unanimously.

ANNOUNCEMENTS/REPORTS

- Next Mayor and Town Council Meeting is on Monday, September 28, 2020. This will be a Zoom meeting.
- We have volunteer opportunities available on the Historic District Commission, SPARC, Police Auxiliary, and Crossing Guard. Email town@sykesville.net for more information about volunteering with the Town.
- There is still time to respond to the 2020 United States Census. The census is now extended until September 30. The Town of Sykesville is asking all community members to do their part to meet the goal of counting everyone once – and only once – in the right place. Please take a few minutes to complete the Census questionnaire you received. You can also complete online: 2020census.gov, or by phone 844-330-2020. Your personal information is legally protected and confidential.
- Staff Updates
 - o Joe Cosentini, Town Manager, announced that the purchase of a dump truck was approved by Council during the Capital Improvements process. The dump truck prices from both the state bid and when the Town went out to bid were higher than what was allocated. At the next meeting, there will be a Capital Improvements funding request for the truck and for the cameras in the police cars.

- o Treasurer's Report
Craig Weaver, Town Treasurer, presented the August 2020 Treasurer's Report. He explained that the funding is a little behind, but it is not unexpected.

MOTION: Council President Grasley motioned to approve the August 2020 Treasurer's Report. Council Member Dyer seconded the motion.

The motion carried unanimously.

- o Public Safety Report
Chief Spaulding presented the Public Safety Report for the period of August 4 through September 4. There was a total of 873 reports including 19 assist other agencies, 4 community policing events, 43 foot patrols, 29 incident reports, 600 patrol checks, and 65 traffic enforcement initiatives. Chief Spaulding explained that the incident reports are high for this period. There has not been an increased amount of mental health related calls due to COVID-19. Chief Spaulding also announced that there is surveillance in place due to the graffiti; there has been less graffiti reported during the past two weeks. There have been seven fireworks calls so far this year. An adult male resident in Raincliffe was caught with fireworks this past weekend and will be charged accordingly.

Chief Spaulding announced that former Chief Wallace Mitchell passed away on September 1. Chief Spaulding, Sergeant Kilgore, and PFC Betcher attended his funeral.

There was a discussion of the barriers on Main Street. There was a suggestion to remove one set of the barriers and leave the lower set. Most of the responses from the impacted merchants is that they would prefer to have the parking back. Council President Grasley can ask for this to be an item on the next Merchant's meeting agenda, however the merchants directly impacted by the barriers do not always attend. Council Member Keenan will try to get an update from the Downtown Sykesville Connection for the next meeting.

- Council/Committee Reports
 - o Council Member Schofield announced there hasn't been a Raincliffe HOA meeting since the last Council meeting. There is a budget meeting on October 5. He also announced that he was reappointed to the Maryland Municipal League Legislative Committee. Their priority this year is the restoration of the Highway User Revenues, and their initiatives are climate change and local assets authority preservation. Council Member Schofield also announced he was interested in being a possible schoolboard representative from the county municipalities. Mayor Shaw will talk to the County Chapter of the MML regarding the possible representation.
 - o Council Member Dyer announced there was a Planning Commission meeting on September 9 to discuss development on a parcel along Schoolhouse Road, which would require an annexation, use in

common drives, and elevations. All the questions that the Planning Commission brought up would be addressed and answered prior to an annexation discussion. Council Member Dyer also gave an update on the Master Plan update process. Mr. Cosentini announced there is an advisory committee meeting on Thursday for the Master Plan process including an update on the stakeholder interviews.

- o Council Member Link announced that Sykesville Parks and Recreations (SPARC) had to postpone their community clean up due to inclement weather. They will be rescheduling it. The first concert was cancelled due to COVID-19 safety concerns. The next SPARC meeting is on September 24. She asked for an update on when South Branch Park will be reopened. Mr. Cosentini explained that he discussed reopening with the contractors and Howard County, and both groups pushed back on the idea. He will continue asking for a safe reopen plan if construction is not completed by October 1.
- o Council Member Carter announced the Historic District Commission met to discuss applications for repairs to 7323 Springfield Avenue and roof replacement at 706 Church Street. The HDC had a special meeting to review replacement window options with 7323 Springfield Avenue, due to the original proposed windows not meeting the guidelines. The second proposed windows also did not meet the guidelines. He will return at the next meeting on September 22 with additional proposed windows.
- o Mayor Shaw announced the Gate House Museum repairs were completed. The kitchen replacement is being worked on currently.
- o Council President Grasley announced the merchants met on August 28. They discussed the Carroll County Pink Fling and the First Fridays. Their next meeting is September 25, and there is a zoom meeting on September 30 with Commissioner Rothstein.
- o Council Member Keenan announced the Downtown Sykesville Connection (DSC) is doing well with the Farmers' Market each Sunday. They added three new events to replace the Trick or Treat on Main Street and the Coolest Mile on Main. The events are the Pup Walk, Battle of the Bands, and a Motorcycle Poker Run. The Golf Tournament went well, although it was nowhere near comparable to the fundraiser type of event such as the Wine Fest and Beer Fest.
- o There was brief discussion about Halloween Trick-or-Treating. No decisions have been made yet, but staff will provide best practices and will check with other towns regarding their plans.

ADJOURN: **There being no further business to come before the Council, Mayor Shaw motioned and Council President Grasley seconded to adjourn meeting at 8:40 P.M.**

The motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted
Town Clerk Kerry Chaney