

Dear

DRAFT

OFFICIAL MINUTES OF OCTOBER 26, 2020 REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
NO. 20-16

The Council meeting of the Town of Sykesville was held on Monday, October 26, 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

CONSENT AGENDA

- I. Minutes from September 28, 2020
- II. Set the Halloween Trick-or-Treating Hours as 6 PM to 8 PM

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

The motion carried unanimously.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- I. **Public Hearing on Ordinance NO. 2020-08 – Ethics Ordinance Update**
There were no public comments. The public hearing was closed.
- II. **Consider/Discuss/Act on Ordinance NO. 2020-08 – Ethics Ordinance Update**
There were no comments from the Council.

MOTION: Council President Grasley motioned to approve Ordinance NO. 2020-08 – Ethics Ordinance Update. Council Member Schofield seconded the motion.

The motion carried unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS

III. Consider/Discuss/Act on Hazard Pay Policy

Joseph Cosentini, Town Manager presented this item. He explained that the previous hazard pay policy expired June 30, 2020. This policy would be retroactive from July 1 and extend through December 31. It will also cover all full-time employees.

MOTION: Council President Grasley motioned to approve the Hazard Pay Policy as presented. Council Member Schofield seconded the motion.

The motion carried unanimously.

ANNOUNCEMENTS/REPORTS

- Next Mayor and Town Council Meeting is on Monday, November 9, 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.
- Staff Updates
 - o Mr. Cosentini announced there are workshop sessions for the Master Plan Update. They are Wednesday, October 28, and Thursday, October 29, with two sessions each day. There is an evening update session on Thursday, via Facebook Live.
 - o Mr. Cosentini also announced that Carroll County is still on the scene of the water main break on Main Street. The water has been restored, and the patching and paving is underway.
 - o Treasurer's Report
Craig Weaver, Town Treasurer, presented the Treasurer's Report from September 2020. He announced the audit has been extended to early December, and tipping fees at the County will be increasing on January 1. Derek Shreves, Public Works Director, announced the recycling trial in the MacElroy parking lot has been highly successful. He recommends continuing it.

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

The motion carried unanimously.

- o Public Safety Report
Chief Spaulding presented the Public Safety Report for the period of September 21 through October 18. There was a total of 692 reports, including 18 assist other agencies, eight community policing events, 35 foot patrols, 16 incident reports, 446 patrol checks, and 64 traffic enforcement initiatives.

Chief Spaulding announced that there were several political sign thefts, including two more incidents after the report was run. Four female juveniles were charged. Chief Spaulding also announced that

due to Ring videos, Sergeant Kilgore was able to identify and apprehend a man who was attempting to break into cars. Chief Spaulding also announced that Officer Betcher found a couple in the park after hours. He told them to leave, however, they returned. Officer Betcher was involved in a minor scuffle during the second contact with the couple, who were ultimately arrested.

Council thanked all the officers for their hard work and also for participating in the Tractor-Treat with Friendship Baptist Church. Chief Spaulding also thanked the Auxiliary members who make the events possible.

- Council/Committee Reports
 - o Mayor Shaw announced the fence at the South Branch Skate Park was taken down. There are still a few minor items for the contractors to finish up, and it will be reopened officially by the weekend.
 - o Council Member Link announced that there is a grant that can now be applied for through Keep Maryland Beautiful. The Sykesville Parks and Recreation Committee (SPARC) had a fall cleanup that had more than 35 volunteers at three locations. There were 14 bags of litter, including 8 bags of recycling. SPARC had asked staff to complete a park maintenance and improvement list, which has been sent to SPARC. The next meeting is the third Thursday of November, November 19.

Council Member Link invited the entire Council and anyone who is interested to participate in the Downtown Sykesville Connection's (DSC) HappyThon. The need has increased each year and continues to increase this year. People interested in donating can mail a check to the DSC offices at 7307 Spout Hill Road or can use the donate button on the DSC's website.

Council Member Link also proposed to have the Town partner with the DSC for a Merchant Decorating Contest with visitors voting on the best décor. Council Member Link suggested offering a month of free trash and recycling pickup for the winner.

- o Council Member Schofield announced there was a budget meeting on October 5 for the Raincliffe Home Owners' Association. He also announced that he attended the virtual MML conference and the legislative committee meeting. The legislative priority for 2021 is the restoration of the Highway User Revenues. There are two strategic initiatives, climate change and local technology infrastructure. Strategic initiatives mean the committee reviews any legislation that comes forward regarding the topics.

Council Member Schofield also sat in on his first Board of Education meeting on October 14. There was a decision to reopen schools for elementary and middle school students in October and high school students in November. There are still discussions regarding sports restarting.

- o Council Member Carter announced that the Historic District Commission will meet on October 27 to review four applications.
- o Council President Grasley announced the Merchants are scheduled to have a meeting on October 30. The First Friday in November is Willy Wonka Night. The barriers on Main Street have been removed.
- o Council Member Dyer announced there has not been a Planning Commission meeting since the previous Council meeting. He did attend the listening session for the Master Plan update and will be attending the visioning sessions. He also attended the virtual MML conference.
- o Council Member Keenan announced that the DSC received a \$3,000 grant from Walmart for the HappyThon. They have an additional fundraising goal of \$7,000. All families are within the town limits of Sykesville. The Poker Run was highly successful; the DSC is planning on making it an annual event. The Farmers' Market concluded October 25 and was successful despite needing a socially distant setup.

Council Member Keenan also announced that the DSC has been approved to be a 501c3 non-profit.

Market Tavern is planning on reopening on a limited basis on November 4.

- o Mayor Shaw explained that he has not been able to meet up with Jack White yet. There were some outstanding issues at the Schoolhouse that staff is currently working to complete.

ADJOURN: There being no further business to come before the Council, Council President Grasley motioned, and Council Member Link seconded to adjourn meeting at 7:55 P.M.

The motion carried unanimously.

**Respectfully submitted
Town Clerk Kerry Chaney**