



Town of Sykesville

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Town House

Ian Shaw, Mayor

Joseph Cosentini, Town Manager

Craig Weaver, Town Treasurer

Kerry G. Chaney, Town Clerk

OFFICIAL MINUTES OF NOVEMBER 23, 2020 REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING **NO. 20-08**

The Council meeting of the Town of Sykesville was held on Monday, November 23, 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
Kerry Chaney, Town Clerk
Jana Antrobus, Executive Assistant
Derek Shreves, Public Works Director
Dennis Hoover, Town Attorney

PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments.

CONSENT AGENDA

- I. Minutes from November 9, 2020

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

The motion carried unanimously with Council Member Keenan abstaining.

NEW BUSINESS

- II. **Consider/Discuss/Act on Removal of the Vultures at Sykesville Apartments**
Joe Cosentini, Town Manager, explained that there is a flock of vultures causing damage at the Sykesville Apartments. The apartment managers have tried to drive them off with non-lethal methods, such as fog horns and fake owls. They obtained a permit from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to kill up to 10 birds and then place the carcasses of the birds in trees to act as a visual deterrent. There is a Town ordinance that restricts to discharge or use of deadly or dangerous weapons within Town limits. The apartment managers are asking for that portion of Chapter 84 of the Town Code to be waived so they can kill the birds. Damage from the birds includes their excrement, damage to convertible car tops, and damage to the roofs of the buildings, particularly the 6400 building.

Council Member Link asked if the apartment complex has done anything to remove the food source for the birds. All the dumpsters have lids on them, but Mr. Cosentini believes they are leaving during the day to find food and are only roosting at the complex. Council Member Link also asked if the management had tried non-lethal pyrotechnics over the course of a week at dusk. Her research shows it is one of the most effective measures at driving away the flock.

A licensed, experienced hunter would be hired by the apartment complex, and a Sykesville officer would be present every time the weapon is to be discharged. The safest and most humane way is to use a shotgun with bird shot in it. The apartment complex was unable to locate a pest control company who would come out to humanely euthanize the birds.

Council Member Carter asked what type of affect the carcasses would have on children who see them. The placement of the birds can be more hidden, so the carcasses are hard to see by people.

There was a discussion about the migratory patterns and if the apartment complex will be back for permission to take more birds next year. The birds do migrate for the winter months and return to areas where they know it is safe to lay their eggs.

Mayor Shaw asked if a professional was used to attempt to drive off the birds. The apartment management were unable to find any company who would come out and drive off the birds. Council Member Schofield offered to reach out to a previous company he worked with for removal of birds.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Permit expires on December 31, 2020.

MOTION: Council President Grasley motioned to approve the use of a deadly weapon for the purposes outlined in U.S. Fish and Wildlife Permit #MB61040D-0 and in consultation with the Sykesville Police Department.

No one seconded the motion. It did not proceed to a vote.

MOTION: Mayor Shaw motioned to allow the staff and the apartment management to pursue humane methods such as using pyrotechnics, with Chapter 84 of the Town Code waived for their use, and by contacting a professional removal company. Council Member Link seconded.

The motion carried unanimously.

ANNOUNCEMENTS/REPORTS

- Next Mayor and Town Council Meeting is on Monday, December 14, 2020. This will be a Zoom meeting.
- Due to the Thanksgiving holiday, recycling that is usually picked up on Thursday will be picked up on Monday, November 30. Trash pickup is not affected by this holiday.

- 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
 - Mr. Cosentini announced that the Town is still monitoring the COVID-19 situation and safety measures for the Town employees.
 - Public Safety Report
 Chief Spaulding presented the Public Safety Report for the period of November 2 through November 16. There was a total of 349 reports including three assist other agencies, four community policing events, 27 foot patrols, 14 incident reports, 218 patrol checks, and 19 traffic enforcement initiatives. Chief Spaulding highlighted an incident of trespassing in the Warfield Complex. Officer Schlaerth noticed the individuals during a patrol check. There was some graffiti on a trash can and on the skate bowl at South Branch Park. There was also an increased number of driving under the influence arrests, including one person who was involved in two separate accidents and arrested twice within a 24-hour period.

 Officer Kirkner is testing and evaluating a body worn camera. The department has the infrastructure in place through their car camera system. All county municipalities and the county are participating in the testing. Hampstead already uses body worn cameras, so they are not part of the process.
- Council/Committee Reports
 - Council Member Keenan announced the Downtown Sykesville Connection had a board meeting to discuss the 501c(3) status. Julie Della-Maria is working on the HappyThon event.
 - Council Member Schofield announced that there were no meetings since the last Council meeting. The Carroll County School Board changed their position on in person schooling; students have returned to virtual learning
 - Council President Grasley announced there was a Merchants Meeting on Friday, November 20. They discussed the 12 Hours of Christmas event on December 4.
 - Council Member Link announced that SPARC met and discussed the 2021 event calendar and ways to market the events. There was discussion about having a single day, music festival type setup instead of a concert series. There is no SPARC meeting in December. The next meeting is January 28. Council Member Link also mentioned that there will be a naming celebration for Carrie Dorsey Park once it is safer to do so.
 - Council Member Dyer announced that there was not a Planning Commission meeting since the last Council meeting. There was a Comprehensive Plan meeting that was an overview of what was done. The Comprehensive Plan is in draft mode now. The advisory committee most likely will not meet again until February. The virtual open house should start around December 7.

- Council Member Carter announced there was an HDC meeting on November 17. There was an application for a roof and gutter replacement at a house on Mellor. There was also an application for wood repair and replacement on the Hubner and T buildings. There was a real wood and a composite material presented. The replacement was replaced with the material being decided by the Maryland Historical Trust, since the composite material is new. The next meeting is December 15.
- Mayor Shaw did not have an update from the Schoolhouse. Jack White is working on a way for online donations.
- Holiday Decorating Contest
Council decided to ask the residents to have their decorations up by December 14. The Council will send pictures of their favorite five houses to Town Clerk Kerry Chaney and will have a Zoom meeting on December 17.

MOTION: Council President Grasley motioned and Council Member Schofield seconded to take a five minute recess at 8:07 P.M.

The motion carried unanimously.

MOTION: Mayor Shaw motioned and Council President Grasley seconded to go back into open session at 8:15 P.M.

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): (7) to consult with counsel to obtain legal advice on a legal matter.

MOTION: Council President Grasley motioned and Council Member Schofield seconded to go into closed session at 8:16 P.M.

The motion carried unanimously.

Those in attendance were: Mayor Shaw, Council President Grasley, Council Members Carter, Dyer, Keenan, Link, and Schofield, Town Manager Joseph Cosentini, Town Attorney Dennis Hoover, and Town Clerk Kerry Chaney.

Items discussed were:

- Consult with Legal Counsel – Warfield Contract

MOTION: Council President Grasley motioned and Council Member Carter seconded to go back into open session at 9:22 P.M.

The motion carried unanimously.

ADJOURN: There being no further business to come before the Council, Council President Grasley motioned and Council Member Carter seconded to adjourn meeting at 9:23 P.M.

The motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted
Town Clerk Kerry Chaney