

Dear

OFFICIAL MINUTES OF JANUARY 24, 2022 REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
NO. 22-02

The Council meeting of the Town of Sykesville was held on Monday, January 24, 2022. Mayor Link called the meeting to order at 7:00 P.M. in the Town House Conference Room. Mayor Link led the Pledge of Allegiance and a moment of silence.

PRESENT: Mayor Stacy Link, Council President Anna Carter, and Council Members Alan Grasley, Elizabeth Guroff, Mark Dyer, Leo Keenan, and Jeremiah Schofield.

STAFF: Joseph Cosentini, Town Manager
Police Chief Michael Spaulding
Kerry Chaney, Town Clerk
Craig Weaver, Town Treasurer
Derek Shreves, Public Works Director

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

There were no public comments.

CONSENT AGENDA

- I. Minutes from January 10, 2022

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

The motion carried unanimously with Council Members Grasley and Schofield abstaining.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- II. **Public hearing on Ordinance NO. 2022-01 – FY 2022 Budget Revision**
Joe Cosentini, Town Manager, explained that there was one change from the previously introduced ordinance. \$30,000 was added to the equipment like for the Police Department for the purchase and installation of security cameras for Main Street and multiple parks.

MOTION: Council Member Grasley motioned to open the public hearing at 7:04 P.M. Council Member Keenan seconded the motion.

The motion carried unanimously.

There were no public comments.

MOTION: Council Member Schofield motioned to close the public hearing at 7:05 P.M. Council President Carter seconded the motion.

The motion carried unanimously.

- III. Consider/Discuss/Act on Ordinance NO. 2022-01 FY2022 Budget Revision**
Council Member Grasley asked if Chief Spaulding was happy with the interface of the cameras and if a test run has been completed. Chief Spaulding explained that while they didn't set up a test, they have used the cameras twice to gather more information, and they well suited the needs of the Police Department.

MOTION: Council Member Guroff motioned to approve Ordinance NO. 2022-01 FY2022 Budget Revision. Council Member Schofield seconded the motion.

The motion carried unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS

- IV. Presentation: Mayor's Citizen Advisory Council – Olivia Mason**
Mayor Link and her intern, Olivia Mason, presented information on their research into citizen advisory councils. The purpose of the citizen advisory council is to allow for more interaction between residents and the Council. The citizen advisory council in Sykesville will be an unofficial committee and will likely meet quarterly in roving town halls. The Mayor would then report back any items requiring Town Council action or consideration.

Most Council Members were in support of the idea and were interested in attending the unofficial meetings that are held in the unofficial wards in which they live. Council Member Grasley expressed concern about elevating some residents above others, and he was not in favor of the citizen advisory council in Sykesville.

- V. Petition for zoning text amendment – Warfield Developers**
Joe Cosentini, Town Manager, explained that the petition was received by the Town and staff reviewed the proposal and provided feedback to the developers. The Council is required to have the Planning Commission review the petition, and a public hearing is required prior to approving the zoning text amendment.

Roger Conley, Steve McCleaf, and Dave Bowersox were in attendance for the petitioners. Mr. Conley explained that the developers were awarded a \$15,000,000 catalytic tax credit for the revitalization of the site. Council Member Guroff asked if the \$15,000,000 tax credit would be able to be used if the increase in residential that was proposed in the zoning text amendment did not get approved. Mr. McCleaf explained that it would not be able to be used because there would not be a viable project otherwise.

Council President Carter asked if the developers had addressed the questions that Mr. Cosentini had sent to them. They had not submitted answers as of this meeting, so Council President Carter recommended they have the answers by the Planning Commission meeting.

MOTION: Council Member Grasley motioned to refer the zoning text amendment to the Planning Commission. Council Member Keenan seconded the motion.

The motion carried unanimously.

ANNOUNCEMENTS/REPORTS

- The next meeting is Monday, February 14, 2022
- We have volunteer opportunities available on the Historic District Commission, Board of Zoning Appeals, Police Auxiliary, and Crossing Guard. Email town@sykesville.net for more information about volunteering with the Town.
- Staff Updates
 - o Joe Cosentini announced the Maryland Municipal League conference is scheduled for June 12-June 15
 - o The strategic planning session is scheduled for March 12, 8 A.M.-12 P.M.
 - o Public Safety Report
Chief Spaulding presented the Public Safety Report for the period of January 4 through January 17. There was a total of 369 reports including 22 assist other agencies, two community policing events, eight foot patrols, eight incident reports, 239 patrol checks, and 18 traffic enforcement initiatives.

Chief Spaulding announced that he is working on the annual reports, and he will distribute them to the Council soon.

- Council/Committee Reports
 - o Council Member Keenan announced the Downtown Sykesville Connection (DSC) met to plan for new board members. The DSC will be having a retreat next month. Julie Della-Maria, Executive Director, is working to restart the Harvest Festival. A walking tour audio recording will be available by scanning a QR code that is available several places along Main Street.
 - o Council Member Guroff announced that Carroll County Public Schools is looking at a southern area redistricting which would significantly impact Sykesville students. Parks and Recreation will meet on January 27.
 - o Council Member Dyer announced that he met with Mike Kasnia who recently resigned his position on the Carroll Cable Regulatory Commission. Council Member Dyer thanked Mr. Kasnia for his work on the Commission and announced that he submitted his interest in replacing Mr. Kasnia.

ADJOURN: There being no further business to come before the Council, Council Member Grasley motioned and Council President Carter seconded to adjourn meeting at 8:05 P.M.

The motion carried unanimously.

**Respectfully submitted
Town Clerk Kerry Chaney**