



Town of Sykesville

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Town House

Stacy Link, Mayor

Joseph Cosentini, Town Manager

Craig Weaver, Town Treasurer

Kerry G. Kavaloski, Town Clerk

OFFICIAL MINUTES OF JULY 11, 2022 REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING **NO. 22-13**

The Council meeting of the Town of Sykesville was held on Monday, July 11, 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, and Jeremiah Schofield.

ABSENT: Council Member Leo Keenan

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

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

There were no public comments.

MINUTES:

June 21, 2022

MOTION: Council President Carter motioned to approve the minutes from June 21, 2022. Council Member Schofield seconded the motion.

The motion carried unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS

I. Presentation – Elm Street Development

Elm Street Development was in attendance to begin a discussion regarding changing the zoning of the property that was previously owned by Intergrace that is east of Route 32. They explained it is their intent to submit a proposal to rezone the property from Planned Employment Campus to Residential. They explained that the property is not marketable for commercial properties because in preliminary discussions, State Highway

Administration (SHA) has not responded favorably to adding a new entrance onto Route 32 from the property. The access is currently through the existing residential area, Parkside at Warfield.

Mayor Link announced that the Town has had preliminary conversations with SHA, and the Town is in favor of having a second access point to the parcel. The County Transportation Master Plan includes a rerouting of Obrecht Road, which may offer an intersection access for a second ingress/egress for the property.

Joe Cosentini, Town Manager, explained that the Town had a meeting with Springfield Hospital Center, and they were concerned about increased traffic through their campus. He noted that additional access onto Route 32 would not be easy, but it should not be given up on.

Council Member Guroff asked if the current access for the County water facility could be used for access to the site. It cannot as it would be a change of use for the access. The Bureau of Utilities would also oppose any use of the access area, which is on a leased portion of the property.

Under the current PEC zoning, there are 47 townhomes allowed. If it was changed to R-7,500, up to 99 townhomes would be allowed, and if it was R-10,000, up to 80 townhomes would be allowed. The zoning could change without affecting the Warfield development.

Council Member Guroff expressed concern that the public recently spoke clearly against additional residential, particularly the residents who live in Parkside at Warfield.

Mayor Link expressed that she would not be interested in considering a change in zoning until the access point on Route 32 has been fully vetted.

II. Consider/Discuss Zoning Text Amendment – Signs (Chapter 180, Article XIV, Special Provisions, §180-89 Signs)

Mr. Cosentini explained that there was a request for staff to review the existing sign regulations at the last Council meeting, specifically how they relate to the size of temporary signs in the Historic District. There are several regulations that are no longer enforceable, such as content based regulations. Mr. Cosentini also recommended creating proper definitions for temporary, permanent (on premise) and permanent (off premise), and size requirements, as well as clarifying location and maintenance regulations.

Council President Carter expressed desire to align any new regulations with the Historic District Commission.

Council Member Schofield asked if a protest sign that someone holds during a protest would be included as a temporary sign. He also asked about the banner across Main Street and if it would be allowed under the temporary sign regulations. There was a discussion about banners hanging from street posts as well.

Council Member Grasley explained that he is concerned mainly about the size of the political signs in the Historic District. Council Member Schofield explained that he is not concerned about the election signs or the size.

Council President Carter expressed interest in limiting the number of signs within a certain distance.

ANNOUNCEMENTS/REPORTS

- The next meeting is Monday, August 8, 2022
- We have volunteer opportunities available on the Historic District Commission, Board of Zoning Appeals, and Police Auxiliary. Email town@sykesville.net for more information about volunteering with the Town.
- Staff Updates
 - Treasurer's Report
Craig Weaver, Town Treasurer, presented the June 2022 Treasurer's Report. He explained that an additional line item was added for the American Rescue Plan Act funding that was received by the Town. There were some larger checks disbursed during the month, but nothing out of the ordinary happened during the end of the fiscal year.
 - Public Safety Report
Chief Spaulding presented the Public Safety Report for June 13 through July 4. There was a total of 650 reports including 18 assist other agencies, eight community policing events, 4 firework complaints, 62 foot patrols, 21 incident reports, 361 patrol checks, and 22 traffic enforcement initiatives.

Mayor Link asked if the theft from a Main Street store was during store hours. Chief Spaulding explained that it was during store hours, and the merchant decided not to press charges.

Mayor Link also asked about the dog-on-dog fight and if the dogs were on leashes. Chief Spaulding explained that both dogs were on leashes and the attacks weren't severe.

There was a discussion regarding the various reports of vandalism throughout Town. The individuals were not apprehended.

Council Member Schofield thanked Sergeant Kirkner for working a traffic incident on Route 32 as cars were driving past very quickly.

- Joe Cosentini, Town Manager, announced that the new trash and recycling carts are in the process of being delivered. Residents can continue using their own carts and can call to have the new carts picked up if they no longer want them. Mayor Link explained that the new carts have lids, which is helpful to keep recycling and trash from blowing out of the carts on pickup days.
- Council Committee Reports

- Council Member Schofield announced the Planning Commission met on July 5 to discuss their new rules of procedure. The next meeting is scheduled for August 1 at 7 P.M.
- Council President Carter announced there is a Historic District Commission meeting on July 26 at 7 P.M.
- The Downtown Sykesville Connection is working on creating military banners for the light posts.
- Council Member Guroff announced that the Sykesville Parks and Recreation Commission (SPARC) participated in the Fourth of July parade, and they continue to need volunteers for the different events. The Movie in the Park was cancelled in July due to weather.
- Council Member Grasley and Council Member Dyer both announced that they would not be at the next meeting. There was a discussion of rescheduling the meeting. A decision will be made at a later date.

ADJOURN: There being no further business to come before the Council, Council Member Grasley motioned and Council Member Schofield seconded to adjourn meeting at 8:33 P.M.

The motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted
Town Clerk Kerry Kavaloski