



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 JANUARY 9, 2023 REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING **NO. 23-01**

The Council meeting of the Town of Sykesville was held on Monday, January 9, 2023. Mayor Link called the meeting to order at 7:00 P.M. in the Town House Council Chambers. 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
Police Lieutenant Shawn Kilgore
Kerry Kavaloski, Town Clerk
Craig Weaver, Town Treasurer

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

There were no public comments.

INTRODUCTION OF OFFICER – CHIEF SPAULDING

Prior to the officer's introduction, Mayor Link announced that it is National Law Enforcement Appreciation Day. She and the Council thanked all of the Sykesville Police Officers for everything they do.

Chief Spaulding introduced Andrew Jacobs, a new officer joining the Sykesville Police Department. Mayor Link swore in Officer Jacobs and welcomed him to the force.

MINUTES:

I. December 12, 2022

MOTION: Council Member Grasley motioned to approve the minutes from December 12, 2022. Council President Carter seconded the motion.

The motion carried unanimously with Council Member Schofield abstaining from the vote due to him not being present at the previous meeting.

AUDIT PRESENTATION – EVA WEBB, LSWG, P.A.

Eva Webb, LSWG, P.A. presented the audit findings for Fiscal Year 2022. The findings were a fair opinion, which means a clean audit.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

- II. **Public Hearing and to Consider/Discuss/Act on the adoption of Ordinance NO. 2022-09 – AN ORDINANCE OF THE COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF SYKESVILLE AMENDING CHAPTER 129, “SOLID WASTE”, OF THE CODE OF THE TOWN OF SYKESVILLE TO UPDATE THE ALLOWABLE SIZE OF TRASH AND RECYCLING CONTAINERS.**

Joe Cosentini, Town Manager, explained that minor revisions were made since the introduction of the ordinance at the last meeting.

MOTION: Council Member Grasley motioned to open the Public Hearing at 7:28 P.M. Council Member Schofield seconded the motion.

The motion carried unanimously.

There were no public comments.

MOTION: Council Member Grasley motioned to close the Public Hearing at 7:29 P.M. Council Member Dyer seconded the motion.

The motion carried unanimously.

Council Member Schofield asked if this ordinance would impact the bottom of the Oklahoma Avenue cul-de-sac where residents from Harman ~~Avenue Drive~~ have their cans. Mr. Cosentini explained that this would not impact that area, and staff has been working on a solution such as a bin system or a dumpster. He further explained that it is a common issue with use-in-common driveways. The Schoolhouse Road development, which is five houses, will be required to come up with a solution for their trash system before construction can begin.

MOTION: Council Member Grasley motioned to approve Ordinance NO. 2022-09 – AN ORDINANCE OF THE COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF SYKESVILLE AMENDING CHAPTER 129, “SOLID WASTE”, OF THE CODE OF THE TOWN OF SYKESVILLE TO UPDATE THE ALLOWABLE SIZE OF TRASH AND RECYCLING CONTAINERS. Council Member Guroff seconded the motion.

The motion carried unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS

- III. **Consider/Discuss/Act on Resolution NO. 2023-01 amending the reservation fee schedule for park pavilions and the Tower Room**

Mayor Link explained that the current inconsistent fee schedule leads to confusion between residents and non-resident renters. The increase in cost of the pavilions at Millard Cooper Park will offset the additional costs related to the splash pad, such as the amount of trash that accumulates and the bathroom cleaning.

Council President Carter explained that historically, the South Branch Park reservation fee was higher in order to be in line with the other rental fees charged by Howard County for their parks.

Council Member Keenan asked if the rental form was available online. It is available on the Town website currently and other options to make the form editable will be looked into by staff with the new and improved website. He also asked if people were allowed to use the pavilions if they hadn't rented them. Mr. Cosentini explained that the pavilions can be used if no one is in them, however if someone has rented it, the non-renters have to vacate the pavilion. Public Works has access to the rental calendar as well, so they can maintain the parks before and after rentals as needed.

MOTION: Council Member Keenan motioned to approve Resolution NO. 2023-01 amending the reservation fee schedule for park pavilions and the Tower Room. Council President Carter seconded the motion.

The motion passed 6-1 with Council Member Grasley voting against it.

ANNOUNCEMENTS/REPORTS

- The next meeting is Monday, January 23, 2023
- We have volunteer opportunities available on the Historic District Commission and Police Auxiliary. Email town@sykesville.net for more information about volunteering with the Town.
- Staff Updates
 - Joe Cosentini announced that work is scheduled to begin on the Main Street water and sewer line replacement in early to mid February. Construction equipment will be staged in the gravel lot across from South Branch Park.
 - He also announced that the Council will hold a Strategic Planning session on February 4 beginning at 8 A.M.
 - Public Safety Report
Chief Spaulding presented the Public Safety Report for the period of December 5 through January 2. There was a total of 895 reports including 24 assist other agencies, 13 community policing events, 35 foot patrols, nine incident reports, 486 patrol checks, and 59 traffic enforcement initiatives.

Council Member Guroff asked if it would be possible to do a review of the incidents at 7618 Main Street and look for any trends. Chief Spaulding will pull up all the incidents at that address, however he cannot think of any trends at the moment. He thinks it is normal incidents that occur at establishments that serve alcohol.

Chief Spaulding also announced that the Toys for Tots initiative yielded two large boxes of donated toys for children. He thanked Cpl. Schlaerth for heading the project.

- Council/Committee Reports
 - Council Member Keenan announced that the HappyThon helped 24 families and a total of 68 children. The lineup of Downtown Sykesville Connection events is available on their website.
 - Council Member Grasley apologized for not being available on December 22 for the Holiday Decorating Contest.

- Council Member Schofield announced that there was not a Planning Commission meeting in January. The next meeting is scheduled for February 6. He also announced that he attended a gender-neutral workshop. He also asked if the staff or the police could look into a safety issue on Oklahoma Avenue between Second Avenue and Norris Avenue. He has heard numerous complaints of issues due to the street parking and the lack of sight lines.
- Council President Carter announced that the Historic District Commission has changed their meetings to Wednesdays, and the next meeting is January 25. There are openings on the Commission. She also announced that The Local Motive, a new business on Main Street, has opened. Charlie Joe's, another new business, had their soft opening recently as well.
- Council Member Dyer announced that the quarterly Cable Regulatory Commission meeting is coming up, and if there are any issues, he is happy to bring them up at the meeting.

ADJOURN: There being no further business to come before the Council, Council Member Grasley motioned and Council Member Dyer seconded to adjourn meeting at 7:53 P.M.

The motion carried unanimously.

**Respectfully submitted
Town Clerk Kerry Kavaloski**