

APPROVED**OFFICIAL MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 22, 2016 REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
NO. 16-03**

The Council meeting of the Town of Sykesville was held on Monday, February 22, 2016. Mayor Shaw called the meeting to order at 7:00 P.M. in the Council Meeting Room at the Town House. Mayor Shaw led the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag and a moment of silence.

PRESENT: Mayor Ian Shaw, and Council Members Julia Betz, William “Chip” Bleam, Anna Carter, Christopher True, and Stacy Link.

ABSENT: Council President Leo Keenan

STAFF: Dawn Ashbacher, Town Manager
Michael Spaulding, Chief of Police
Janice Perrault, Town Clerk
Steven Colella, Director of Economic Development
Dennis Hoover, Town Attorney

PUBLIC CONCERNS: Agenda Addition – Shiver Shuffle – Alcohol request at event

MINUTES: February 8, 2016

MOTION: Council Member Link motioned and Council Member Betz seconded to approve the February 8, 2016 minutes as written.

The motion carried unanimously.

PUBLIC SAFETY

REPORT: Chief Spaulding presented the Public Safety Report on the period from February 3, 2016 through February 16, 2016. There were a total of 326 calls for service, and 12 assists to other police agencies/departments outside the Town.

**COUNCIL COMMITTEE
REPORTS:**

- **Historic District Commission** – Council Member Link announced the next meeting will be held on February 23, and there is one application for review. Council Member Link and Dawn Ashbacher announced that two people have been appointed as Curators for the

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Gate House Museum. Jack White will be the Curator of History and Valerie Schultz will be the Curator of Development.

- **Parks and Recreation** – Council Member Carter announced that the next meeting will be held on February 25.
- **Warfield Development Corporation (WDC)** – Mayor Shaw announced the last meeting was cancelled. The next meeting will be held on March 9.
- **Planning Commission** – Council Member Betz announced the next meeting is scheduled on March 7.
- **Streetscape** – Council Members True and Bleam stated that the plan for Streetscape, as discussed with Oasis, was submitted to the State Highway Association and there might be a meeting in late March.
- **Main Street Association** – Council Member Betz spoke for Council President Keenan and indicated she received an email from a Howard County resident who praised the Main Street Association for the work they have done on Main Street along with all the events. As it was read out loud, it was nice to hear all the compliments.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- On Saturday, February 27 from 9-5, the Mayor and Town Council retreat will be held at the Town House. The public is invited to attend. It was learned after the announcement that the retreat was rescheduled to Saturday, March 5.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. **Shiver Shuffle – Alcohol request at event** – Dawn Ashbacher, Town Manager, introduced Stephanie Bowman who provided information about this event. It will be held on Saturday, February 27, at the Baldwin's parking lot at 1 pm. The run/walk will start at around 1:30pm and it should be finished by 4:00pm. In front of Baldwin's Restaurant, a tent will be placed for the participants start and finish. At the end of the run, beer will be served in the tent. It was requested that the Mayor and Town Council approve the use of alcohol at this event. The Mayor and Town Council affirmed the process described in the February 8 minutes for the review of special permits.

MOTION:

Council Member True motioned and Council Member Bleam seconded to approve the use of alcohol at the Shiver Shuffle on Saturday, February 27.

The motion carried unanimously.

2. **Public Hearing on Ordinance No. 294 – Maintenance of Roadside Vegetation and Trees** – Mayor Shaw opened the public hearing and requested comments from the public. Several residents were in attendance to inquire about this ordinance. Most were concerned about where the easements are located on their property in case they would like to plant/remove trees or bushes. Through discussion, it was noted that each property would need to be reviewed independently. The Town

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Manager would be the person to review this process with a homeowner to review property lines, easements, etc. One resident spoke and praised this ordinance amendment. Mayor Shaw closed the public hearing.

- 3. Approval of Ordinance No. 294 – Maintenance of Roadside Vegetation and Trees** – Mayor Shaw requested comments from the Council.

MOTION:

Council Member Betz motioned and Council Member True seconded to approve Ordinance No. 294, An Ordinance To Amend The Code Of The Town Of Sykesville, By Adding Chapter 61, Providing For The Regulation and Control Of Vegetation Located On Roadside Property And Elsewhere Within The Town.

The motion carried unanimously.

- 4. Farmers Market Update** – Steven Colella, Director of Economic Development, presented information about the Farmers Market and the potential changes to the guidelines. The Main Street Association is going to loosen the guidelines from producer only to allow the vendors to purchase local or consign from any local producer. All vendors will need to sign commitment letters indicating their compliance with the new proposed guidelines.

They also would like to expand the footprint of the market to include part of Oklahoma Ave. from Baldwin Drive to Main Street. The season will be from May 15 to October 30 from 9am to 1pm.

- 5. South Branch Park – Skatepark helmet rules** – Dawn Ashbacher presented the rules from Howard County for their Skateparks and indicated to the Mayor and Town Council that Howard County only recommends that the skaters use a helmet and other safety gear on their Skatepark rules sign. She indicated that the Town of Sykesville requires any person under the age of 17, while in the Town limits of Sykesville, to wear a helmet. Discussion took place and it was noted that Howard County does require any person under the age of 16 to wear a helmet when operating or riding a bicycle. The Town of Sykesville would like a stronger message to all the skaters to use a helmet.

MOTION:

Council Member Link motioned and Council Member Carter seconded to approve the use of Howard County Skatepark rules and instead of recommend helmets change to “strongly encourage” the use of helmets.

The motion carried unanimously.

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MOTION: Council Member Betz motioned and Council Member Carter seconded to take a five minute recess at 8:23 p.m.

The motion carried unanimously.

MOTION: Council Member True motioned and Council Member Bleam seconded to go back into open session at 8:38 p.m.

The motion carried unanimously.

CLOSED SESSION:

Council Member Betz motioned and Council Member Carter seconded to go into closed session at 8:39 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): (1) To discuss the appointment, employment, assignment, promotion, discipline, demotion, compensation, removal, resignation, or performance evaluation of appointees, employees, or officials over whom it has jurisdiction; or any other personnel matter that affects one or more specific individuals. (3) to consider the acquisition of real property for a public purpose and matters directly related to the acquisition, and (7) to consult with counsel to obtain legal advice.

Those in attendance were: Mayor Shaw, Council Members Betz, Bleam, Carter, Link, True, Town Attorney Dennis Hoover, and Town Manager Dawn Ashbacher.

ABSENT: Council President Keenan

Items discussed were:

- **Consult with Legal Counsel** – Property Acquisition and leases - Action
- **Personnel** – Staffing updates and appointments – confidential personal information – No Action

MOTION: Council Member Bleam motioned and Council Member Carter seconded to go back into open session at 10:37 p.m.

The motion carried unanimously.

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ADJOURN: **There being no further business to come before the Council, Council Member Link motioned and Council Member Blead seconded to adjourn meeting at 10:38 p.m.**

The motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted

Janice Perrault

Town Clerk