

**OFFICIAL MINUTES OF MAY 22, 2017 REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING**  
**NO. 17-11**

The Council meeting of the Town of Sykesville was held on Monday, May 22, 2017. 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 and a moment of silence.

**PRESENT:** Mayor Ian Shaw, Council President Julia Betz, and Council Members, Anna Carter, Alan Grasley, Leo Keenan, Chris True, and Stacy Link.

**STAFF:** Dawn Ashbacher, Town Manager  
Police Chief Michael Spaulding  
Kerry Chaney, Town Clerk  
Dennis Hoover, Town Attorney

**PUBLIC**

**CONCERNS:** A resident expressed interest in having a picnic table or benches placed in the gazebo on Main Street. There are occasionally bands or performers in the gazebo, so benches would work better. Council Member Link mentioned that it could be an Eagle Scout Project.

**MINUTES:** May 8, 2017 and May 15, 2017

**MOTION:** Council Member True motioned and Council Member Keenan seconded to approve the May 8, 2017 minutes with the revisions provided.

The motion carried unanimously with Council Member Grasley abstaining.

**MOTION;** Council Member True motioned and Council Member Keenan seconded to approve the minutes for May 15, 2017 with the revision provided.

The motion carried unanimously.

**PUBLIC SAFETY**

**REPORT:** Chief Spaulding presented the Public Safety Report for the period of May 4, 2017 to May 17, 2017. There were a total of 318 reports including 43 Calls for Service, 6 Community Policing events, 154 Patrol Checks, and 29 Traffic Enforcement Initiatives.

There were no incidents at Warfield during this reporting period. Chief Spaulding hopes that the diligent patrols from the officers has had an impact on the incidents, but he would still prefer more security measures in place. The buildings will be posted with "no trespassing" signs, and the doors will be more strongly secured in an effort to deter any potential trespassers.

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Helene Taylor asked Chief Spaulding about recent after-prom parties. She has underage children and wanted to know what would happen if they were found at a party that police showed up at. Chief Spaulding explained that the police would first contact a parent or homeowner where the party is being held. If the officers notice anything illegal happening, such as underage drinking or illegal drug use, they would use the appropriate enforcement. If there are not crimes witnessed, then the officer wouldn't enter the house. The homeowners could be charged with disturbing the peace if warranted. Children can be left home by themselves at age nine and can watch other children at age 13.

Chief Spaulding also announced that Wayne David, a Sykesville resident, received a Gold Medal of Valor at the Carroll County Chamber of Commerce Public Safety Awards for his involvement in stopping an attempted murder in 2016.

## COUNCIL COMMITTEE REPORTS:

- **Historic District Commission (HDC)** – Council Member Link announced that the Gate House Museum of History is open on Fridays and Sundays from 1 P.M. to 5 P.M. The Historic Colored Schoolhouse is still holding after school tutoring. The next HDC meeting is on May 23 at 7 P.M.
- **Sykesville Parks and Recreation (SPARC)** – Council Member Carter announced that the May 26 SPARC meeting has been cancelled. *Ferris Bueller's Day Off* will be shown in Millard Cooper Park on June 10 starting at sundown.
- **Warfield Development Corporation** – Mayor Shaw announced that the Warfield Development Corporation has not met since the last Mayor and Town Council Meeting. They are working on appointing board members now.
- **Planning Commission** – Council President Betz announced that the next Planning Commission is on Tuesday, June 6 at 7 P.M.
- **Main Street Association (MSA)** – Council Member Keenan announced that the Harvest Festival will be on October 8, and it will be in conjunction with the Farmers' Market. He suggested the Mayor and Town Council have a meet 'n greet type of event that day with a hotdog cookout. The Chili and Beer Festival will be on November 4, but it will not include chili. They are working on a theme for it still. One suggestion was a Beer and Food Truck Festival.

Council Member Keenan thanked Rachael Beck for all of her hard work with the Farmers' Market. She cleaned out the bathroom in the building on the lot so that vendors could use it.

The MSA Board will meet on June 8 and the Promotions Committee will meet on June 13.

- **Streetscape** – Council Member True announced that the Maryland Department of Transportation sent their feasibility study of the intersection of MD 851 (Main Street) and Oklahoma Avenue.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS:

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Approved with revisions – June 12, 2017

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- First Friday Block Party, June 2, 6 P.M. to 9 P.M. This month has a Summer Kick Off Block Party along Main Street
- Gate House Presentation, June 8, 7 P.M. to 8:30 P.M. Gate House Curator Jack White will give a presentation at the Town House on aspects of life in Sykesville 100 years ago
- Sykesville Cinema, June 10, the movie will begin at dusk. This month's movie is Ferris Bueller's Day Off
- Farmers' Market and Little Sykes Railway on Sundays from 9 A.M. to 1 P.M.

### OPEN SESSION:

#### Consent Agenda:

1. **Award contract for Linear Trail Widening, Reconstruction, and Repairs to DSM Properties, LLC in the amount of \$56,021.**
2. **Approval of Resolution NO. 2017-04 to apply for a Community Legacy Grant for a Façade Improvement Program in the amount of \$200,000.**
3. **Approval of FY 18 landscaping contract award to Beechfield Landscaping, Inc. in the amount of \$9,980.**
4. **Designation of Mellor Avenue, College Avenue, and Maple Avenue as no parking.**

**MOTION:** Council Member True motioned and Council President Betz seconded to approve the items on the Consent Agenda with number 4 removed for discussion.

The motion carried unanimously.

4. **Designation of Mellor Avenue, College Avenue, and Maple Avenue as no parking**

Chief Spaulding recommends these roads be posted as no parking all year. These roads are not designed to have parking along them, as they are not wide enough. Residents were invited to this meeting and asked for their comments. One man mentioned that there is a lack of driveway space for parking and not being allowed to park along the street would cause an undue hardship for the residents. One resident suggested having permit parking for these roads to allow residents to park along the road but not other cars.

The residents reported that except for the one area missed during the Art and Wine Festival, the temporary signs worked well at preventing cars from parking along the roads. Mike Johnston said he was willing to keep the temporary signs for Mellor Avenue in his garage for placement during the events.

It was decided to have temporary signs placed along these streets during the Farmers' Market for the next few weeks to monitor what happens.

#### Business:

5. **Introduction of the *If I Were Mayor* Essay Contest Winner**

Mayor Shaw introduced Braeden Audlin, the winner of the essay contest. Braeden was chosen out of 2,181 entries. Jasmine Bada and Brandon Zahner were semi-finalists. All three read their essays to the Mayor and Town Council.

**6. Introduction of Miller Resources for Entrepreneurs, a service of Carroll Community College**

Doug Howard, County Commissioner, presented the opening of Miller to the Mayor and Town Council. Miller used to be called Carroll Business Path. It is designed to help small businesses get started and to promote economic growth. It also offers counseling and consulting services to small businesses for free.

**7. Hawk Ridge Storm Water Management Facility Update**

Carroll County staff presented the plan for updating the storm water management facilities at Hawk Ridge and Shannon Run. The Shannon Run facility will have sediment excavated from it over the summer. Both facilities will be updated in the winter. Weather permitting, the updates will take approximately five to six months. Grading will take place to allow for a safer environment at both facilities and, existing pipes at the Shannon Run facility will be extended underground to prevent future erosion. Tree removal will be in conjunction with the improvements and will only include those trees that are necessary to be removed. The County has applied for permits and issued a request for proposals. Funding will come from a Department of Natural Resources grant and funds provided by Carroll County municipalities and Carroll County for the Joint National Pollutant Discharge and Elimination permit.

There is a tour on June 6 of all of the storm water management. It will be in Sykesville around 1:30 P.M. and will begin at the Hawk Ridge facility.

**8. Renewal of Sustainable Communities Designation**

Dawn Ashbacher, Town Manager, presented a rough draft of the application for the Sustainable Communities Designation. She explained that this application asks for goals and is a good way to focus what the Mayor and Town Council want to do in the coming years. She further explained that this is something the Circuit Rider can help complete, but a Council Liaison and a group that will meet quarterly to keep it updated would be helpful.

**9. Approval of the Shiver Shuffle, 2018, event on Town property**

The Shiver Shuffle will be held on Sunday, February 18, 2018. The organizers are looking for approval now so they can begin advertising. It will be held in a manner exactly the same as in previous years.

**MOTION: Council Member True motioned and Council Member Link seconded to approve the Shiver Shuffle for 2018 with the condition that the coordinators work with Town staff as the event approaches.**

**The motion carried unanimously.**

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**MOTION:** Council Member Link motioned and Council Member Keenan seconded to take a five minute recess at 9:05 P.M.

The motion carried unanimously.

**MOTION:** Council Member True motioned and Council President Betz seconded to go back into open session at 9:19 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; and (7) to consult with counsel to obtain legal advice on a legal matter.

**MOTION:** Council President Betz motioned and Council Member Carter seconded to go into closed session at 9:20 P.M.

The motion carried unanimously.

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

**Items discussed were:**

- **Consult with Legal Counsel** – Warfield Contract Negotiations – no action
- **Personnel** – Warfield Development Corporation Board Appointments -- Confidential Personal Information - action
- **Consult with Legal Counsel** – Main Street Organization – no action
- **Personnel** – Public Works Director – Confidential Personal Information - action

**MOTION:** Mayor Shaw motioned and Council Member Carter seconded to go back into open session at 10:30 P.M.

The motion carried unanimously.

A discussion took place about the landscaping. Concerns were raised about how the landscaping has been handled in the past.

**MOTION:** Council President Betz motioned and Council Member Keenan seconded to reverse the vote on number 3 of the Consent agenda to give conditional approval for Seven Springs based on a discussion between Council Member Link and Mark Onheiser, Special Projects Coordinator, to come to a satisfactory and mutual agreement on which landscaper to choose.

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**The motion carried unanimously.**

**ADJOURN:** There being no further business to come before the Council, Council President Betz motioned and Council Member True seconded to adjourn meeting at 10:48 P.M.

**The motion carried unanimously.**

**Respectfully submitted  
Town Clerk Kerry Chaney**