

OFFICIAL MINUTES OF MARCH 12, 2007 REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING NO. 07-05

The regular Council meeting of the Town of Sykesville was held on March 12, 2007. Jonathan Herman, Mayor of the Town of Sykesville, called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Meeting Room at the Town House. Mayor Herman, led the pledge of allegiance to the flag and a moment of silence.

PRESENT: Jonathan Herman Jim Kelley Eugene Johnson
 Debby S. Ellis Mark Rychwalski Russell G. Vreeland
 Jeannie Nichols

**EXCUSED
ABSENCE:** None

STAFF: Matthew H. Candland, Town Manager
 John R. Williams, Jr., Chief of Police

**ADDITIONS TO
THE AGENDA:** Prior to Mayor Herman calling for additions to the agenda, there was discussion about the recent passing of Jim Purman. Councilmembers commented about the great contributions Mr. Purman made to the Town. Councilmember Rychwalski suggested that a portrait be painted of Mr. Purman similar to the one painted of Ms. Wimmer some years ago. Mayor Herman suggested that the Town name a park or some other Town facility after Mr. Purman. There was some discussion. No action taken.

Mayor Herman then called for additions to the agenda. There were none.

BUSINESS: **1. Global Solutions Act** – Ms. Cheryl Wilhelm of the Chesapeake Climate Action Network was in attendance to request that the Mayor and Town Council adopt a resolution supporting the adoption of the proposed Global Warming Solutions Act recently introduced in the Maryland legislature. She shared information about the importance of the proposed bill to fight global warming. There was some discussion.

Mayor Herman indicated that the Council would consider her request. No action was taken.

2. Public Safety Report – Chief Williams – Chief Williams presented the Public Safety Report.

Chief Williams also reported that the Code Red system is up and running. He has been reviewing, approving, and rejecting numbers that have been submitting. The numbers that have been rejected were for individuals who do not live in the Town. There was additional discussion about the Code Red system.

Chief Williams reported that the new police officer has successfully completed all of the background checks and will be begin work with the Town shortly.

- 3. Planning Commission – Reappointments** – Matthew Candland reported that the terms of three members of the Planning Commission have expired. Mayor Herman appointed Leo Fiander, Justin Deibel, and Stephen Enslow to another term on the Planning Commission.

MOTION: Councilmember Rychwalski motioned and Councilmember Vreeland seconded to approve Mayor Herman’s appointment.

The motion carried unanimously.

- 4. Appointment of Assistant Secretaries to the Board of Election Supervisors**
Matthew Candland stated that the Town’s Charter states that the Town Clerk/Treasurer shall serve as the Secretary to the Board of Election Supervisors and that the Mayor and Town Council may appoint Assistant Secretaries to help the Secretary. Since the Clerk/Treasurer position is currently vacant Matthew Candland recommended that Assistant Secretaries be appointed to take care of these responsibilities. Mayor Herman then appointed Matthew Candland, Dinah Riley, and Lorie Sanders as Assistant Secretaries.

Mr. Bob Topper asked if individuals could observe the election supervisors count the votes. Mr. Candland indicated that he was unaware of any provisions in the Charter for observers. There was some discussion on the matter. Mayor Herman stated that the Town would put Mr. and Mrs. Topper’s names on the list of those who would be willing to volunteer to be assistant secretaries should the three appointed not be able to fulfill the responsibilities.

MOTION: Councilmember Rychwalski motioned and Councilmember Nichols seconded to approve Mayor Herman’s appointment.

The motion carried unanimously.

- 5. Impact Fee Increase – Inflation Adjustment** – Matthew Candland stated that from time to time the Town adjusts its fees for inflation. Mr. Candland recommended that the impact fee be adjusted for inflation since it was last adjusted in early 2003. Based on the approximately 18% inflationary rate over the past five and a half years and the dramatic increase in asphalt installation it was recommended that the fee be increased by 25%.

MOTION: Councilmember Nichols motioned and Councilmember Vreeland seconded to increase the impact fee from \$1,200 to \$1,500.

The motion carried unanimously.

- 6. Uncollected Personal Property Tax** – Matthew Candland stated that he had not completed his review and indicated that he would try to be ready next meeting.

- 7. Mayor and Town Council Retreat - Report** – Mayor Herman reported that this year’s retreat was held at the Post Office building. He stated that the primary

focus of the retreat was the Town's financial strains as a result of the higher increases in the growth of certain budget items than the Town's growth in revenue. There was extensive discussion on this matter. The Town Council also discussed the future goals of the Town at the retreat including the redevelopment of the Howard County property, parking lots, and others.

8. **Economic Development Commission** – Rose Topper, a town resident suggested that the Town create an Economic Development Commission. There was some discussion on the matter. It was suggested that Ms. Topper attend the Destination Sykesville meetings. Mayor Herman explained that it seems to him that the Destination Sykesville group closely resembles what she was describing in an Economic Development Commission. She indicated that she may be interested in this but she still would like to see an Economic Development Commission. Mayor Herman questioned what this group would look like and what its mission would be. Councilman Kelley suggested that Ms. Topper prepare something that would show the Town Council what she has in mind. There was also discussion concerning the Town's revenue structure. Mr. Dick Buczek discussed his opinion that he does not see how the Town will be able to proceed with the necessary capital expenditures without a tax increase. There was some discussion on this matter.

9. **Water Resources Committee** – Councilmember Nichols raised the question about this new committee. There was some discussion.

MOTION: Councilmember Nichols motioned and Councilmember Rychwalski seconded to approved the minutes of 2/26/07.

The motion carried unanimously.

**MOTION TO:
RECESS** Councilmember Rychwalski motioned and Councilmember Nichols seconded to take a brief recess at 8:25 p.m.

The motion carried unanimously.

CLOSED SESSION

MOTION: Councilmember Vreeland motioned and Councilmember Rychwalski seconded to close the session at 8:40 p.m.

The motion carried unanimously.

Those in attendance were: Mayor Herman, Councilmembers Ellis, Vreeland, Johnson, Kelley, Nichols, and Rychwalski, and Matthew Candland.

Items discussed were:

Personnel - specific employee – no action taken

Warfield Complex – discussed ongoing negotiations with proposed master developer – no action taken

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Parking Lot Property Acquisition – discussed ongoing negotiations with property owners for the acquisition of real property for a parking lot – no action taken.

REOPEN SESSION

MOTION: Councilmember Nichols motioned and Councilmember Ellis seconded to reopen the meeting at 9:15 p.m.

The motion carried unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business to come before the Council, Councilmember Rychwalski motioned and Councilmember Nichols seconded to adjourn at 9:16 p.m.

The motion carried unanimously.

Matthew Candland
Town Manager

MHC