

OFFICIAL MINUTES OF APRIL 23, 2007 REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING NO. 07-08

The regular Council meeting of the Town of Sykesville was held on April 23, 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 Eugene Johnson Jeannie Nichols
Debby S. Ellis Russell G. Vreeland Mark Rychwalski
Jim Kelley

**EXCUSED
ABSENCE:**

STAFF: Matthew H. Candland, Town Manager
John R. Williams, Jr., Chief of Police
Ron Esworthy, Public Works Director
Christine Bangerd, Town Clerk/Treasurer

**ADDITIONS TO
THE AGENDA:** Mayor Herman then called for additions to the agenda. Matthew Candland asked that the Poll and Vote Counting Observers be added to the agenda.

BUSINESS:

1. **New Clerk/Treasurer - Swearing In – Christine Bangerd** – Mayor Herman briefly summarized the Town's efforts to find a new Clerk/Treasurer. Mayor Herman then appointed Ms. Bangerd as the new Clerk/Treasurer.

Motion: Councilmember Nichols motioned and Councilmember Rychwalski seconded to approve Mayor Herman's appointment.

The motion carried unanimously.

Ms. Bangerd then recited the oath of the office of Clerk/Treasurer. Immediately following the swearing in Matthew Candland pointed out that the reason Ms. Bangerd was sworn in as the Clerk/Treasurer rather than just the Treasurer is that an amendment to the Charter and Code are required to separate the positions. Dennis Hoover, Town Attorney, is working drafting the proposed amendment.

2. **Annexation Public Hearing** – Matthew Candland gave a brief overview of the annexation process and of the particular parcels that are to be annexed. There were some questions and discussion regarding the parcels. Mr. Candland also recommended that the public hearing, when opened, be continued to the May 14, 2007 meeting to allow Carroll County to provide comments.

Motion: Councilmember Rychwalski motioned and Councilmember Nichols seconded to open the public hearing.

The motion carried unanimously.

3. **Public Safety Report – Chief Williams** – Chief Williams presented the Public Safety Report. Chief Williams then discussed the Police Department's intern program. The latest intern is Kayla Kavaukaf. She is a 17-year-old senior at Century High School and is a town resident. Chief Williams then described his efforts on the MML legislative committee to try to increase the Police Aid to municipalities. There were some successes but not to the level desired. There was some discussion with the public regarding Sykesville's Police department responding to calls outside of the Town limits.
4. **Budget Background Information Presentation** – Matthew Candland presented a power point presentation. He first reviewed the services that the Town provides its residents and businesses. He described the annual Capital Budget process and the annual Operating Budget process. He then described some of the trends and challenges that the Town faces financially. There was considerable discussion.
5. **Howard County Property – Planning Charrette** – Matthew Candland reminded that Town Council and public that the Charrette has been scheduled for Saturday, May 5, 2007 from 9 a.m. – 5 p.m. Mayor Herman reported that the Town has identified a facilitator for the Charrette. Sean Davis of Morris Ritchie Associates has volunteered his time, free of charge, to serve as the facilitator. Mayor Herman reported that this will save the Town approximately \$10,000 to \$15,000. The Town will be able to put this toward its contribution of in kind services for the project. Mayor Herman reiterated that it was not the intention to use Town taxpayer dollars for this project but to use the same model that was used for the renovation of the Train Station and the Schoolhouse. This model included identifying donations of money and services from private individuals and businesses. Mayor Herman also described the Charrette process.
6. **Poll and Vote Counting Observers** – Matthew Candland reported that the press has expressed interest in appointing observers during the vote counting. Mr. Candland recommended that the press, similar to the candidates, be permitted to observe based on the same criteria as the candidates. Appointment forms would be faxed to the press and they would be asked to return them by no later than close of business on Monday, April 30. The Mayor and Town Council, by consensus felt it would be fine so long as the process is kept orderly.
7. **2007 Sykesville Open Golf Activity** – Frank Robert, who has run the golf fundraising event the last several years, informed the council that the event raised over \$2,000 this year for the Gate House Museum and the Little Sykes Railway.

MOTION: Councilmember Rychwalski motioned and Councilmember Vreeland seconded to approve the April 9, 2007 minutes.

The motion carried unanimously

MOTION: Councilmember Rychwalski motioned and Councilmember Nichols seconded to approve the March, 2007 Treasurer's Report.

The motion carried unanimously.

**MOTION TO:
RECESS** Councilmember Nichols motioned and Councilmember Rychwalski seconded to take a brief recess prior to going into closed session at 8:30 p.m.

The motion carried unanimously.

CLOSED SESSION

MOTION: Councilmember Nichols motioned and Councilmember Kelley seconded to close the session at 8:45 p.m.

The motion carried unanimously.

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

Items discussed were:

Legal

1. Discussion with legal counsel regarding the Armiger Case – no action taken
2. Discussion concerning necessary legal steps to separating the Clerk and Treasurer positions. Dennis Hoover, Town Attorney, directed to draft necessary amendments to split the positions.

Personnel

1. Discussion of the salaries for specific employees – Council directed Town Manager to try to include a 3% COLA into the draft budget and to obtain additional information for the next meeting.
2. Discussion of promotion of particular employee – council directed Town Manager to make offer of Clerk position to employee. If accepted formal appointment to be made following Charter and Code Amendments.

Warfield Complex

1. Discussion of ongoing negotiations with proposed master developer – no action taken.

Parking Lot Property Acquisition

1. Discussion of 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 Rychwalski seconded to reopen the meeting at 10:09 p.m.

The motion carried unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business to come before the Council, Councilmember Kelley motioned and Councilmember Nichols seconded to adjourn at 10:10 p.m.

The motion carried unanimously.

Matthew Candland
Town Manager

MHC