

The regularly scheduled meeting of the Sykesville Borough Council was called to order at 7:00 P.M. with the Pledge of Allegiance by President Michele Yamrick. In attendance were Michele Yamrick, President; Elaine Fike, Vice President; Ron Park, President ProTem; Council Members: Nate Alvetro, Timothy Brown, Kurt Kister, and Don Zimmerman; Mayor Gail Cunningham. Absent but available by phone was Solicitor CJ Zwick.

Visitors present at the meeting were Brian Williams (Crew Foreman).

VISITORS CONCERNS:

No visitor concerns.

CORRESPONDENCE:

A request form from resident Judy Huff was presented regarding requirements for placement of a trailer on her property (18 Kaufman Drive). It was decided that Penn Safe needs to be contacted for requirements and/or permits required. Additionally, a permit will be required when demolition of the burned house occurs. Solicitor Zwick confirmed this information during a later phone call. No action is required by the Council. The resident is to be contacted with the decision.

Payment application #2 for the West Main Street-Paradise Road Water Line Project (CDBG). Payment application is in the amount of \$144, 346.68 for a Construction Cost incurred by Dave Roman Excavating through November 30, 2020. Three copies are provided, one for the Borough; two for Wm. Setree, and one for GD&F. A motion to sign the contracts was made by Councilman Don Zimmerman, seconded by Councilman Ron Park. Motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS:

A motion to approve December 7, 2020 minutes and December 14, 2020 Special Meeting minutes was made by Councilman Ron Park and seconded by Council Kurt Kister. Motion carried.

The Budget for 2021 was discussed regarding the Earned Income Tax rate in the Borough. Per Solicitor Zwick, in order to raise the Earned Income Tax rate there must be a referendum which goes on the ballot, and then must be voted on by the voters. The Council Members voiced a desire to further pursue this in 2021;

that Solicitor Zwick must be present at that meeting, and then a decision made regarding that issue.

President Yamrick then stated that the 2021 Budget must be settled during this meeting to allow for public publication/advertisement of the 2021 Budget prior to the Council Voting/Approving the budget.

Vice President Fike stated that she had contacted Maureen Kovalchick, Tax Collector, who informed Vice President that there are 614 residents in Sykesville, and at \$12.00/mil that would be \$7368.00 if only increased by 1 mil. The 2 mil increase last year made an increase of \$23,818.61. That same amount would likely be increased with a 2 mil increase for 2021. Vice President Fike stated that, in light of the COVID-19 Pandemic and its community/financial impacts, that the Council consider making no Real Estate Tax increase occur for 2021; this could possibly be offset by the proposed Earned Income Tax increase previously mentioned. A group discussion regarding how the \$23,818.61 was actually created if the \$7368.00 is accurate. Councilman Park stated that \$12,000.00/mil (paid by the community) rather the \$12.00/mil is financially more plausible. The "population" of 614 is more likely related to 614 property owners. The Council further discussed that there is a positive balance/cushion at this time.

Councilman Alvetro voiced concerns regarding the possibility of increasing the Earned Income Tax can be jeopardized if the Pandemic continues and people are laid off, etc. A discussion ensued regarding the balance available from the CARES Act (\$5085.55 at this time), no millage increase, 1 millage increase, 2 millage increase. Councilman Park made a motion to not increase the Real Estate Tax for the 2021 budget, seconded by Councilman Kurt Kister; motion carried. Councilman Alvetro opposed the motion, voicing an interest in raising the millage by 1 to decrease the impact for the following years budget. The motion was made to rescind the zero increase motion previously carried. The Ordinance drawn up by Solicitor Zwick was reviewed however, it was unclear what the millage increase was; a call was placed to Solicitor Zwick for further information. While waiting for that call a motion was made by Councilman Park to raise the Real Estate Tax by 1 mil for 2021; there was no second, the motion failed. Solicitor Zwick called in to the meeting and confirmed that the Ordinance drawn up was for a 2 mil increase as per the December 14, 2021 Special Meeting discussion. A comprehensive discussion ensued following Solicitor Zwick's call.

A motion to raise the Real Estate Tax by 2 mils for Fiscal Year 2021 was made by Councilman Park; seconded by Councilman Alvetro. Motion passed.

A motion to advertise the propose the Ordinance to raise property tax by 2 mils was made by Councilman Park, seconded by Councilman Brown; motion carried.

Tuning Accounting is to be contacted with the 2021 Fiscal Year budget changes (no Earned Income Tax increase, Real Estate Tax increase of 2 mils) for publication.

A motion to rescind a resolution made at the Special meeting of December 14, 2020 to increase the Earned Income Tax 1% in Sykesville Borough was made by Councilman Brown, seconded by Councilman Park. Motion carried.

The Recycling Bin Sponsor Agreement was reviewed, including the timeline of previous discussions. The donation of \$350.00 was made on May 4, 2020. Site placement was discussed; the dumpster is to be placed to the left of Ideal (Kaufman Drive). The contract was reviewed. The terms are for a 3-year period with a clause allowing termination with a 30-day notice. Annual costs are \$200.00. The Borough is responsible for the site. An additional donation of \$300.00 was discussed between Jefferson County Solid Waste Authority and Councilman Zimmerman. A motion to proceed with the placement of recycling bins on Kaufman Drive was made by Councilman Zimmerman, seconded by Councilman Park. Motion carried.

CREW FOREMAN REPORT: Brian Williams

Foreman Williams reported that yard repair issues secondary to snow plowing will be addressed by the crew in the spring of 2021.

The new truck is at Spitzer Motors having warranty work done related to a power steering hose failure which occurred. The anticipated return date is Christmas.

There are still approximately 25 new meters which need to be installed; the crew is waiting to pursue that until spring secondary to the COVID-19 recommendations in place at this time.

COMITTEE REPORTS:

Public Works: Nathan Alvetro

Councilman Alvetro states that the crew has done a good job plowing.

Finance/Personnel: Elaine Fike

November Financial Reports were sent to all council members.

A Ransomware Supplemental Application was presented for discussion. The proposed application quote of \$2000.00 annually is good through January 13, 2021. The application is tabled until January 2021.

- Leave of absence Mike Gamble 12/9 (2 hours) through 12/11/2020; motion to approve made by Councilman Park; second by Councilman Brown. Motion carried.
- Bereavement leave Mike Gamble 12/21 through 12/23/2020; motion to approve made by Councilman Brown; second by Vice President Fike. Motion carried.
- Leave of absence Jaysa Neale 12/10/2020 and 12/17/2020; motion to approve made by Councilman Brown; second by Councilman Kister. Motion carried.

Three new checking accounts, for major equipment purchases, for the old bank building, and for the police car, require authorized signers. It was decided the signers should be the same on all accounts. A motion to approve President Michele Yamrick, Vice President Elaine Fike, President ProTem Ron Park as signers of the new accounts was made by Councilman Brown, second by Councilman Kister. Motion carried.

Borough Employee Christmas gifts for full-time employees was discussed. President Yamrick spoke with some crew members regarding where they would prefer and Walmart was the unanimous decision. A motion for Walmart gift cards of \$100.00 each for 5 full-time employees (total \$500.00) was made by Councilman Park, second by Councilman Kister. Motion carried.

Ordinance, Health & Safety

Nothing new to report.

Utilities

Nothing to report.

Parks, Recreation and Planning: Kurt Kister

A message was received from Beth stating the park walks, etc. was received. The Borough crew cleaned the parkways.

Police, Mayor, Fire, Code Enforcement: Ron Park

The 2021 Police Union Contract was reviewed. The updated contract was reviewed by all Council members. A motion to accept the Police Contract for 2021 as written was made by Councilman Park, second by Councilman Brown. Motion carried.

Solicitor Zwick:

Nothing to report.

NEW BUSINESS:

Councilman Alvetro reported receiving inquiries regarding the plowing of alleys within the Borough and how decisions were made regarding whether/which alleys are plowed. The Foreman Williams reports that if there is no vehicle in an alley the alley is usually plowed.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

No Executive Session.

ADJOURNMENT:

Council was reminded there will be a Special Meeting on December 31, 2020 at 7:00 PM. The meeting will be advertised.

A motion to adjourn was made by Councilman Ron Park and seconded by Vice President Elaine Fike. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 8:17 P.M.

Respectfully submitted:

Pat Dunworth
Interim Borough Secretary/Treasurer

