

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; Nathan Alvetro, President ProTem; Council Members: Kurt Kister, Ron Morris, Gabriel Sweka, and Don Zimmerman; Mayor Gail Cunningham; Solicitor Nicholas Gianvito.

Visitors present were Nick Yamrick and Brian Williams (Crew Foreman).

VISITORS CONCERNS:

No visitor concerns.

CORRESPONDENCE:

President Michele Yamrick presented a letter of resignation (received this morning) from Karl McCracken to Council. A motion was made by Councilman Don Zimmerman and seconded by Councilman Kurt Kister to accept Mr. McCracken's letter of resignation. Motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS:

A motion to approve October 18, 2021 minutes was made by President ProTem Nathan Alvetro and seconded by Councilman Don Zimmerman. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Councilman Kurt Kister and seconded by Vice President Elaine Fike to combine the Park General Account and the Park Fundraising Account. Motion carried.

Councilman Zimmerman proposed that outdoor burning hours should be Monday-Saturday from 4:00 PM-9:00PM all year. A motion was made by Councilman Zimmerman to have Solicitor Gianvito draft a new ordinance on the proposed times. Motion was not seconded. Motion will not carry.

After a discussion on employee rates contributed in the UPMC Health Plan, a motion was made by Councilman Ron Morris and seconded by Councilman Kurt Kister to increase the employee rate 5%, making the total to 20%, on the employee + spouse and family UPMC plan (if eligible). Motion carried. A motion was made by Vice President Elaine Fike and seconded by Councilman Gabriel Sweka to keep the rate the same at 15% for employees that have the UPMC single and employee + child(ren) health plan. Motion carried.

After a brief discussion on potentially freezing 2022 raises for employees, Council decided to discuss the topic more in executive session.

President Yamrick informed that in January of 2021 Council decided to extend the FMLA COVID Act of 2020 (which expired in December of 2020) to the Borough employees. President Yamrick stated that in the Act, if an employee were to get the Coronavirus that employee would get paid without using their sick/vacation time for 10 days. She stated that there is now a vaccine and wanted to know Council's thoughts on extending the Act. A motion was made by Councilman Kister and seconded by Councilman Zimmerman to extend the Act until December 31, 2021. Motion carried.

#### CREW FOREMAN REPORT:

Foreman Williams informed Council that Chuck's last day was on Friday for mowing. He stated that he will call Mr. Young on an "as needed" basis.

#### COMITTEE REPORTS:

##### Public Works:

Nothing to report.

##### Finance/Personnel:

A motion was made by Councilman Sweka and seconded by Vice President Fike to renew the 2022 PSAB Borough and Councils membership dues for a total of \$242. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Councilman Sweka and seconded by President ProTem Alvetro to renew the 2022 Association of Mayors of the Boroughs of PA (AMBPA) membership dues for a total of \$60. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Councilman Kister and seconded by Councilman Sweka to approve Michael Gamble's paid time off for October 28 (4 hours). Motion carried.

A motion was made by President ProTem Alvetro and seconded by Councilman Sweka to approve Karl McCracken's paid time off for October 26-October 29. Motion carried.

President Yamrick informed Council that the Borough use to allow a boot allowance for the Borough Crew. She asked of Council's thoughts in having a boot allowance for 2022 for each Borough Crew employee. A motion was

made by Councilman Sweka and seconded by Councilman Morris to allow up to \$100 boot allowance per year (must present a receipt to the Borough) for each full time Borough Crew employee. Motion carried.

Ordinance, Health & Safety

Nothing to report.

Utilities:

Councilman Morris raised questions on whether our garbage provider will propose the same garbage plan as Sandy Township with having garbage cans for each resident. Secretary Neale has not heard of this idea for Sykesville from Waste Management.

Parks, Recreation and Planning:

Vice President Fike informed Council that 96 quarts of soup were sold at the sell and 12 more will be sold. She also informed Council that she presented \$773 to Secretary Neale to deposit in the Park Account.

Councilman Zimmerman stated that the parade went well but didn't have as big of a turnout as last year.

Councilman Morris proposed that the Borough ask for help (decorating, opening, closing, events, etc.) with the Park from the SCIA given that there is no committee. Councilman Kurt Kister informed that he will go to the SCIA meeting tomorrow night to propose this.

Police, Mayor, Fire, Code Enforcement:

Mayor Cunningham informed Council that OIC Campbell is quarantining due to his wife testing positive for the Coronavirus. She stated that he will be tested before coming back to work. She also informed that Bruce Cramer worked yesterday and will try to come in on evenings in OIC Campbell's absence.

Solicitor Gianvito:

Nothing to report.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

Vice President Fike proposed to Council in giving Brian Williams and Jaysa Neale a bonus because of their work in applying and obtaining grant money for the

Borough over the last year. President Yamrick stated that this can be discussed further in executive session.

Council discussed on using a portion of the COVID grant money on refurbishing the Borough office and building. The roof needs replaced, the basement needs redone, and the office and lobby needs an upgrade/fixing. Councilman Zimmerman stated that the money could also be used for refurbishing the bank building until the Borough can apply for grant money. President ProTem Alvetro asked what the plans are for the bank building. Councilman Zimmerman stated to move the Borough Office and Police Department to the building. President ProTem Alvetro informed that the Borough will still have to maintain two property locations due to the library not moving to the bank building, he suggested to sell the bank building. Council will think on this topic and discuss more at the next meeting.

#### EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Council went into executive session to discuss personnel matters at 8:01 P.M.

#### ACTION AFTER EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Council reconvened from executive session at 8:35 P.M.

A motion was made by Councilman Kister and seconded by Councilman Morris to give Michael Gamble a \$1 increase effective November 1<sup>st</sup> due to passing his water testing. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Councilman Zimmerman and seconded by Councilman Sweka to advertise for a full time Borough Laborer. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Councilman Sweka and seconded by Vice President Fike to allow Travis Long (JHA Companies) to sign off on Mr. Gamble and Mr. McCracken only if he feels secure. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Councilman Sweka and seconded by Councilman Kister to budget a .50 cent increase for each full time Borough employee's wages in 2022. Motion carried.

#### ADJOURNMENT:

A motion to adjourn was made by Councilman Don Zimmerman and seconded by Councilman Gabriel Sweka. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 8:44 P.M.

Respectfully submitted:



Jaysa Neale  
Borough Secretary/Treasurer

