Borough of Sykesville Council Meeting **August 17, 2026**

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; Council Members: Don Reid, Colton Gearhart, Ron Morris, Mike Sackash; Solicitor Nicholas Gianvito. Late arrival; Nathan Alvetro, President ProTem. Absent Mayor Kyle Pisarcik.

Visitors were John Sedor, Dahlene Reid, Andy Oven, Suzanne Haag.

VISITORS CONCERNS:

Dahlene Reid voiced concern about the speeding on North Park Street, it continues. We will advise OIC Earl Campell on this to work on coverage up there.
Speeding is an ongoing concern, along with running the red light, with reference to my television appearance on Channel 6 of a year ago. The problem is still there.

Andy Oven, also commenting on North Park Street speeding, he has called the State Police, and there are also apparently people hanging out at Holy Trinity Byzantine Catholic Church's Cemetery. Another concern was increase in our water late fees and shut-off fees. With concern for those who are struggling, John Sedor from the Water/Sewer Authority shared the information on those who have habitually cost the borough money, the number of those habitually late is 140, losing $17,000.00 per month, after all pay, it goes to a loss of $8,000.00. The concern is how to recover this. There were three ideas before the new fees were chosen. 1. Raise water and sewer rates. 2. A $25.00 surcharge could be added to each bill. 3. The new fees, which were eventually enacted, went into force on August 1st.

Suzanne Sonnie Haag was here about the water bills, offered to give us information on the collection agency she uses. She encouraged turning people into collections, instead of taking it out on the ones who pay. A discussion between Suzanne Haag and John Sedor continued regarding shutting off those who don't pay, don't turn it back on until paid in full. Suzanne Haag stated that the collection agency responds quickly. Councilman Mike Sackash requested Suzanne Haag receivables are on those she sends to collections. She responded, "couple thousand". She went on to say her heart goes out to the residents who are low income.

After several minutes of back and forth, public comment was closed by President Michele Yamrick, with a thank you to all who were voicing their concerns. Councilman Don Reid also commented that borough employees would be paid for turn offs and restarts.

CORRESPONDENCE:

Invitation from Jefferson County board of commissioners and planning commission, regarding the SALDO ordinance. It is scheduled for: Thursday August 27th, from 6-7:30 Jefferson Place, first floor conference room. The ordinance invitation was read. Anyone who wishes to go should call for more information.

Waste Management shred it event. Requesting more information on costs. Will revisit later.

PSAB Fall Conference being held in Erie on the Bayfront. Many good speakers, details on the flyer, PSAB members $200.00 for the whole weekend.

OLD BUSINESS:

Change Orders. No resolution. AJ was here last week, nothing was mentioned. We are holding on. We need to do better. Councilman Ron Morris commented that Council was never actively involved. Councilman Don Reid mentioned that change orders should have been brought to us the minute they happened. Councilman Mike Sackash stated that whoever was on scene, should have brought it to Council. We didn't have a process. We never asked if we were on budget, then two weeks later we were no longer on budget. The responsibility starts with us; it's a mess because we didn't do our jobs. Council Don Reid mentioned there was another party involved, a former employee, who made decisions. Councilman Mike Sackash was angered by this, to which most of us stated we didn't know anything. Councilman Colton Gearhart, commented, that his question was about the $237,000.00, if it needs paid, we need to pay it, but since we might see something change once the change orders are done, but it still needs done once we have the final change orders. Councilman Don Reid stated when AJ was here the previous week, that when we got engineering bills, we need to pay them, but we, according to AJ we should not have done that. Councilman Ron Morris stated that they sat right here and said here's the next bill we need to pay that. Councilman Mike Sackash also commented that contractor Dave Roman also said about being paid. He also said that we were responsible for the people of Sykesville, and paying is not the issue. He also noted that he had requested this prior to his leaving on a trip. A motion was made by Councilman Ron Morris and seconded by Councilman Don Reid to request a written report from the Engineers. Motion carried.

Councilman Don Reid asked if that should come from Solicitor Nicholas Gianvito or Council President Michele Yamrick. Council President Michele Yamrick stated that it may hold more importance coming from our Solicitor.

Councilman Mike Sackash reviewed the accounting which called as vague as you could get, that came from the Engineers. Councilman Colton Gearhart stated the some of the questions he had was that the $237,000.00, was goes into this and that's what it was, so now it's $400,000.00, there is a difference here, it was a kind of a weird statement.

John Sedor asked who put all the work orders in and didn't keep track.
Councilman Colton Gearhart responded that "I think it came from I don't want to throw Dave under the bus, but he sends the invoices when he's done, and you don't know any of it until he's done.
Councilman Mike Sackash stated that was between AJ ad Dave, but the number one thing project managers must do is keep track of costs. And that wasn't done. In fact, we were told we were under budget. He also said, "let's not get into our spending habits." We are spending, we need to watch our money, new trucks. We need the report from JHA and we need to respond to it. It wasn't managed properly.

Councilman Colton Gearhart: So, what happens in a future project, and there is a problem, what do we do? Several responses from Council, that were all the same "stop, make a phone call". President Michele Yamrick stated that the change order would have to happen the minute there is a major change in the scope while construction is going on.
Councilman Colton Gearhart offered that tit happens daily in his job, and it is submitted before the work is done. Councilman Mike Sackash states that it is part of the process with the engineers, but we abdicated our responsibility. The people on site need to have a practical limit. I'm sure if President ProTem Nathan Alvetro would have got an estimate for $237,000.00, he would have reached out. Councilman Mike Sackash also (again) stated we have been overspending for 2 years and are on track to do so this year.

**Side note: Not part of the record, we received Pay Requests 1-12, which were signed by me. They HAD to be signed for US to get our money. In those pay requests, were the invoices.

John Sedor talked to Travis, about the Sewer Plant DEP inspection, he was not called. He complained that the Authority was not notified. Council President Michele Yamrick said, "Do you want to know WHY I went"? Sedor replied, "I don't care why you went" President Michele Yamrick then replied that a member of the borough maintenance team was in the ER and could Not go, so

she went in his place". She then went on to say that the plant did not have any violations.

John Sedor went all citing issues with water laying that is not being handled by the storm sewer. Councilman Don Reid mentioned the "mosquito pit" where nothing will hit the storm sewer, and it will cause more headaches.

President Michele Yamrick then said, "well if it wasn't done right it needs to be fixed and we should not be charged".

At this point there was so much talking back and forth that it was not possible to hear everything.

The MOU between the Borough and the Authority was then brought up, and Councilman Mike Sackash asked if we were going to sign it. President Michele Yamrick asked for a motion. A motion by Councilman Mike Sackash and seconded by Councilman Don Reid for President Michele Yamrick to sign the MOU. Motion carried.

John Sedor mentioned local businesses that have signs in their parking lots that state the business is not responsible for damage done to vehicles parked there. He asked if we could do that for our public lot on West Main Street. Cameras were mentioned and several buildings have them that show the lot. A motion was made by Councilman Don Reid and seconded by Councilman Colton Gearhart to put up signs on the lot that the Borough is not responsible for damages caused to vehicles in this lot. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Councilman Don Reid and seconded by Councilman Ron Morris to purchase a flowmeter for the hydrants from LBWater $2,708.00. Motion carried.

John Sedor wanted to know if we pay DuBois when we flush hydrants. We need more information on that.

MAYOR KYLE PISARCIK:

Nothing to report.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

President ProTem Nathan Alvetro: Check received for the 2020 blue dump truck. Where are we putting that money?
Councilman Mike Sackash asked which of the 14 bank accounts we'd use for this? Councilman Mike Sackash is in favor of delaying payment of the new truck,

until the $237,000.00 overage on the Pennvest project is remedied. There is a company in Brookville to do the dump bed conversion, for $7,000.00, but we are waiting to see if the pump needs replaced.

President ProTem Nathan Alvetro informed Council of the latest involving the blue truck, and the new one.
M&K Truck quote for labor of taking off the dump bed from the old truck and putting it on the new one, President ProTem Nathan Alvetro asked for new hydraulic clutch pump and lines, labor $7,504.04, is to just move the dump bed. President ProTem Nathan Alvetro hopes the total once the figures for the clutch pump, and hydraulic for the clutch pump, and hydraulics, will be under $10,000.00. He asked for the clutch pump, and hydraulics, due to the fire that ruined a lot of these components. President ProTem Nathan Alvetro will call again to see what the status is on the additional requests.
M&K is also closer, meaning a shorter tow for the blue dump truck to be moved.

We have received the check from insurance for the sum of $31,759.19. It was discussed on where to place that money. A motion was made by Councilman Ron Morris and seconded by Councilman Don Reid to deposit that into the General Fund, with Councilman Mike Sackash being opposed. Motion carried.

CREW FOREMAN REPORT:

Crew Forman advises Council of the Hydrant flushing in September. New meter should be here on time.

Public Works:

Nothing to report.

Finance/Personnel:

A motion was made by Councilman Ron Morris and seconded by Councilman Don Reid to pay RPM Fencing $1,500.00 for installing 42 ft of top raid, 860 ft of barbed wire at the water tank.

Vice President Elaine Fike reported to Council about the proposed investment of $250,000.00 from the Sludge Fund.
Mid Penn Bank offered a 15-Month CD at 3.85% no penalty for early withdrawal. Sarah from J&M, and Vice President Elaine Fike worked together on this. Dustin Schoening, wants to discuss with President Michele Yamrick, Vice President Elaine Fike and President ProTem Nathan Alvetro regarding the signers, etc. A motion was made by Councilman Colton Gearhart and seconded by Mike

Sackash to proceed. Motion carried. The possibility of a signer from the Water/Sewer Authority will be researched, but at this time signers to be determined. Councilman Mike Sackash is in favor of a member from Water/Sewer as a signer. John Sedor will call members of the Authority as to who might want. Again, a motion by Councilman Colton Gearhart and seconded by Councilman Mike Sackash. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Councilman Mike Sackash and seconded by Councilman Don Reid to pay J&M Accounting's retainer for July $1,313.58. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Councilman Colton Gearhart and seconded by Mike Sackash to approve the July Financials. Motion carried.
Councilman Mike Sackash commented that all expenses are 50,000 over by years end.
President Michele Yamrick commented that the budget needs to be opened and done NOW sooner rather than later.

A motion was made by Councilman Mike Sackash and seconded by Councilman Colton Gearhart to pay JHA Engineering Services in the amount of $2,647.14. Motion carried.

JHA Stormwater Projects invoice in the amount of $4,014.12 will be tabled. Council wants to wait until the change order report is received. Side conversations heard in the background, unable to decipher.

The annual pension for employees was received. It is the financial requirement minimum municipal obligations for upcoming 2027 plan year. They are required to get them to us by the end of September, and included in our minutes, which they are. Pollice Pension Minimum Municipal Obligation is: $36,184.00 Municipal (Brian, James and Monica) Minimum $6,000.00. All we have to do is motion for me to sign it, and we send it in. A motion was made by Councilman Mike Sackash and seconded by Councilman Colton Gearhart to sign it. Motion carried. Councilman Mike Sackash mentioned the Audit Report from Sharkey, McFadden, stating that we still don't have our reports and now we are signing this document for the pension plans for 2027. He went on to state this was unacceptable.

Invoices for Workers comp, and Select Quote which covers the properties, sewer plant, the pump house across from Dairy Queen, and the Highland Street Water Tank. Motion needed to add these to agenda so they can be paid in time, both bills due September 1st. Motion by President ProTem Nathan Alvetro and seconded by Councilman Ron Morris, motion carried. Amtrust, for Workers Comp, minimum payment due is $1,742.00, and pay in full is $5,196.00. Motion to

pay minimum $1,742.00 appropriate accounts to be determined Councilman Ron Morris seconded, President ProTem Nathan Aletro motion. Motion carried. Next is Selective on the properties mentioned, Minimum payment is $2,300.00. A motion was made by Councilman Don Reid and seconded by Councilman Ron Morris. Motion carried.

Targets: OIC Earl Campbell requesting reimbursement, he purchased these for, tabled until we get further information. Not sure what the organization is, until we get the details.

A motion was made by President ProTem Nathan Alvetro and seconded by Councilman Colton Gearhart to approve Forman Brian Williams July 20th, 8 hours, August 7th, 8 hours, August 13th,4 hours LOA. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Councilman Don Reid and seconded by President ProTem Nathan Alvetro to approve James Sweka's August 19th, 8 hours personal illness, no specification. Question raised on why an early sick day. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Councilman Mike Sackash and seconded by Councilman Don Reid to add an Accounts Receivable to our Financial Reports. Motion carried.

Ordinance, Health & Safety

Councilman Don Reid reported that all the streetlights in town have been repaired. Gil from Penelec gets the credit.

Utilities:

Nothing to report.

Parks, Recreation and Planning:

Councilman Mike Sackash, park complaint from his family, the morning of their reunion, park was locked up, women's restroom a mess. Refund not requested but would like to see better care.

Councilman Mike Sackash states he submits the things he wants on the agenda. A month ago, we agreed to Enhance pay online, he ties this back to big problem with efficiency in the office. States that no one seems to care about what gets done, no follow up, he requests it on the agenda, then must bring it up because it's not on the agenda. Website, update, it was created by Mike's daughter. Cost: $300.00-$500.00 per year. Capability to pay on line again but

based on his observation until 1. The Borough gives a damn, or staff capabilities are limited, tied up with billing. Also mentions people in the office that should not be in the office. Doesn't want his daughter involved. PSAB website, Mike would investigate getting it more user friendly if we want that.

Councilman Colton Gearhart mentioned the park is being graveled, and it looks good. Councilman Ron Morris mentioned surveyors in the park, is it for the grant project?

Councilman Mike Sackash wants a motion for a 'real" website, instead the PSAB's. Motion by Councilman Don Reid and seconded by Councilman Ron Morris. Motion carried.

Police, Mayor, Fire, Code Enforcement:

Regional PD he gave a call, left a voicemail, doesn't know where we are at with it since last year, with a free feasibility study.

President ProTem Nathan Alvetro asked what happened with Code Enforcement Regionalization with Reynoldsville, Reynoldsville asked him where we were at, Councilman Ron Morris stated they wanted us to split the cost, for a full-time officer. President Michele Yamrick stated they wanted 50-50 on cost and we didn't need that, so that was pretty much the end of that.

Councilman Milke Sackash wants to make a recommendation on fire, and motion that Borough Council to research and develop and adopt a Volunteer Fire Department oversight policy/ordinance. Current ordinance outdated. Once we need that draft, negotiate and sign an agreement with the fire department that they are the primary providers of fire protection. Councilman Don Reid asks it that is Councilman Mike Sackash's motion. Councilman Ron Morris, I don't think we have any authority to tell the Fire Department what to do. (Councilman Mike Sackash goes into a long dissertation on why, and such, I could not keep up. Councilman Don Reid asks again, if this is the motion. Motion by Councilman Mike Sackash and seconded by Councilman Don Reid. Motion carried. Councilman Colton Gearhart asks and states that the Fire Department needs the right to review and approve. Solicitor Nicholas Gianvito states it will be similar to the MOU of the Water/Sewer Authority.

Solicitor Gianvito:

Solicitor Nicholas Gianvito asked for clarification at the next meeting that falls on Labor Day, due to the holiday, we will meet on the next day, Tuesday the 8th.

NEW BUSINESS:

Nothing to report.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Council went into a brief executive session at 8:55 PM. Until 9:25 PM.

ACTION AFTER EXECUTIVE SESSION:

No action was taken at this time.

ADJOURNMENT:

A motion was made by Councilman Colton Gearhart and seconded by President ProTem Nathan Alvetro to adjourn this Council meeting at 9:26 P.M. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted:

Monica Walker
Borough Secretary/Treasurer