

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; Nate Alvetro, President ProTem; Council Members: Sherry Pruzinsky and Don Reid; Mayor Gail Cunningham. Absent were Councilman Ron Morris, Councilman Gabriel "Butch" Sweka, and Solicitor Nicholas Gianvito.

Visitors present were Mark Gilga, Travis Long (JHA), Jessica ZaJac (JHA), Monica Walker (Assistant Secretary), Brian Williams (Foreman) and Earl Campbell (Sykesville PD).

VISITORS CONCERNS:

Mark Gilga was present to pay the gaming tax. (January 1, 2025- December 31, 2025).

Travis Long informed Council that he attended the Water and Sewer Authority Meeting held right before the Council Meeting (6PM) discussing rate changes and answering any questions that the Authority had for him. He informed that there was a discussion to raise water and sewer rates, which he supports, and he also informed while doing the Act 57, the Borough is not in the "red" for water and sewer rates, however, increasing a little each year would help offset the upkeep for the water and sewer services.

Mr. Long informed Council that there are about 30 bidders interested in the stormwater project(s). There is a pre-bid this Wednesday (walk through of areas). Construction is scheduled to begin in April (depending on settlement).

Mr. Long informed that he is working with Solicitor Gianvito in obtaining one more easement. The architect for the Postal Service is trying to have the project be re-routed, which is physically impossible. Mr. Long is waiting for a denial letter from PennDot stating so. The Postal Service is worried that the construction will affect mail interruption. Mr. Long assured that it will not interrupt their daily service and construction for that area will be 1-2 days (there is an existing 20 ft. sewer easement).

Mr. Long informed Council that the chapter 94 report is in progress and the rate study has been completed. A summary of the Act 57: Sykesville can legally charge up to \$4,128 for a new water connection and \$4,192 for a new sewer connection. The Borough is currently charging \$2,000 for each connection.

CORRESPONDENCE:

President Michele Yamrick passed around to Council an unsigned complaint/concern letter to the Board. OIC Campbell informed that it is an ongoing investigation and cannot be discussed at an open meeting.

A Boroughs Association Meeting will be held on Wednesday, February 19, 2025, at 5:30 P.M. located at Brockwayville Depot. (30/person). The guest speaker will be Bredan Linton (PennVest). Details located in the Borough office.

A request form was presented from Douglas Lee (DBA Lee Brother Lumber Co.) requesting to haul logs on Reeds Dam Road approximately 65 loads (2 loads/day). Time frame 2 months pending weather. Foreman Williams informed that the road was bonded at one time and is waiting on JHA for a response. The road may need another engineer study performed. Council tabled this until further information is gathered.

President Yamrick informed that she received a message from Judy Simmons (SCIA) stating that the Town Hall is available for a warming station for anyone in need. Call County Control or contact the Borough/Council for further information.

OLD BUSINESS:

A motion to approve January 6, 2025, Council minutes was made by Councilman Don Reid and seconded by Councilwoman Sherry Pruzinsky. Motion carried.

Secretary Neale informed Council that grants for the cameras (traffic light) will open/be available in September.

CREW FOREMAN REPORT:

Foreman Brian Williams informed that the garage door (stores backhoe) is no longer operational. He presented two quotes from Penn Central Door, LLC:

1. Quote to replace the bottom four panels totaling \$1,500.52 plus \$1,533 to install T50 electric operator.
2. Quote to replace damaged door, re-use existing track. Replacing all panels, springs, and hardware totaling \$4,541.11 plus \$1,533 to install T50 electric operator.

After a brief discussion, a motion was made by Councilman Don Reid and seconded by Vice President Elaine Fike to replace the damaged door (\$4,541.11) and installing an electric operator (\$1,533). Motion carried.

COMITTEE REPORTS:

Public Works:

President ProTem Nate Alvetro thanked the Borough Crew for all the snow removal and stated to keep up the good work.

Finance/Personnel:

December 2024 financial reports were presented to all members from J&M Accounting (emailed and distributed 1/7). No questions or comments were made.

A motion was made by Councilman Reid and seconded by President ProTem Alvetro to renew the membership dues with PA Rural Water Association for the 2025 year at a total cost of \$572. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Sherry Pruzinsky and seconded by Vice President Elaine Fike to approve Jaysa Neale's paid time off for January 6th and February 26th. Motion carried.

Ordinance, Health & Safety

Nothing to report.

Utilities:

President ProTem Alvetro informed Council that he has seen Penelec today repairing lights. Secretary Neale called in/reported a list of light pole outages last week.

Parks, Recreation and Planning:

Nothing to report.

Police, Mayor, Fire, Code Enforcement:

Secretary Neale informed Council that at the budget meeting there was a discussion to decrease OIC Campbell's overtime hours (over budget in 2024). After a brief discussion, a motion was made by Councilman Reid and seconded by President ProTem Alvetro to decrease OIC Campbell's weekly overtime from 10 hours to 5 hours effective February 3, 2025. Motion carried.

Solicitor Gianvito:

Nothing to report.

NEW BUSINESS:

Secretary Neale informed Council of needing new rugs in the lobby. Paris Cleaners were contacted but did not call back. Rugs (no-slip) could be purchased on Amazon for approximately \$200. A motion was made by Councilman Reid and seconded by Councilwoman Pruzinsky to purchase rugs off Amazon for the lobby. Motion carried.

Secretary Neale received a call from Leslie Kibble inquiring about her refundable security deposit. She stated that she paid the deposit 30 years ago for \$100. The office does not have record, and Ms. Kibble does not have a receipt. A motion was made by Councilman Reid and seconded by Vice President Fike to deny Ms. Kibble a refund as there is no record or receipt. Motion carried.

Secretary Neale informed that there are two years of refundable security deposits and requested that they be refunded before the new Resolution take effect. A motion was made by Councilman Reid and seconded by President ProTem Alvetro to refund all water and sewer customers that have paid a security deposit per office records. Motion carried.

Secretary Neale briefed Council on the Water and Sewer Authority Meeting. Topics mentioned:

1. Don Zimmerman presented a letter of resignation. A motion was made by Councilman Reid and seconded by Councilwoman Pruzinsky to advertise for a position on the Water and Sewer Authority. Motion carried.
2. The Authority made a motion to increase Winslow and Troutville's sewer rates from \$4.49/1,000 gal. to \$6.50/1,000 gal. All other rates remained the same and will be further discussed at the July meeting.
3. The Authority approved the drafted resolution for eliminating the refundable deposit fees on water and sewer accounts and replacing them with a one-time non-refundable fee. This can be adopted at the February 3rd Council Meeting.
4. The Authority made a motion to approve Nate Alvetro to pay his tap fees (water and sewer) when he is connected to Sykesville's system and to also start the sewer monthly charges (min. \$35) when connection is completed.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Council went into executive session to discuss personnel matters at 7:43 P.M.

ACTION AFTER EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Council reconvened from executive session at 7:53 P.M.

There was no action taken.

ADJOURNMENT:

A motion to adjourn was made by Councilman Don Reid and seconded by President ProTem Nate Alvetro. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 7:59 P.M.

Respectfully submitted:



Jaysa Neale
Borough Secretary/Treasurer

