Borough of Sykesville Council Meeting **July 20, 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; Nathan Alvetro, President ProTem; Council Members: Michael Sackash, Ron Morris, Don Reid, Colton Gearhart; Solicitor Nicholas Gianvito. Absent was Mayor Kyle Pisarcik.

Visitors were Sarah Johnson (J&M Accounting), Michelle Moore (J&M Accounting), Travis Long (JHA), John Sedor & Rick Fike (Sewer/Water Authority, Kevin Yamrick, Mack Zimmerman, Dahlene Reid, Nick Yamrick.

VISITORS CONCERNS:

Kevin Yamrick is here for the Gun Bash that is coming up August 29. They are asking for road closures of East Liberty St to Long Ally and Long Ally to East Liberty. A motion was made to close these roads for the Gun Bash by Councilman Ron Morris and seconded by Don Reid. Motion carried.

Dahlene Reid was here for the streetlights that are still out. We (Council) will be out to get pole numbers and will submit them again online.

Sarah and Michelle from J & M Accounting were here to observe and to answer any financial questions that Council members may have.

Rick Fike from the Sewer/Water Authority were here for the update of their Authority meeting that was held prior to the Council meeting.
The plant will need some work for maintenance. We will do a walk through to see what needs to be done. Air conditioner/furnace, liners, ceiling tiles, asphalt. Just some upkeep since the plant is 28 years old.
As for now the Water/Sewer rates are staying the same.

John Sedor was here from the Authority meeting also. He also addressed Council that he had heard a rumor that was said about him, and he wanted to clear this up. If there is anything that you want to know if he said, then you need to just come and ask him.

Nick Yamrick was just here to observe.

Travis Long from JHA was here to give an update on the Stormwater Project and answer any questions or concerns that Council has. Water & Sewer are working well. Borman Brian Williams and Crewman James Sweka are doing a good job. Councilman Ron Morris is questioning Travis about how we can be in the black and then the next be in the red with no warning? Travis replied most of the additional items were hydrants, lead service lines, water line replacements and sewer lateral were extras. The big-ticket items were North Park Street as utilities were there. That moved the project to the roadway. PennDot requirement having to go curb to curb, additional catch basins with backfill with the sidewalks and curbing that was all PennDot direction. The other big-ticket items were the Post Office parking lot. To get that to move forward we had to repave the whole parking lot, which was not of the original scope of services. JHA never authorized these before without the direction of you guys. The biggest item was North Park Street. We could have just stopped and not done that at all at the time. Moving forward it wasn't until we started excavating that we realized that is when we had to relocate that to the road. Councilman Ron Morris asked, "as our advisors with us being a small municipality, where we can find funding to help pay for this"? Travis said that there are two options in his opinion that can be looked at, 1. Looking at your bank loan for modifications of that or 2. Sludge fund money that you have available to compensate since a large component was water lines and sewer line replacements. To do that would be the most practical way to do it and the money is there without adding an extra burden to the customer base. Councilman Mike Sackash asked for a break down in buckets of the Post Office from A.J. Travis did tell him that he does have that. Councilman Mike Sackash was concerned of the long delay from when the North Park Street work started the end of April and when we got the notice of the $200,000.00. At the meeting on April 6th, we were under budget and you gave a report at the next meeting still under. Then the meeting in July we get hit with overage. Travis replied that was correct with the information that was given to him by Dave Roman at the time as our checks and balances do that. That addition was the paving modifications that he had tallied up as Hawbaker had done at that time. Then North Park was underway when the extra sone was needed. Councilman Mike Sackash ask was Roman's the last invoices to hit and what were the dates that we are talking about? Travis replied yes and it was June and July. Councilman Mike Sackash asked A.J. about this and he stated that it was too late to go to Pennvest because once construction stops that is it. Travis states a lot of that was outside of scope and a lot of the paving that was done would not be eligible regardless. Education clarification on paving, Pennvest is very specific and meticulous about paving. What they say they will pay is the trench width plus one foot on each side of the trench.

CORRESPONDENCE:

Nothing to report.

OLD BUSINESS:

We revisited the quote from xtremeware for the shirts for the guys at $347.04 for 12. After a brief discussion a motion was made by Councilman Don Reid and seconded by Councilman Colton Gearhart to order the shirts online. Motion carried.

A discussion on the mowing of the Flood Project was revisited with a new bid from B&H Brushhogging that changed from $6000.00 per year for three years to $9000.00 per year for two years. The previous bid from D&W Clearing was $13,875.00 for one time. After a brief discussion a motion was made by Councilman Ron Morris and seconded by Councilman Colton Gearhart to set a limit of $2500.00 to rent the equipment needed for the Borough guys to mow the flood project. Motion carried.

Secretary Monica Walker had a demonstration for paying water and sewer bills online or over the phone. The company is Paystar which works with inhance our billing system. There is no charge in harris. Option #1 IVR inneractive voice response pays over the phone. This you would use your card information and would be in real time. Option #2 In person payments. We would buy the machine for $195.00 or $225.00; Residents would come in to pay with a card. There will be a $50.00 monthly fee for paystar. There will be a service charge per customer for using their card, just like if they use their cards at a store or restaurant. Option #3 Online payments. Quick Pay or Registered user (create an account). After a brief discussion a motion was made by Councilman Colton Gearhart and seconded by Councilman Mike Sackash to go with option #3. Online payments. Motion carried.

President Michele Yamrick informed Council on the 2025 Audit. After a letter was sent by Solicitor Nick Gianvito to the auditors, Secretary Monica Walker received a call for more information. That information was dropped off at their office. No time was given as to when they will be done, however they are working on them.

Solicitor Nicholas Gianvito revised the MOU. Made copies for Council. There was a brief discussion and are taking it home to read and Council can vote at the next meeting.

Councilman Mike Sackash presented to Council information pertaining to the existing website. Secretary Monica Walker cannot make any changes to it, she can only add minutes and agendas. Council would like to see a proposal for further discussion.

MAYOR KYLE PISARCIK:

Nothing to report.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

CREW FOREMAN REPORT:

Nothing to report.

Public Works:

President ProTem Nathan Alvetro informed Council with an update with the blue dump truck. At last meeting we decided to by it back. Insurance company was notified and our instructions were to go to a notary and apply for a salvage title. Once we receive the title the insurance will cut us a check for the remaining balance.
SEI stopped to look at the dump truck and gave us a quote to switch out our bed. The only thing is they do not deal with BOSS snowplows, so they would not be able to do the plow part of it. We would still need to go to Jewell's. After a brief discussion Council decided to get more quotes.

Haggers were too tar and chip last week. Something happened with their equipment and put them behind. They are coming this week.

There was a sink hole in the alley behind the fire hall. There was a pipe coming from Main Street and it stubbed into another line that rotted away and caused the sink hole. Forman Brian Williams fixed it, but we are going to have to replace it. We are going to wait until after the gun drawing.

After the heavy rains that we had Dave Roman called to see how things were. President ProTem let him know that usually there are a lot of basements that need pumped out, however there were only two that need done. Many compliments were given to the stormwater system that did its job.

Finance/Personnel:

A motion was made by Vice President Elaine Fike and seconded by Councilman Mike Sackash to pay J&M monthly retainer of $1,326.82. Motion carried.

June Financials were emailed to Council members to review. Councilman Mike Sackash informed Council the Sewer budget is over by $61,000.00 for information purposes. Councilman Mike Sackash was questioning why there was a time difference on the financials from when I received them and when he got them. Secretary Monica Walker is emailing them as soon as she gets them. A motion was made by President ProTem Nathan Alvetro and seconded by Councilman Ron Morris to accept the June Financials. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Vice President Elaine Fike and seconded by Councilman Ron Morris to pay Harris annual support for one year in the amount of $5,798.08. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Councilman Ron Morris and seconded by Vice President Elaine Fike to pay Jefferson County 2026 Recycling Containers in the amount of $700.00. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Councilman Ron Morris and seconded by Councilman Colton Gearhart to send Crewman James Sweka to a Pa Rural Water training class on August 25th in the amount of $143.00. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Councilman Ron Morris and seconded by Councilman Colton Gearhart to send Crewman James Sweka to a Pa Rural Water training class on September 22nd in the amount of $159.00. Motion carried.

Vice President Elaine Fike informed Council that when the discussion about investing funds we were hit with this deficit and I think that this should be put on hold until a decision is made.

The status of multiple bank accounts is still in progress. Secretary Monica Walker will get with J&M Accounting to get this resolved. J&M Accounting would like clarification on moving accounts into different banks. J&M Accounting and Council is under impression that all the accounts need to be moved to one bank because of Pennvest. We will get clarification on that.

Ordinance, Health & Safety

Nothing to report.

Utilities:

Councilman Colton Gearhart states that he could not attend the Water/sewer Authority meeting, so he does not know what needs to be addressed. President ProTem Nathan Alvetro informed Council that the plant needs some work done as ceiling tiles. The guys will get quotes for that. Furnace/air does not work. Stallion gave a quote of $11,645.00. Crewman James Sweka will get a couple more quotes. Travis Long from JHA is talking about a UV unit and screen with a DCED/LSA Grant in the fall.

Parks, Recreation and Planning:

Nothing to report.

Police, Mayor, Fire, Code Enforcement:

Nothing to report.

Solicitor Gianvito:

Solicitor Nicholas Gianvito states that he is probably not going to be at the August 3rd meeting but should be at the August 17th meeting.

NEW BUSINESS:

A motion was made by Councilman Don Reid and seconded by Vice President Elaine Fike to approve the Council minutes of July 6, 2026. Motion carried.

We had a resident attend the last meeting to talk about the garbage pay for 11 months and get one free. This took place in the middle of the year. She suggested switching it to coincide with our contract year which starts in February. Secretary Monica Walker suggested paying five months at $98.75 to finish out this year and we would start our contract in February. Then you would pay from February and January would be your free month. A motion was made by Councilman Don Reid and seconded by Councilman Colton Gearhart to accept this change. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Councilman Ron Morris and seconded by Vice President Elaine Fike to advertise for a part-time secretary 15 hours a week with a wage to be determined. Motion carried. We will check into a recorder to record the minutes other than her phone.

Crewman James Sweka presented to Council quotes for new weed eaters and blowers. They are from Wayland Farm Supply and Dunlap Lawn and Garden. After a lengthy discussion Council is requesting more quotes. Council will revisit this at a later meeting.

Councilman Mike Sackash would like to thank the Sykesville Volunteer Fire Department for coming tonight and helping with the smoke detectors. We had a decent response from 70 residents, and we are still getting request for another round.

Councilman Mike Sackash talked with Fire Chief Kevin Yamrick about some of my comments and ideas and we are going to try and meet and talk about it first, so I am going to table the issue for now. Sorry that you had to wait so long for that.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Council went into a brief executive session at 9:40 PM. Until 9:43 PM.

ACTION AFTER EXECUTIVE SESSION:

No action was taken at this time.

ADJOURNMENT:

A motion was made by Councilman Don Reid and seconded by Councilman Ron Morris to adjourn this Council meeting at 9:45 P.M. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted:

Monica Walker
Borough Secretary/Treasurer