

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

Visitors were John Sedor, Michael Gamble, Earl Campbell (Sykesville Police), and Larry McGuire (Punxsutawney Spirit).

VISITORS CONCERNS:

John Sedor was present regarding the late payments with both water and sewer. He would like something set up at the beginning of the year to settle the past due balances. Solicitor Nicholas Gianvito informed that he could file a municipal lien (he believes liens are good for 20 years) against the property and owner of the delinquent water and sewer bills. This would prevent the property from being sold/bought without payment satisfaction. Secretary Neale stated that there are municipal liens on a few properties per CJ Zwick. Secretary Neale informed that a \$5 late fee is assessed per month even after water shut off with an outstanding balance. Mr. Sedor raised questions on capping sewer systems with outstanding balances. Secretary Neale informed that there is a lot more involved with capping sewer systems. Travis Long (Engineer) will be called tomorrow regarding this. Secretary Neale will print a list of all the delinquents for next Council Meeting.

CORRESPONDENCE:

The employees presented a request/proposal letter to Council. Council will discuss it later in executive session.

An engagement letter was presented to Council from Sharkey, Piccirillo, & Keen LLP to begin the 2025 Borough Audit. A motion was made by Councilman Don Reid and seconded by Councilman Butch Sweka to sign the presented engagement letter from Sharkey, Piccirillo, & Keen LLP. Motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS:

A motion to approve October 20, 2025, Council minutes was made by Councilwoman Sherry Pruzinsky and seconded by Councilman Don Reid. Motion carried.

President Michele Yamrick informed Council that she recently signed payment application no. 3 on DocuSign for the stormsewer project.

CREW FOREMAN REPORT: Michael Gamble spoke on his behalf.

Mr. Gamble informed Council that the Christmas tree is fully up at Town Square.

Councilwoman Sherry Pruzinsky informed that the SCIA will be going through decorations that are stored at Stahl Pak and will help decorate the Town Square. The SCIA also got permission from Joe Bussard to put up the skating rink decorations at the former NorthWest Bank Building.

COMITTEE REPORTS:

Public Works:

Nothing to report.

Finance/Personnel:

A motion was made by Councilman Butch Sweka and seconded by Vice President Elaine Fike to accept and pay J&M Accounting & Tax Services Inc. \$1,253.30 for their monthly retainer for October 2025. Motion carried.

President Yamrick presented Sheetz gas receipts in the amount of \$37 and \$44 (total: \$81) for filling up the bucket truck that Leo Nedza donated to the Borough to put up the Christmas decorations. A motion was made by Councilman Sweka and seconded by Vice President Fike to approve the \$81 in fuel to fill up Leo Nedza's bucket truck. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Pruzinsky and seconded by Vice President Fike to purchase a "thank you card" and a \$50 gift certificate at the Silver Front for Leo Nedza. Motion carried.

Maureen Kovalchick made a request and a letter to Council asking for a 1% raise (increase yearly wage from approx. \$9,500 to \$10,700 after taxes) for the next four-year term. Vice President Fike raised questions on what Mrs. Kovalchick pays on her own (states in letter) as she submits invoices to the Borough to pay. Councilwoman Pruzinsky stated that in the 2026 proposed budget, the tax collector's wages are budgeted at \$12,000. After further discussion, Council decided to table this matter.

The 2026 proposed budget was presented to all board members to review. Some questions/concerns were raised:

1. Councilman Don Reid questioned the budget for the parks. Secretary Neale clarified that the budget for the park expense budget is proposed to be \$5,000 for the year 2026.
2. Councilman Reid commented on the increase in fuel expense for the Fire Department (budgeted \$2,000 more than last year). Vice President Fike stated that the reason for the increase had to do with gas prices fluctuating. Councilman Reid also stated that the fire reports received every year shows the Fire Department assisting with more fires/accidents outside of the Borough. He understands the mutual aid between our surrounding areas but stated that the Borough cannot keep contributing an increase in money every year. Councilman Reid questioned what the "Fire Protection Current" is in the budget under "Income". Secretary Neale informed that it is the millage (1.5) for fire protection. This is received with the real estate taxes.
3. Vice President Fike commented that while composing the budget, it was difficult to determine the police budget as he was absent for most of the year. Vice President Fike stated any suggestions are welcomed. Councilman Reid questioned how only \$232.50 was used from the "Police Car Maintenance" as he thought the transmission was replaced. OIC Campbell informed that it was replaced last year and Secretary Neale informed that the money was taken from a different account (Police Car Fund).
4. Vice President Fike asked Council if they would like to lower the contribution for "Major Equipment" as most of the major equipment have been replaced recently. Council agreed to cut the budget for "Major Equipment" by \$5,000.
5. Vice President Fike informed that the "Delinquent Taxes" have been increased for the proposed 2026 budget due to the recent economy. Council decided to table the proposed 2026 General Fund budget until next meeting to give all the members time to thoroughly review the budget. Vice President Fike stated that this would need to be approved at the next Borough Council Meeting to avoid scheduling a special meeting.

Ordinance, Health & Safety

Nothing to report.

Utilities:

Councilman Sweka informed that he submitted a list of pole lights out to Secretary Neale. Secretary Neale emailed all pole light numbers given to her directly to a guy who works for Penelec.

Parks, Recreation and Planning:

Nothing to report.

Police, Mayor, Fire, Code Enforcement:

Councilman Reid stated that the police car needs inspected. OIC Campbell informed that he would get it in the shop as soon as possible.

Mayor Cunningham informed that the State Police provided coverage at the Trick or Treating event held in town last Sunday.

Councilman Reid informed OIC Campbell that there is a red Pontiac 6000 with a loud exhaust speeding through town. There were also complaints about jake brakes.

Solicitor Gianvito:

Solicitor Nicholas Gianvito informed that he sent the sewer rate increase to Troutville Borough and Winslow Township secretaries, solicitors, and engineers. The new rate will take effect November 1st.

NEW BUSINESS:

Nothing to report.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Council went into an executive session to discuss personnel and legal matters at 7:55 P.M.

ACTION AFTER EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Council reconvened from executive session at 8:33 P.M.

No action was taken.

ADJOURNMENT:

A motion to adjourn was made by Councilman Butch Sweka and seconded by Councilman Don Reid. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 8:34 P.M.

Respectfully submitted:

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jaysa Neale".

Jaysa Neale
Borough Secretary/Treasurer

