

TOWN OF KEEDYSVILLE, MARYLAND

"Where Northern Thrift and Personality Blend with Southern Charm and Hospitality"

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Ken Lord, Mayor
Barry Levey, Assistant Mayor
Gina Ellis, Council Member
Judy Kerns, Council Member
Matthew Hull, Council Member

July 3, 2019

The monthly meeting of the Keedysville Town Council was called to order at 7:00pm with the following members present: Assistant Mayor Barry Levey, Council Members Judy Kerns, Gina Ellis, and Matt Hull and Town Administrator Rick Bishop.

The minutes for June, 2019 were read and approved.

General Fund report was \$80463.69

Mr. Levey noted the announcements listed on the agenda.

The operation of the Southeastern Washington County Health and Community Center, more commonly known as the Keedysville Community Center, was discussed. Mr. Hull said he asked for the item to be placed on the agenda because he had concerns that a conflict of interest existed as the Center Board was made up of Elizabeth Garcia, the owner of Beginnings Daycare, the main tenant of the Center and a number of parents of children that used the daycare. Mr. Hull asked that the Council send letters to the Washington County Commissioners, the Washington County Gaming Commission and other funding sources for the center, asking that funding be halted until a more diverse and independent board was instituted. He added that he would not vote for funding from the Town until a change was made. It was noted that two members of the board were parents of a wrestling group that also uses the center. Jodi Jones, a tenant of the Center asked that unbiased members of the community become members of the board. Ms. Ellis noted that, in the past, the daycare had neglected to pay electric bills and monthly rent. It was noted that after an eviction notice was served to the daycare the rent in arrears was paid. Art Williamson said that Ms. Garcia had previously moved walls and installed doors without approval of the Center Board, which was contrary to their lease agreement. Steve Kidwell noted that Beginnings daycare has not filed its annual report with the State of Maryland's assessor's office since 2013. He added that recently the daycare filed for an extension with the assessor's office. Mr. Hull made a motion to send letters to the various agencies from which the Community Center receives funding. Ms. Ellis seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Levey noted items to be included in the letters. They were:

- The Center Board is operating beyond the purview of its own bylaws.
- Ethically, Board members cannot be lease holders. This causes a conflict of interest.
- The daycare is in default of their lease.
- The daycare is not in compliance with state laws.

Mr. Bishop gave an update on the SHA Main Street project.

An emergency ordinance to release the Dan Ryan Builders Stonecrest Maintenance Bond and accept the deeds for the ponds and utilities was introduced. Mr. Hull made a motion to adopt the ordinance. Mr. Levey seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Bishop noted that the pedestrian lighting is in process, but he did not know exactly when it will be installed.

Mr. Levey made a motion to accept the bid of \$15,750.00 from Willow Run Landscaping for the demolition of the building at 15 South Main Street. Ms. Kerns seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Ms. Kerns said the Town should be making a greater effort to apply for grants for various projects around Town. She suggested a work session for planning for projects be scheduled. The session was scheduled for July 29 at 6:30pm.

Mr. Bishop asked if Mr. Hull could give some help with developing bid specs for the Taylor Drive paving and the sealing of various streets.

Ms. Ellis asked about the status of installing additional cameras in the park.

Ms. Kerns gave an update on the MML Conference. She noted that Mayor Lord was elected to the MML Board. She said it is a good place to make contacts and find out about the products and services available to the Town. She asked if a copy of unapproved minutes could be provided shortly after the M&C meetings so that action items could be attended to.

Mr. Bishop read thank you notes from organizations receiving donations from the Town.

Ms. Kerns noted the \$500.00 donation from Middletown Valley Bank for the Keedysville Homecoming celebration in September.

Meeting adjourned at 8:47 pm.

Submitted,

Richard Bishop

Town Administrator