

# 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*

April 29, 2020

Note: Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, this meeting was held via conference call, and broadcast to the community over Facebook Live.

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

A resolution to adopt policies and procedures regarding open meeting compliance during the COVID-19 pandemic was read. Mr. Hull made a motion to adopt. Ms. Ellis seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Bishop noted that, while resident's comments or questions could not be responded to during the meeting, they could send comments or questions to Town Hall via email or US mail. The Council would prepare responses and the comments, questions and those responses would be included as part of the minutes of the meeting.

The minutes for March, 2020 were read and approved.

General Fund report was \$59,518.91.

Mayor Lord noted that yard waste collections would begin on Tuesday, May 12<sup>th</sup> and bulk trash pickup would take place on Saturday, June 6<sup>th</sup>.

Mayor Lord noted that the playground is closed.

Mayor Lord noted that installation of the sign is on hold.

Mayor Lord encouraged patience from all during this difficult time.

Mr. Levey gave the Community Deputy Report.

An emergency ordinance to cancel and reschedule the Town election was read. Mr. Hull made a motion to adopt the resolution. Ms. Ellis seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

The Council desired to set an election date. Ms. Ellis made a motion to set the election date as Saturday, July 18<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Hull seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

The FY2021 budget ordinance was introduced.

Ms. Ellis made a motion to keep the FY2021 tax rates the same. Mr. Hull seconded.

Wednesday, June 3<sup>rd</sup> was selected as the date of the next Mayor & Council meeting.

Ms. Kerns noted the junk on the properties at 14 & 16 Antietam Drive. She made a motion to send a letter to the property owner to have the debris removed within 30 days. Ms. Ellis seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Ms. Kerns noted the proclamation by Governor Hogan to designate Saturday, May 2<sup>nd</sup> as a day to honor medical heroes by displaying blue. She asked if Town Hall could be lit with blue lights. Mayor Lord said it could be done.

The Mayor & Council discussed a proposal by Dylan Lang to paint the fire hydrants on Main Street as part of his Eagle Scout project. The Council liked the idea and agreed to have Mr. Lang try to find the paint through donations or fundraising, but the Town would pay for the paint if needed.

Mayor Lord again noted that comments and questions could be sent to the Council via email or US mail and they would become part of the minutes of the meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 7:32 pm.

Submitted,  
Richard Bishop  
Town Administrator

Residents' questions and Council responses:

From Justin Holder: Is there a committee or open forum for the mill dam restoration park project? If not, how does the town plan on determining how citizens can best utilize the resource?

Council Response: There is no mill dam restoration park project. If you are referring to the property the Town has acquired at 15 South Main Street, it is intended to be used as a public park at some point in the future. When the time comes the Mayor and Council will, with input from residents, determine the best use of the property.

From Justin Holder: How much money has the town paid for attorney fees and legal services each of the last fiscal years back to 2014?

Council Response: \$18,675.00

From Justin Holder: Has the town received property tax payments from 25 and 28 Antietam drive for the last 60 years?

Council Response: Tax payments have historically been made for these properties. Tax payment records in Town Hall only go back as far as 1993, however a review of those reflect the taxes have been paid. In addition, if a title search was performed during the recent transfers of the properties, any tax sale proceeding would have indicated a non-payment of taxes that should have been noted and addressed by the title company.

From Justin Holder: Is the town council aware and enforcing the mandatory water hookup ordinance as posted on the website?

Council Response: From the date of the *Mandatory Water Hook Up Ordinance*, enacted in 1998, the Ordinance has been interpreted by the Keedysville Water Commission/Mayor & Council in a prospective fashion. Any unconnected properties that existed were not required to hook up unless they requested hook up or their private water system

failed and/or the Washington County Health Department required hook up. Economic hardship and topographical or geological impracticability have also been considered in a few instances since 1998.

From Justin Holder: Does the town have plans to clean up the waste, scrap and dumped items at the end of Antietam Drive or ask residents to do so?

Council Response: The issue of the property cleanup was addressed during the April 29<sup>th</sup> virtual meeting and the council agreed to notify the owner to clean up their property.