

TOWN OF KEEDYSVILLE, MARYLAND

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

P.O. Box 359
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Ken Lord, Mayor
Brandon Sweeney, Assistant Mayor
Judy Kerns, Council
Matthew Hull, Council
Sarah Baker, Council

Mayor & Council Minutes May 5, 2021

The monthly meeting of the Keedysville Mayor and Town Council was called to order at 7:00pm with the following members present: Mayor Ken Lord, Council Members Judy Kerns, Matt Hull, and Sarah Baker, Town Attorney Ed Kuczynski, Town Administrator Rick Bishop, and Assistant Town Administrator Lisa Riner.

The minutes for the April 7, 2021 regular meeting and the April 28, 2021 special meeting regarding Personnel Policies were both approved.

General Fund report was \$156,020.07

Mayor Lord noted the announcements listed on the agenda.

Community Deputy Report: Deputy Tracey Peyton completed 49 checks, 10 at Stonecrest, 12 at Cannon Ridge, 12 at Rockingham, 9 at the park and library, 6 at the cemetery, and 4 hours on foot. He also completed 2 hours of traffic enforcement, 1 parking citation, and one speed warning.

Resident Tom Clemens said he looked at the Civil War Era Great Coat that once belonged to Keedysville Mayor Aaron Snyder. Mr. Clemens said it is legitimate and in remarkably good shape. He also noted that people would probably pay twice the \$1,000 asking price. Resident Sue Gemeny said she reached out to the Washington County Historical Society, and they would be happy to have it. Mr. Hull noted that the Town just doesn't know what to do with it if they did purchase it. After much discussion, the Council decided to bow out.

Ms. Kerns got a confirmation that the remaining Hometown Hero banners should be delivered Friday. Ms. Kerns is going to label where the banners go. Mr. Bishop has already ordered and received the banner arms.

Ms. Riner said there are currently seven individuals interested in serving on the Green Team for Sustainable Maryland and Sustainable Communities. Ms. Riner has reached out the Ruritan, Community Center, the churches, and the Historical Society to see if they are interested in helping on the team. Ms. Riner said the next step in the program is for the Mayor and Council to approve a resolution supporting participation in the Sustainable Maryland program. Mr. Hull recommended to have Mr. Kuczynski take a look at it. Mr. Kuczynski said it looks good to him. Ms. Baker recommended passing the resolution subject to Ms. Riner making the changes required to finalize it. Ms. Kerns seconded the motion. All voted in favor. Ms. Riner noted that Sustainable Maryland is going to provide support to the Town in helping the Green Team to calculate the base energy rate of the Town so that they can apply

to be a Maryland Smart Energy Community. Becoming a MSEC will provide more opportunities for funding the Green Team's energy projects. Ms. Riner said the Council does not need to take any action on the MSEC program now, but that will be coming in the future. Mr. Kuczynski said the finalized resolution can be read at next month's meeting. He also said the resolution may say it was introduced and passed tonight, but the effective date will be next month once it's been read in the meeting.

Mayor Lord met with the Eagle Scout about the Butterfly Garden Project in Taylor Park. It will be between the outside of Taylor Park and the restrooms as agreed to. He has a team of people advising him, including a local landscape professional. It should be blooming throughout much of the year. The Eagle Scout is looking for a \$100 donation to help pay for the cost of a sign at the garden. Mayor Lord wasn't sure what the sign would say. The Council will consider making the donation pending further information.

Ms. Riner touched base about requirements for the Banner Town designation. Ms. Kerns said someone needs to attend the MML summer conference. Ms. Riner said she will attend the virtual conference. Ms. Kerns said she will probably do the virtual as well.

Mayor Lord said the Mayor and Council had a special meeting on personnel policies May 28. There is a draft document still in review mode. Mr. Bishop said Mr. Sweeney prepared a draft document and is planning to make a motion to adopt the document or a revised document at next month's meeting. Mr. Sweeney would like feedback on the draft about a week before the next meeting.

Ms. Baker met with a Washington County project manager and a project manager from L. W. Wolfe. Ms. Baker rode around with each one separately, looking at roads and talking about what was needed. The most pressing issue in Town is the entrance to Millrace. The road is on top of the clay. There is no base to the road. Overall, the roads in Town are pretty good. Crack fill needs to be used on newer roads first to make them last longer. Rockingham Drive also needs milling and paving from the entrance through the intersection. On Rockingham Circle there was a patch job that was not done correctly. It either needs to be patched again or the road be repaved in that whole area. Sumter Drive looks pretty good, but there is a pothole with some cracking, so the Town needs to patch that. Appomattox Circle has a large gap where the paving to the water tower met the existing road. It needs to be patched as well. There are some issues on Felfoot Lane, but those will be addressed by the County. The cost for fixing Millrace will be approximately \$16,000. This price is from L.W. Wolfe, and is piggybacking on the County contract. The cost for filling cracks is \$2 per pound. Ms. Baker also learned of some options for helping with the flooding on Mt. Vernon. Lifting the whole road a little bit, and canting it slightly to the side would allow the water to come off. The Town may need to grind the road down first, or may be able to just put more road on top, which will lift it up a little bit so that all of the water doesn't pool in the center. It's also possible to patch it every couple of years. Ms. Baker recommended doing a mix of crack fill work and paving each year. Ms. Baker will bring more information about costs to the next meeting. Ms. Baker has called some other paving firms to get their numbers as well.

Mr. Bishop noted that the Council had received a proposed 2022 budget, and he would like to have the budget ready for passage at the next meeting. Park maintenance is so much less than last year because the Town is only doing the matting every other year, and the matting is really expensive. The Highway User Revenues look to be about the same as last year.

Mr. Bishop said the Council needs to certify that the tax rate is staying the same this year for the County. Mr. Hull so motioned. Ms. Kerns seconded. All voted in favor.

Mr. Bishop said Pam Edwards emailed the Town with an offer to maintain the flower beds along Main Street. The Town would have to reach out to each resident and ask if they would like to have the Town take care of their flower bed. After much discussion, it was decided not to get involved in that maintenance, but instead to remind residents to care for them in the newsletter.

Mr. Bishop said in the past the Town has donated \$100 to the Boonsboro Fishing Derby. Mr. Hull motioned to donate \$100 to the fishing derby. Ms. Baker seconded. All voted in favor.

Mayor Lord said the informational sign at the Butterfly Garden would tell readers about the purpose and benefits of the garden. The total cost is \$116. Ms. Kerns motioned to donate \$116 for the sign. Mr. Hull seconded. All voted in favor.

Ms. Baker noted that they got an email from a resident about their neighbor's potentially hazardous trees, but that is a private property issue. Mr. Hull said the tree company is coming out next week.

Ms. Baker brought up another email from a resident about stray cats being a nuisance. She recommended one of the Council members call County Animal Control. Ms. Baker is going to call.

Mr. Bishop said the men's room door at Taylor Park was trashed in the wind the other day. He is working on buying a new door that will latch, so it will limit future damage caused by wind.

Ms. Gemeny asked if dimmers would be installed on lights when the banners are hung. Mr. Bishop said they would.

Meeting adjourned at 8:03pm.

An email from Justin Holder is attached to the minutes of this meeting.

Respectfully Submitted,
Lisa Riner
Assistant Town Administrator

Justin Holder sent an email with a Public Information Act request he sent to Washington County asking for documentation as to why the properties at 25 and 28 Antietam Drive are not connected to sewer. The email will be added to tonight's minutes.

From: Justin Holder <jholder2004@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, May 3, 2021 2:55 PM
To: Town Hall
Subject: Re: May M and C comments

Please see unanswered MPIA to Washington County.

To whom it may concern:

Pursuant to the state open records law Md. General Provisions Code Ann. Secs. 4-101 to 4-601, I write to request access to and a copy of the documents that list:

All Laws, Ordinance, rules, regulations, statute, legislative act, judicial decision, executive order, or any reason whatsoever; or exception to all previously listed regulations etc.; in which it can be inferred Washington County 'writ large is NOT required to connect "existing improved properties " to the municipal sewer system, when said existing improved properties are located in the metes and bounds "service area defined by MD ENVIRONMENTAL Law 9-601(i), created by plat and resolution of the Washington County Government 'writ large.

Or

More simple stated:

Please provide me 1 reason why 25 and 28 Antietam Drive, Keedysville, MD 21756 are not connected to the sewer system.

I agree to pay any reasonable copying and postage fees of not more than \$50, however I request electronic delivery if available. If the cost would be greater than this amount, please notify me. Please provide a receipt indicating the charges for each document.

As provided by the open records law, if you deny this request, I will expect a written response within ten (10) working days. See Md. General Provisions Code Ann. § 4-203(b)(2). If my request is approved, the law requires that you respond as soon as reasonably possible. In no case, however, can this period exceed thirty (30) days. See Sec. 4-203(b)(1).

If you choose to deny this request, please provide a written explanation for the denial including a reference to the specific statutory exemption(s) upon which you rely. Also, please provide all segregable portions of otherwise exempt material.

I would note that willful violation of the open records law can result in a fine of up to \$1,000 and the award of actual damages, reasonable counsel fees and other litigation costs. See Md. General Provisions Code Ann. § 4-402.

Thank you for your assistance.

Sincerely,

justin k holder

308 west chapline st Sharpsburg md 21782

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