

TOWN OF KEEDYSVILLE, MARYLAND

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

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Ken Lord, Mayor
Brandon Sweeney, Assistant Mayor
Judy Kerns, Council
Matthew Hull, Council
Sarah Baker, Council

Approved

Mayor and Council Minutes June 7, 2023

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

Minutes from the May 3, 2023 meeting & Budget Hearing were approved.

The General Fund Report was \$346,374.54

Announcements were read

Community Deputy Report

Deputy Peyton completed his normal checks, 16 in Cannon Ridge, 16 in Rockingham, 13 in Stonecrest, 15 in the park, and 9 in the Cemetery. He had 4 hours of foot patrol and 2 hours of traffic enforcement with 1 warning. He had a trespassing complaint at the dam and theft & disturbance at the Country Store. Ms. Riner reported Deputy Tracey is retiring. He will be at the July meeting to introduce his replacement to the Mayor & Council. Council discussed getting him a card and Ms. Baker will bake cupcakes for the July meeting.

Resident Comments

Sue Gemeny asked about the work being done on a drainage ditch between Mt. Vernon Drive and S. Main Street. Mr. Hull said what the property owners are doing will be fine. There shouldn't be any flooding issues.

Old Business

Redundant Street Lights – Ms. Pangle reported Mr. Voorhaar from Potomac Edison is still working on it. Council suggested only paying Potomac Edison what we should be paying with the redundant lights removed.

Library Solar Panels – The panels are installed and running. Mayor Lord mentioned you can watch the energy usage on the website. Ms. Riner mentioned some basic maintenance for the solar panels. The website/app shows how the panels are functioning. The panels can be hosed off, to clear off pollen, or other debris, but do not scrub the panels, it could damage them. If any wires hang down between the panels and the roof let Nationwide know. There are 2 boxes on the side of the building for the solar panels, one is a high-voltage emergency shut-off box and is very dangerous. Ms. Riner is working on getting locks on those boxes.

Verizon Cell Tower – No updates.

Tennis/Pickleball Court – Ms. Riner reported there is another grant opportunity with Community Parks and Playground that will pay 100%, but the application is due in August. There was some discussion about location. Ms. Baker mentioned DNR would help with planting native trees. Mr. Kuczynski has a neighbor who is very involved with pickleball and could be a good resource. Ms. Riner will get an official quote for a tennis/pickleball court. Mr. Hull motioned to pursue the grant application with Community Parks and Playground, Ms. Baker seconded and all voted in favor. Mr. Sweeney mentioned the funding wouldn't come in until 2025 so add at least 20% to the quote. Quote to include fencing and landscaping around the court.

Dogstreet Rd & Main St Intersection Safety – Ms. Riner reported the County is willing to put in the crosswalk. Still waiting to see if there is a cost to the Town.

Gazebo Project – Ms. Riner reported still waiting for the gazebo and picnic table materials to come in, hopefully by the end of June.

FY2024 Budgets – Town and Water budgets were introduced at the May 3, 2023 meeting. Mr. Kuczynski did one Ordinance (2023-02) for both budgets. Mr. Hull motioned to approve the 2024 Town and Water budgets, Ms. Kerns seconded and all voted in favor.

Antietam Broadband – Mr. Kuczynski has drafted a proposed franchise ordinance that is virtually identical to the Comcast franchise. There was discussion regarding installation on poles vs. in-ground. The in-ground installation will be done in the developments. No digging will be done on Main Street. Antietam would like to start the installation in early July. Mr. Kuczynski said the franchise agreement will require an ordinance. Ms. Baker motioned to introduce the proposed franchise agreement subject to changes with Antietam Broadband, Mr. Sweeney seconded and all voted in favor.

Mowing Behind Stormwater Pond @ 31 Farragut – Ms. Riner reported if the Town wants to mow that area a gate is needed at the back of the fence. There was some discussion about access and how much needs to be mowed and what trees need to be removed. Mr. Hull asked Ms. Riner to get a price on a gate.

Sustainable Communities Questionnaire – Ms. Riner reported she has only received questionnaires from two of the five Council members. Ms. Riner will also ask Planning & Zoning to fill it out.

Chesapeake Bay Trust Grant – Ms. Pangle reported she and Ms. Riner attended the required Zoom call with Chesapeake Bay Trust today. Ms. Gratton will submit the required record of attendance for the Zoom meeting, and then the funds will be released. We can start collecting money and place the order whenever we are ready. Town residents will be charged \$15.00 for each and those outside Town limits will pay our cost.

New Business

Park Plumbing & Electrical Work - Ms. Riner reported we are over budget on Park maintenance. We have replaced the water heater and installed a new faucet in the ladies' restroom. Plumbers have come out several times for various leaks. There were some electrical issues at Pavilion #3 during the Green Team Launch. The outlets at Pavilion #3 need to be replaced with GFI outlets. Diamond Electric has replaced the sensor outside the ladies' restroom and the floodlights at the storage shed. They will look at why the vent fans won't come on and why LED lights that should last years keep burning out. We are looking to get quotes for painting the building and replacing the bathroom stalls. There may be grant money available through Program Open Space.

Ms. Riner mentioned the Streambank restoration might not happen this summer due to personnel changes at Ecotone.

Staff Pay Increase – Mayor Lord proposed a closed session in June to discuss details and recommendations regarding the recent salary study of municipal employees in our area by Myersville. If a closed session is held in June a vote would take place at the July meeting and will require a budget amendment if any changes are made. Council decided to have the closed session on Monday, June 12, 2023, at 7 pm.

Resident Comments

Ms. Gemeny thanked Mr. Hull for the cement work for the bike rack. Ms. Gemeny spoke to Elizabeth Garcia at the Community Center about chairs for the clean-up day on June 24, 2023, at the cemetery on Red Hill. Ms. Gemeny mentioned we will need more Pry Quilt rack cards. Ms. Kerns mentioned rack cards can be paid with Hotel Motel money. Ms. Gemeny explained about the absorb cassettes that help keep the humidity at the correct level for the Pry Quilt. Town Hall has been setting the temperatures lower in Town Hall to help with the temperature and humidity in the vault. Ms. Gemeny commented about dog waste on the sidewalk. There was a short discussion about where more waste bags can be placed on Main Street.

Council Comments

Ms. Kerns mentioned Delegate Wivell co-sponsored HB-1194 prohibiting certain vehicles (tractors, trailers, school buses, and passenger buses) from being parked in the Town of Sharpsburg. It passed both houses. Ms. Kerns asked about the sign that used to be behind Town Hall regarding fishing at the stream. Mr. Hull said it was regulated by the Millrace Lane HOA for their common area. Ms. Kerns encouraged Council members to support the Keedysville Historical Society's picnic on June 19, 2023, in Taylor Park from 3 pm - 8 pm. Ms. Riner asked for Council to let her know if they are attending and she will RSVP to Ms. Burton of the Historical Society.

Ms. Riner will start giving budget reports showing what the budget was, and where we currently stand. Nationwide, the company that installed the solar panels has requested to put up a sign advertising their company. They want a sign bigger than the yard sign that is currently there. Mr. Hull suggested pointing them to our zoning regulations. Council agreed they can leave the small sign there for a few weeks.

Mayor Lord said he will be meeting with the Washington County Mayors at the Boonsboro Legion on June 22, 2023. Ms. Riner mentioned the Town Administrators/Managers/Clerks have been getting together quarterly.

Meeting adjourned at 8:48 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,
Teresa Pangle
Administrative Assistant

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Mayor & Council Agenda June 7, 2023

Call to Order

Pledge of Allegiance

Approval of Minutes: May 3, 2023 Meeting and Budget Hearing

General Fund Report: \$346,374.54

Announcements: Town Hall closed Monday, June 19, 2023 for Juneteenth

Community Deputy Report

Resident Comments

Old Business: Redundant Street Lights; Library Solar Panels; Verizon Cell Tower; Tennis/Pickleball Court; Dogstreet Rd & Main St Intersection Safety; Gazebo Project; FY 2024 Budgets; Antietam Broadband; Mowing behind stormwater pond near 31 Farragut Dr; Sustainable Communities Questionnaire; Chesapeake Bay Trust Grant

New Business: Park Plumbing & Electrical Work; Staff Pay Increase

Resident Comments Related to Agenda Items

Council Comments

Adjournment