

TOWN OF KEEDYSVILLE, MARYLAND

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

P.O. Box 359
19 South Main Street
Keedysville, MD 21756
301-432-5795
townhall@keedysvillemd.com
www.keedysvillemd.com



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

Approved

Mayor and Council Minutes February 7, 2024

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 Matt Hull, Sarah Baker, Town Attorney Ed Kuczynski, Town Administrator Lisa Riner, Administrative Assistant Teresa Pangle.

Minutes from the January 3, 2024 meeting were approved.

The General Fund Report was \$512,050.93

Announcements were read

Community Deputy Report

Deputy Watkins completed the following checks, 28 in Cannon Ridge, 27 in Rockingham, 26 in Stonecrest, 8 in the Cemetery, 18 in the park, and 10 calls for service. Mayor Lord mentioned the Deputy reported some graffiti in the park. Mayor Lord removed it that evening.

Resident Comments

Sue Gemeny – Requested contact information for local youth organizations/sports. The Ruritans have money to donate but the organizations have to request it.

Old Business

Town Hall Window Repair – Still waiting. We are on Mr. Smith's schedule for when the weather is better.

No Trucks on Dogstreet Sign – The County has put the signs up. A resident called Town Hall about deliveries to Rockingham and Stonecrest by those types of trucks. Mr. Hull said the resident can advise the delivery companies as needed.

Snowflake Order – Ms. Riner reported the quote for 19 more snowflakes is \$7077.88. The Council approved the purchase last month.

250th Anniversary Meeting – Ms. Baker reported there are two different groups having meetings. The County and the Civil War Heritage. She attended a 1.5-hour-long virtual meeting by the Civil War Heritage, but it had nothing to do with

Keedysville. Ms. Baker has contacted someone for the County meetings, but has not heard back. Ms. Baker said everyone is in the very early stages of planning.

New Business

Antietam Tree & Turf Weed Renewal – Ms. Riner mentioned the 3 quotes for the Town's regular weed removal of the Town Hall, Park/Ball Field, and Water Treatment Plant. Mr. Hull motioned to renew, Mr. Sweeney seconded and all voted in favor. Ms. Riner mentioned Mr. Heavner cleaned up around the ballpark fence area.

Planning & Zoning Commission Appointment – Ms. Riner reported Mr. Burns has moved to Hagerstown and Mr. Puffenbarger will be the new Chairman. The Council needs to appoint Mr. Clemens as a full member, he is currently an alternate. Ms. Piro moved to Boonsboro so we need a new full member as well as an alternate. Ms. Baker motioned to move Tom Clemens to a full member of the Planning & Zoning Commission, Mr. Hull seconded and all voted in favor

Board of Zoning Appeals Alternate Appointment – Ms. Baker motioned to appoint Ms. Grim as an alternate to the Board of Zoning Appeals, Mr. Hull seconded and all voted in favor.

Grant Writer Renewal 2025 – Ms. Riner reported it was time to decide if the Council wanted to renew the Grant Writer. She pointed out they are underfunded and understaffed. Ms. Riner has to do most of the work for them to fill out the forms. One of the Town's priorities when hiring the grant writer was the USDA loan forgiveness or rate reduction and nothing has been done in that area. There is some frustration with the lack of communication and last-minute information requests for their deadlines. Ms. Riner pointed out our contract runs through June 2024. There was much discussion on the pros and cons. The Council decided to table this for a month or two.

Performance Reviews – Mayor Lord reported the Council held a closed session and came up with an agreed-upon staff increase and increase in hours for Ms. Pangle. Mr. Hull motioned to adopt staff increases as agreed in the closed session, Mr. Sweeney seconded and all voted in favor.

Boonsboro High "We The People" Donation – Ms. Riner reported there is \$600 left in the donation fund. Mr. Sweeney motioned for a \$250 donation, Ms. Baker seconded and all voted in favor.

Washington County Envirothon Donation – Ms. Baker motioned for a \$250 donation, Mr. Sweeney seconded and all voted in favor.

Municipal Tax Differential Letter – Ms. Riner reported Scott Nicewarner, the City Administrator of Hagerstown has been working on this for a long time. This is a discount to residents in municipalities who pay Town and County taxes for duplicate services. The differential has been 12.5 cents since 2009. The differential for FY23 was calculated at 18.5 cents. He is asking the municipalities to sign a letter for the County to calculate this every two years. The County isn't doing it now because they say it's too much work. Ms. Riner will provide the letter to the Council when it is available.

Mayor Lord mentioned there was a letter generated by several Towns which he signed onto. The County Treasurer put forth a legislative proposal regarding the handling of taxes for Towns in the County, without the knowledge of the Towns and misrepresenting how the Towns felt about tax collection. The letter was brought down to Annapolis on Washington County Day. Mayor Lord doesn't know the outcome of that day. It doesn't appear the Towns or the County knew of the Treasurer's legislative proposal. Mr. Kuczynski mentioned the County Commission is looking to make the Treasurer an appointed position vs an elected position, but will need to go through the State Legislature.

Town Hall Address Plaque – There is no 19 on the Town Hall building. Ms. Pangle asked Vital Signs for a basic design idea and quote. Vital Signs provided 3 styles, 12x24, ½" pvc for about \$87. They also do aluminum which would be thinner. The Council would like a price on a 12x12 aluminum with raised lettering. Ms. Ganes, a resident, showed her address plaque with raised lettering and will send Ms. Pangle the link to the company she used. Ms. Pangle will do more research. The Council is ok for the sign to be attached to the building.

House Bill 967 – Ms. Riner reported on legislation restricting the parking of certain vehicles (tractor-trailers, school buses, etc.) on Main Street. Ms. Riner was not aware of this until she received an email yesterday, looking for feedback on what the fiscal impact would be on the Town. Ms. Riner wanted to make sure the Council was ok with this. Mayor Lord remembers last year something like this was done in Sharpsburg but he was not aware of this legislation. This is a state road so the Sheriff's dept would be responsible for the enforcement. Mr. Kuczynski raised concerns regarding some language needing to be qualified. There was much discussion. Mr. Hull suggested Ms. Riner respond that there is no fiscal impact on the Town.

Council Comments

Ms. Baker followed up on last month's concerns regarding the Keedysville Library. She mentioned other branches have evening hours and kids programs whereas Keedysville doesn't have either. The Town has invested a lot over the last 2 years, with a new roof, solar panels, and a gazebo, and would like the library more available to residents. Ms. Baker has written a letter to send to the Washington County Free Library along with correspondence from residents regarding the library issues. The Council agreed Ms. Baker should send the letter and correspondence from residents.

Mayor Lord mentioned the Green Team is having an event on April 20th. The schedule of events is still developing, but there will be music, food trucks, and ice cream. Mayor Lord mentioned the Green Team will not be asking the Council for money this year since the Council gave the Green Team a budget last year.

Ms. Pangle mentioned a new resident who works for the Potomac Valley Audubon Society. She has a \$1300 grant she wants to use in Taylor Park around the gazebo for a Monarch Weigh Station. The details of the budget are still being worked out. We hope to have extra in the budget to plant trees in the Fall, replacing some that needed to be taken out last year. Ms. Baker mentioned we could contact Ms. Twigg with DNR's 5 Million Tree Initiative for help with Fall planting. Mayor Lord mentioned the successful presentation to the Green Team by Lane Heimer, weed specialist for the County. Mr. Sweeney suggested we look at the park space we have available and develop a layout for future growth. Mayor Lord suggested this could be a project for the Green Team to come up with a master plan.

Meeting adjourned at 7:29 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,
Teresa Pangle
Administrative Assistant

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Mayor & Council and Water Commission Meeting February 7, 2024

All attendees must sign in. Attendee comments will only be heard during the appropriate time in the agenda. Those wishing to be heard must check the appropriate box. Comments will be limited to three minutes each.

NAME	ADDRESS	PHONE	WISH TO BE HEARD
MARTY BANE	34 N. MAIN	301 491 0225	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sue Gemery	50 S. Main	301-432-8216	<input type="checkbox"/>
_____	_____	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>
_____	_____	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>
_____	_____	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>
_____	_____	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>
_____	_____	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>

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Mayor & Council Agenda February 7, 2024

Call to Order

Pledge of Allegiance

Approval of Minutes: January 3, 2024 Meeting

General Fund Report: \$512,050.93

Announcements: Town Hall Closed Monday, February 19th for Presidents' Day

Community Deputy Report

Resident Comments: Sue Gemeny on behalf of Keedysville Ruritan (Donations available for local youth organizations and sports)

Old Business: Town Hall Window Repairs; No Trucks on Dogstreet Signs; Snowflake Order; 250th Anniversary Meetings

New Business: Antietam Tree & Turf Weed Prevention Renewals; Planning & Zoning Commission Appointment; Board of Zoning Appeals Alternate Appointment; Grant Writer Renewal for FY 2025; Performance Reviews; Boonsboro High School "We the People" Donation; Washington County Envirothon Donation; Municipal Tax Differential Letter; Town Hall Address Plaque for Building

Resident Comments Related to Agenda Items

Council Comments

Adjournment