

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 January 8, 2025

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, Deputy Dakota Watkins, Town Administrator Lisa Riner.

The General Fund Report was \$500,821.66

Announcements were read.

Community Deputy Report

Deputy Watkins reported the following checks, 22 in Cannon Ridge, 24 in Rockingham, 21 in Stonecrest, 15 at the park, 6 at the filtration plant, 6 at the cemetery, 6 calls for service, 2 mornings of traffic enforcement on Mt. Vernon, and 1 day of training.

Resident Comments

Spencer Nally said he was here to follow up on his last visit regarding the competency of the Town's attorney. He claims \$5000 was stolen from the church for the two lost cases, and the money has not been refunded.

Sue Gemeny reported the Ruritans awarded four \$25 Red Byrd gift certificates to homes around Keedysville for their holiday decorations.

Shaun Porter expressed concerns that Justin Holder has not been allowed to develop his property for low-income housing.

Mr. Sweeney made a motion to move into closed session, Ms. Kerns seconded, and all voted in favor. The meeting went into a closed session at 7:06 pm.

Closed Session Summary: A closed session was held on 1/8/25 at the Keedysville Town Hall to consult with counsel and discuss ongoing litigation. Assistant Mayor Sweeney, and Council Members Mr. Hull, Ms. Kerns, and Ms. Baker all voted in favor of closing the session. No members voted against it. This meeting was closed under the following provisions of the General Provisions Article § 3-305(b)(7) & (8). "To consult with counsel to obtain legal advice," and "To consult with staff, consultants, or other individuals about pending or potential litigation". The topics discussed were requests from Justin Holder and litigation. Persons present for this discussion were Mayor Lord, Mr. Sweeney, Mr. Hull, Ms. Kerns, Ms. Baker, Mr. Kuczynski, and Ms. Riner. It was decided to have research/survey done on Antietam Drive.

The meeting entered back into open session at 7:59 pm.

Old Business

Purchase of Mt. Vernon Reformed Church (64 S Main St) building and property – Mr. Kuczynski said things are moving along.

Speed Bumps on Mt. Vernon Dr – Ms. Riner has not had a chance to work on this so will move it to next month.

Street Sweeping – Ms. Riner said she has not finalized things with them for next year.

Sustainable Maryland Grant for Nature and Fitness Trail – Ms. Riner said the grant was applied for in November, but we were not selected.

New Business

Park & Library Gardening – Ms. Riner was asked by Ms. Edwards how the Town wants to handle the pollinator gardens. Do we want things manicured or left natural? The Council agreed to run it past the Green Team for a recommendation. Ms. Edwards would like to replace the boxwoods around the library with native plants. The Council was fine with replacing the boxwoods.

Gazebo Electrical System – Ms. Riner said the lights were blinking and beeping. Mr. Myers came to shut it down for now and has it on his agenda for repairs.

Requests from Justin Holder Regarding Antietam Drive – Mr. Sweeney made a motion to authorize Mr. Kuczynski to retain an engineering firm to research/survey Antietam Drive, Mr. Hull seconded and all voted in favor.

Closed Session Decision – Mayor Lord requested a public vote for the personnel decisions made in the closed session. Mr. Hull motioned to follow through on the decision in closed session, Ms. Baker seconded and all voted in favor.

Donations – Ms. Riner said this is the time of year the Council makes donations to Fire and EMS for Boonsboro and Sharpsburg, usually \$1,000 each and it's already budgeted. Ms. Baker motioned to make the annual donations to Boonsboro and Sharpsburg, Ms. Kerns seconded and all voted in favor.

Council Comments

Mayor Lord was approached by the African American Historical Association about their clean-up event on April 19th at the cemetery on Red Hill Rd. Mayor Lord will be there and said they are seeking help from the community. Mr. Clemens, a Keedysville resident said there is an organization at Boonsboro High School that helps with clean-up of the battlefields. The contact person is Chris Baran.

Mr. Sweeney asked when comments are due for the pickleball court. Ms. Riner said she hasn't been given a set date, but it should be relatively soon, within the next few weeks.

Meeting adjourned at 8:10 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,
Teresa Pangle
Administrative Assistant

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Mayor & Council Agenda January 8, 2025

Call to Order

Pledge of Allegiance

Approval of Minutes: December 4, 2024

General Fund Report: \$500,821.66

Announcements: Town Hall Closed Monday, January 20 for Martin Luther King, Jr Holiday

Community Deputy Report

Resident Comments

Closed Session: The Mayor and Council will go into closed session to consult with counsel to obtain legal advice and discuss pending and potential litigation. Statutory authority to close a meeting for this purpose is found in General Provisions Art. 3-305(b)(7, 8).

Old Business: Purchase of Mt. Vernon Reformed Church (64 S Mains St) building and property; Speed bumps on Mt. Vernon Dr; Street sweeping; Sustainable Maryland Grant for Nature and Fitness Trail

New Business: Park & Library gardening; Gazebo electrical system; Requests from Justin Holder regarding Antietam Drive

Resident Comments

Council Comments

Adjournment



Teresa Pangle <tpangle@keedysvillemd.com>

Fwd: Last night's meeting

2 messages

Lisa Riner <lriner@keedysvillemd.com>

Thu, Jan 9, 2025 at 6:27 PM

To: Ken Lord <mayorkenlord@gmail.com>, Brandon Sweeney <bsweeney@keedysvillemd.com>, Judy Kerns <jkerns@keedysvillemd.com>, Matt Hull <hullscraneservice@hotmail.com>, Sarah Baker <sbaker@keedysvillemd.com>, Teresa Pangle <tpangle@keedysvillemd.com>, Ed Kuczynski <ed.kuczlaw@gmail.com>, Jonathan Puffenbarger <jpuffenbarger.keedysville.md@gmail.com>

Hi All,

Please see Tom's email below.

Thanks!

Lisa Riner
Town Administrator, Notary
Town of Keedysville
19 S Main St, PO Box 359, Keedysville, MD 21756
301-432-5795 (office), 240-313-8603 (cell)

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Thomas Clemens** <antietam@verizon.net>

Date: Thu, Jan 9, 2025 at 2:40 PM

Subject: Last night's meeting

To: Lisa Riner <lriner@keedysvillemd.com>

CC: Ed Kuczynski <ed.kuczlaw@gmail.com>

Hi Lisa,

Please feel free to share this with the council and John Puffenbarger. If it is possible, you may also enter it into the council minutes.

The two people who spewed all sorts of accusations and slander are unknown to me. It has always been my belief that accusations made without evidence or proof are merely hot air, and whichever end of their anatomy spews that hot air, the odor is same.

For the record I have known Ed for many years and so I know the accusations against him are completely false. As for Ken being a racist, it is clearly untrue. Speaking solely as a citizen of Keedysville, I am extremely grateful to have decent, caring and trustworthy people on our town council. They do much more than necessary to make Keedysville a better place to live, and we are fortunate to have them here. Thank you and bless you all.

Tom

Dr. Thomas G. Clemens

Judy Kerns <jkerns@keedysvillemd.com>
To: Lisa Riner <lriner@keedysvillemd.com>

Thu, Jan 9, 2025 at 9:18 PM