

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 March 4, 2026

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 February 4, 2026 Meeting and February 17, 2026 Special Meeting were approved.

The General Fund Report was \$622,018.74

Announcements were read.

Community Deputy Report

Deputy Watkins completed the following checks: 11 in Cannon Ridge, 12 in Rockingham, 11 in Stonecrest, 6 at the park, 3 at the filtration plant, 3 at the cemetery, 3 at the church, 1 call for service, 1 hour of traffic enforcement, and half an hour of parking enforcement.

Resident Comments

Patsy Holder spoke on behalf of the Ruritan Club. She provided an overview of the costs of hosting bingo at the Community Center. Last year, they made \$14,160.00 and paid the Community Center \$4,275.00. This year, it's going up to \$5,100.00. This is cutting into their scholarships. Last year, they awarded 5 scholarships, this year, they will only be able to award 4. Last year, their disbursements to the community were \$11,000.00. She is asking the Council for help to continue the many contributions they provide throughout the year. Mr. Hull agreed that the Ruritan Club is a significant asset to the community and suggested looking at increasing the donation budget for the upcoming year. Ms. Holder requested that the Town consider \$1,500.00.

Jill Colbert serves as the chairperson for the Augustoberfest charitable foundation. This year marks the 29th anniversary of the festival. They've outgrown downtown Hagerstown for their event, and this will be their 5th year at the Agriculture Center. She is requesting that each municipality provide two town flags to decorate the Washington County Festival house at the Ag Center. They are prepared to purchase the flags unless the town is willing to donate them. She mentioned that the keg tapping is the official kickoff for the weekend, and she would like to have the Mayors and Town Administrators together for the official kickoff. Mr. Hull motioned to donate two flags using hotel motel money, Ms. Kerns seconded, and all voted in favor.

Jeff Russell, Green Team: MD Heritage Areas Authority Grant Application – Mr. Russell has submitted an “Intent to Apply” application with the MD Heritage Areas Authority for the railbed. Currently, our railbed lease is in a holdover status with DNR, and has been for the last 2 years. Mr. Russell has been in touch with Senator Corderman’s office. It’s possible his office can help expedite the railbed lease renewal with DNR. Mr. Russell would like to move forward with the full grant application, due March 31st. Ms. Riner mentioned the Council needs to approve the project and the 50% match required by the town. Mr. Russell said the grant money would clean up trash on the railbed, put down gravel/rock dust, and fix drainage issues/ditches. Mr. Russell estimated about \$18,000.00 for materials. This is based on information he received from the C&O Canal resurfacing project. Mr. Russell used an amount of \$30,000.00 on the “Intent to Apply” application. Mr. Hull motioned to support the \$15,000.00 investment for the project, Ms. Baker seconded, and all voted in favor.

Old Business

N/A

New Business

Emotional Support Animal Rules – Ms. Riner mentioned that Planning and Zoning inquired if the Council would be interested in having regulations for emotional support animals. Mr. Kuczynski suggests not making any regulations at this time. He noted there is a difference between emotional support animals and service animals, and they are regulated separately. Although he said the State doesn’t have regulations for emotional support animals. There was much conversation. The Council suggested that Planning and Zoning leave this alone.

FY2027 Tax Rate – Mr. Hull motioned to keep the same rate (.18), Ms. Kerns seconded, and all voted in favor

Community Foundation of Washington County Mary K. Bowman Fund for Historical Preservation and Fine Arts Grant Application for Mt. Vernon Reformed Church Roof Replacement – Ms. Riner said the application was submitted for the last amount of money needed for the church roof.

Park Restrooms Mural – The Council decided to table this until we know about the roof grant, in case we need to use hotel motel money.

Miss Maryland Teen Volunteer Trinity Luttrell Donation Request – We are currently \$50 over budget, so the council decided to respectfully decline.

Community Storytelling Initiative – Ms. Kerns wants to start a storytelling initiative called Voices of Keedysville. She mentioned we have plenty of pictures of buildings in Keedysville, but she feels we need stories from the people of Keedysville. She wrote a letter to Keedysville residents asking them to share their memories, both past and present, of Keedysville. Ms. Kerns would like to have this put in the next newsletter. The Council agreed it’s a good idea.

Residents Comments

N/A

Council Comments

Ms. Baker pointed out an issue with a pothole on Bell Lane. The pothole is at the bottom of a concrete drainage culvert coming down from Main St. She talked to Mr. Babington, and he filled it in with crush and run as a temporary fix. He said we could patch it, which might last 5 or 6 years. A long-term fix, by diverting the water, would be a much bigger deal. The Council agreed to patch it.

Mr. Hull asked about line painting in Stonecrest. It’s still a little too soon due to temperatures, but we are on their radar for when the weather improves. The basketball court needs crack fill before lines can be painted.

Mr. Sweeney made a motion to move into closed session, Mr. Hull seconded, and all voted in favor. The meeting went into a closed session at 8:11 pm.

Closed Session Summary: A closed session was held on 3/4/26 at the Keedysville Town Hall to consult with counsel to obtain legal advice and discuss pending and potential 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 pending and potential litigation. Persons present for this discussion were Mayor Lord, Mr. Sweeney, Ms. Kerns, Mr. Hull, Ms. Baker, Mr. Kuczynski, Ms. Riner, and Ms. Pangle.

Mr. Hull made a motion to move back into open session, Mr. Sweeney seconded, and all voted in favor. The meeting moved back into open session at 9:12 pm.

Meeting adjourned at 9:12 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,
Teresa Pangle, Administrative Assistant

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Mayor & Council and Water Commission Meeting March 4, 2026

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

NAME	ADDRESS	PHONE	WISH TO BE HEARD
Paisy Holder			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Jeff Russell			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Sue Gernem			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Jill Colbert			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
			<input type="checkbox"/>
			<input type="checkbox"/>
			<input type="checkbox"/>

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Mayor & Council Agenda March 4, 2026

Call to Order

Pledge of Allegiance

Approval of Minutes: February 4, 2026 Meeting and February 17, 2026 Special Meeting

General Fund Report: \$622,018.74

Announcements: Comprehensive Plan Meeting Thursday, March 12, 2026 at 6:30pm at Town Hall; Town Election Saturday, May 2, 2026 from 9am-6pm at Town Hall (Deadline to register to vote is Monday, April 6, 2026; Candidate applications due Monday, April 13, 2026 by 3pm at Town Hall)

Community Deputy Report

Resident Comments: Jill Colbert with Augustoberfest

Jeff Russell, Green Team: MD Heritage Areas Authority Grant Application

Old Business

New Business: Emotional Support Animal Rules; FY2027 Tax Rate; Community Foundation of Washington County Mary K. Bowman Fund for Historical Preservation and Fine Arts Grant Application for Mt. Vernon Reformed Church slate roof replacement; Park Restrooms Mural; Miss Maryland Teen Volunteer Trinity Luttrell Donation Request; Community Storytelling Initiative

Resident Comments

Council 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 the Maryland Open Meetings Act General Provisions Art. 3-305(b)(7 & 8).