



September 2025 Special Town Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, September 16, 2025, at 6:30 PM

Virtual and In-Person Meeting

3820 40th Avenue Cottage City, Maryland 20722

This meeting was hosted on Zoom and at Cottage City Town Hall:

https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/E-5TILHzLU8GQnYjclA3joZfjytGzzvRMBHKwk49dlhHzq9v70HgtWQAOB3qya2v.4FB_F_m6lzXuxEw2?startTime=1758061835000

Phone: 301-715-8592 | Meeting ID: 873 4371 5803 | Passcode: 8LJa?N.M

Call to Order at 6:30 PM

Attendees

1. Ward 2 - Commissioner Henderson
2. Ward 3 - Commissioner Wheatley
3. Ward 4 - Commissioner Givens
4. At-Large - Commissioner Brooks
5. Town Manager – John Hoatson
6. Town Attorney – Kevin J. Best
7. Lucy Proctor - resident

Agenda

1. **Call to Order and Roll Call (00:18 – First Audio Recording of this Session)**
2. **Motion to Suspend Rules (01:03 – First Audio Recording of this Session)**

The motion to suspend the rules to vote in the special meeting was made by Commissioner Givens and seconded by Commissioner Brooks. Salsich-absent, Henderson-aye, Wheatley-aye, Givens-aye, Brooks-aye. Motion passes without nays or abstentions.

3. **Speed Camera Enforcement (01:38 – First Audio Recording of this Session)**

New law, HB182 – Tiered Penalty Schedule for Speed Monitoring Systems, going into effect October 1, 2025. Town could approve new graduated penalty schedule depending on excessiveness of speed or keep current flat \$40 penalty. Discussion ensued as to whether the town should impose the maximum fees per HB182 or create a different fee structure, and what that fee structure should be.

The new proposed fee structure agreed to by the Commissioners is:

- 12 to 15 miles per hour over posted speed limit - \$40 fine

- 16 to 19 miles per hour over posted speed limit - \$70 fine
- 20 to 29 miles per hour over posted speed limit - \$100 fine
- 30 to 39 miles per hour over posted speed limit - \$200 fine
- 40 to 49 miles per hour over posted speed limit - \$300 fine

4. Change Order for Construction on 43rd Avenue Alley (21:33 – First Audio Recording of this Session)

There was a proposal from SFMS to extend the curb and gutter to the end of the 43rd Avenue alley that would add an additional \$10,320.09 to the existing contract, bringing the total to \$314,420.35. The reason for this proposal was to make the curb more uniform and aesthetically pleasing. CDBG funds to be used for this project.

The motion to move forward with SFMS change order number 1 to add \$10,320.09 to the contract, bringing the total revised amount to \$314,420.35, was proposed by Commissioner Brooks and seconded by Commissioner Henderson. Salsich-absent, Henderson-aye, Wheatley-aye, Givens-aye, Brooks-aye. Motion passes without nays or abstentions.

5. Public Comments (27:16 – First Audio Recording of this Session)

None.

6. Move to a Closed Session (28:19 – First Audio Recording of this Session)

Closed session proposed to be able to discuss personnel matters under Article 3-305B, to discuss the appointment, employment, assignment, promotion, discipline, demotion, compensation, removal, resignation, or performance evaluation of appointees, employees, or officials over whom this public body has jurisdiction, any other personnel matter that affects one or more specific individuals, to consult with attorney to obtain legal advice, and with staff or consultants or other individuals about pending or potential litigation.

The motion to move to a closed session was made at 6:59 PM by Commissioner Givens and seconded by Commissioner Brooks. Salsich-absent, Henderson-aye, Wheatley-aye, Givens-aye, Brooks-aye. Motion passes without nays or abstentions.

7. Report from Closed Session (00:03 – Second Audio Recording of this Session)

Commission did discuss personnel matter involving one employee and agreed to pay the legal expenses part of the ongoing case and also a matter of a salary increase for a current employee. The Commission also discussed the scholarship which will be discussed at a future open meeting.

8. Adjournment (02:24 – Second Audio Recording of this Session)

All meetings are subject to closure pursuant to the Maryland Open Meetings Act: Pursuant to the Annotated Code of Maryland, State Government Article Section 10-508(a), the Council by majority vote may retire to executive or closed session at any time during the meeting. Should the Commission retire to executive or closed sessions the Chair will announce the reasons, and a report will be issued at a future meeting disclosing the reasons for such closed session.

The motion to adjourn was made at 7:32 PM by Commissioner Brooks and seconded by Commissioner Henderson. Salsich-absent, Henderson-Aye, Wheatley-Aye, Givens-absent, and Brooks-Aye. Motion passes without nays or abstentions.