



Special Called Meeting Minutes

Friday, January 17, 2025, at 6:30 PM

Zoom Only

3820 40th Avenue Cottage City, Maryland 20722

This meeting will be hosted on Zoom:

[https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/TUuPwf6JoGoRQIBY1K80parQwEbkreUwC_04K_fw3x7mALQp3XExfSEUnzDe0RAY.G9FEjDfo506gpVO?startTime=1737156362000](https://us02web.zoom.us/join/https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/TUuPwf6JoGoRQIBY1K80parQwEbkreUwC_04K_fw3x7mALQp3XExfSEUnzDe0RAY.G9FEjDfo506gpVO?startTime=1737156362000)

Phone: 301-715-8592 | Meeting ID: 829 3179 6562 | Passcode: i&M1&c9\$

Attendees

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

Agenda

1. Call to Order and Roll Call (4:00)

All Commissioners are present and accounted for.

2. Motion to Suspend the Rules (4:54)

The motion to suspend the rules was made by Commissioner Brooks and seconded by Commissioner Henderson. Young-Aye, Henderson-Aye, Wheatley-Aye, Givens-Aye, and Brooks-Aye. Motion passes without nays or abstentions.

3. Letter of Recommendation from the Coalition to Support Prince George's County Fire and EMS (5:35)

Letter reads:

Dear Esteemed Candidate for Prince George's County Executive,

We are intimately familiar with the staffing shortages of the Prince George's County Fire Department and the resulting reallocation of career firefighters away from the communities they serve. A combination of foreseeable circumstances led to this

emergency which resulted in longer response times and multiple deaths. It doesn't have to be this way.

We, the undersigned, believe it is a core responsibility of the incoming County Executive to address these deficiencies in the Prince George's County Fire Department, with urgency and determination. Safeguarding our residents is a foundational responsibility of government, and we urge every candidate to read and respond to the recommendations listed below.

Your commitment to these recommendations will show your commitment to all of Prince George's County and the many lives that call it home. Thank you for your dedication to public service and thank you for your response. We wish you the best this election season.

Sincerely,
The Coalition to Support Fire and EMS in Prince George's County

Coalition comprises elected officials and residents.

The motion to sign onto the letter was made by Commissioner Brooks and seconded by Commissioner Henderson. Young-Aye, Henderson-Aye, Wheatley-Aye, Givens-Aye, and Brooks-Aye. Motion passes without nays or abstentions.

4. Request from District 47 Delegate Finnell to use the town bus (9:51)

The request is to transport some constituents of District 47 to Annapolis on February 3, 2025. They will provide the driver and insurance. They should also provide the gas.

The motion to approve the bus usage was made by Commissioner Brooks and seconded by Commissioner Henderson. Young-Aye, Henderson-Aye, Wheatley-Aye, Givens-Aye, and Brooks-Aye. Motion passes without nays or abstentions.

5. Black History Month Program (15:42)

Commissioner Henderson has found a jazz band and will secure a speaker. Miss Angie will do the catering. Town Manager is looking for co-sponsors. The national theme is African-Americans and Labor. Commissioner Henderson also suggested a poetry contest to bring young people into the celebration. Reggie Bagley is on tap to sing the National Anthem.

6. Public Comments (22:46)

None.

7. Move to a Closed Session (24:01)

Closed session proposed to be able to discuss personnel matters under Article 3-305 (b), 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 6:51 PM by Commissioner Brooks and seconded by Commissioner Givens. Young-Aye, Henderson-Aye, Wheatley-Aye, Givens-Aye, Brooks-Aye. Motion passes without nays or abstentions.

8. Report From Closed Session (1:58:49)

Commission discussed a personnel matter, a contractor, and behavior of the body. Follow up meetings to be scheduled.

9. Adjournment (2:00:54)

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 9:00 PM by Commissioner Brooks and seconded by Commissioner Wheatley. Young-Aye, Henderson-Aye, Wheatley-Aye, Givens-Absent, Brooks-Aye. Motion passes without nays or abstentions.