



Special Called Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, April 29, 2025, at 6:30 PM

Zoom Only

3820 40th Avenue Cottage City, Maryland 20722

This meeting was hosted on Zoom:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/eCCn5v2TwjdGO2ZDNJtjXEWfuJUqs-uT1Xl8le39N2OVLPOtnnbL3rdpuQhGvA8f.qJANYju9YUGYUCR1?startTime=1745965812000>

Phone: 301-715-8592 | Meeting ID: 856 1298 2514 | Passcode: %h5%^kKw

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
8. Anthony Ayers – Chief of Police

Agenda

1. Call to Order and Roll Call (0:25)

All Commissioners are present and accounted for.

2. Motion to Suspend the Rules (1:16)

The motion to suspend the rules was made by Commissioner Givens and seconded by Commissioner Brooks. Young-Aye, Henderson-Aye, Wheatley-Aye, Givens-Aye, and Brooks-Aye. Motion passes with no nays or abstentions.

3. Little Library Locations (1:53)

Garden club wants to add two little libraries in town using ARPA funds, one near the garden and one near the Tot Lot. There was consensus from all five Commissioners.

4. Approval of Emergency Ordinance 2025-01 (3:23)

Emergency Ordinance Amending Chapter 15 (Public Ethics Ordinance), Section 15-6 (Disclosure & Use of Confidential Information) of the Town of Cottage City.

Commissioner Young thinks that the town having the right to withhold records if it is determined that releasing them is contrary to the public interest is too broad. Withholding needs to meet a definition of confidential. Maryland does not define public or confidential information clearly. Also objects to

5. Move to a Closed Session (13:41)

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 6:35 PM by Commissioner Givens and seconded by Commissioner Brooks. Young-Aye, Henderson-Aye, Wheatley-Aye, Givens-Aye, Brooks-Aye. Motion passes without nays or abstentions.

6. Report From Closed Session (16:55)

Commission discussed three personnel matters. One is a pending case where the attorney will represent the town in an administrative hearing. The second is a reasonable accommodation for a medical condition for an employee. The third is addressing communications issues within a particular department which will be handled by the department head and town manager.

7. Adjournment (19:35)

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 9:31 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.