



Special Called Meeting Minutes

Friday, January 31, 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/Z42KKrB_68lwmpvlnZVSJI0XDxb2Plm38QQeflIt_FD58CUCijvEloKI9JlGisWe.AEjd-FcdOvIR_-yQ?startTime=1738364587000

Phone: 301-715-8592 | Meeting ID: 880 2806 8605 | Passcode: N.D@Y=0c

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. Denise Hamler - Resident

Agenda

1. Call to Order and Roll Call (1:04)

All Commissioners are present and accounted for.

2. Moment of Silence (1:54)

Moment of silence in recognition of the lives lost when a BlackHawk helicopter collided with an American Airlines flight and 67 people died.

3. Motion to Suspend the Rules (3:19)

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.

4. Resignations of Two Cottage City Employees (4:12)

The motion to accept the resignations of Michael Reed and Anthony Silver 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. Walkable Watershed Projects (6:12)

Grant funds need to be spent by April so a decision needs to be made on the presentation by EVC. Discussion on which Commissioner likes which type of plant. All of this is paid for by a grant and in-kind donations. It will enhance existing train garden and add another one.

Anything improving Town Hall is an improvement. All options are better. Commission decided to go with option 3.

6. Housekeeping Contract for Town Hall (20:30)

Two bids have come in, one from Phoenix Cleaning Services for \$300 bi-weekly and another from Unique Cleaning Solutions for \$1,300 monthly. There is some debate as to whether bi-weekly means every two weeks or twice a week.

Town Attorney Best noted that bi-weekly means every other week. It also requires a waiver of purchasing requirements as there is no third quote.

The motion to waive purchasing requirements and to move forward with the contract with Phoenix assuming it's \$300 every other week 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.

7. Public Comments (35:39)

Denise Hamler sent an update on CCAN (Chesapeake Climate Action Network) grant on January 27. This grant will take care of invasive vine removal on park land and private property. The first workshop is tomorrow morning at 10 a.m. Approximately 35 people are registered to learn how to remove vines and remove trash. CCAN and Greenworks will be there. Two more sessions are planned for February and March.

Also noted that dog walkers are not abiding by poop and scoop laws and she wants to talk to the Town Manager about better enforcement.

8. Move to a Closed Session (40:41)

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 6:44 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.

9. Report From Closed Session (42:21)

Discussion on a few personnel matters that need to be followed up on by the Town Manager. Also got legal advice and recommendations from Town Attorney.

10. Adjournment (44:10)

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 8:40 PM by Commissioner Wheatley and seconded by Commissioner Brooks. Young-Aye, Henderson-Aye, Wheatley-Aye, Givens-Absent, Brooks-Aye. Motion passes without nays or abstentions.