



Minutes of the Town Council
March 10, 2025, 7:30 pm
Approved April 14, 2025

Call to Order: Mayor Compton called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. In attendance were Kriss Grisham, Rob Gilmore, Peter Nagrod, Eva Patrone, Barbara Raimondo, and Mary Warfield. Also in attendance was Treasurer Jean Moyer and resident Marilyn Frey.

Approval of Agenda: Peter Nagrod moved to approve the agenda. Eva Patrone seconded the motion. Peter Nagrod asked to add a discussion about the tennis courts to the agenda.
Action: Vote: 6-0 as amended.

Regular Business

Approval of Minutes: It was moved and seconded that the February 10, 2025 minutes of the Town Council be approved.
Action: Vote: 6-0 to approve.

Public Appearances: There were none.

Treasurer's Report:

- a. Treasurer Jean Moyer reviewed the February Treasurer's report, and answered questions. It was moved to accept the Treasurer's report.
Action: Vote: 6-0 to approve.
- b. She also reviewed the process and timeline for preparation and adoption of the FY26 Budget.
- c. Mayor Compton reminded everyone that the Town Council Meeting and Budget Work Session on Tuesday March 18, 2025 will be a hybrid meeting at 7:30 in the Town Council Room, McCathran Hall.

Mayor's Report:

- a. *Kudos:*
 - To the Gateway Committee volunteers for their monthly trash pick-up efforts on Railroad Street and Washington Grove Lane.
 - To the Committee Chairs and Town Councilors who attended the final DEIB workshop March 1 to demonstrate their commitment to learning how to develop ways to promote diversity, equity, inclusion, and belonging in the Grove.
 - To Steve Werts and Dane Clark for repairing the legacy merry-go-round so it practically revolves in the wind.

- b. Zoning Changes to the Commercial Corner: The Town Attorney has been consulted on how best to implement Planning Commission intentions to propose additional uses at the Commercial Corner in conjunction with development of the property.
- c. Meadow Restoration Plan Status: Phase 1 tree removal was completed.
- d. Shared Use Pathway: At the hybrid public meeting in McCathran Hall March 6, MCDOT presented the [35% engineering plans for the Washington Grove connector](#). It was well attended by an estimated 25 in-person and 30 people connected virtually.
- e. Board of Zoning Appeals: Still seeking BZA members.
- f. Hybrid Town Council meetings: To be implemented at the Town Council meetings on March 18th and April 14th.

Administrative Matters

2025 Annual Town Meeting:

The *format* for the Annual Town Meeting on May 10 was discussed. It was proposed to hold the meeting in-person in McCathran Hall for the first time since 2019 and that a virtual option for attendance also be offered. The technical aspects of the hybrid meeting format would be handled by Montgomery Municipal Cable.

Changing the time of the meeting to Saturday afternoon was considered. However, the Town Charter requires that the Annual Election take place from 4:00 to 7:00, so election results could not be reported at an earlier Annual Meeting. Mayor Compton explained an amendment to the Charter to allow flexibility in holding the election would require a minimum of 71 days per Charter requirements, too long to make a change for May10.

Action: Mayor Compton will propose a Charter amendment that will allow the Town Council to annually decide when the Town Election will be held on the second Saturday of May.

Appointment to the Historic Preservation Commission – Alternate Commissioner

Mayor Compton proposed appointment of Kirk Greenway to serve out the current term of Alternate Commissioner through June 30, 2025. It was moved and seconded that the mayor's appointment to the HPC be accepted.

Action: Vote: 6-0, appointment approved.

Appointments to the Board of Supervisors of Elections:

The mayor proposed appointment of Mary Blake, Margo Cavenagh, and Nick Suzich to two-year terms on the Board. Acceptance of the appointments was moved and seconded.

Action: Vote: 6-0, appointments approved.

Mary Blake – 2-year term, March 1, 2025 – February 28, 2027.

Margo Cavenagh – 2-year term reappointment, March 1, 2025 – February 28, 2027

Nick Suzich – 2-year term reappointment, March 1, 2025 – February 28, 2027

2025 Landscape Maintenance Services RFP – Motion to issue RFP:

Minor changes to the draft RFP were discussed. A motion was made to approve and issue the RFP with the intention that the contract be awarded in April (by Peter Nagrod, Eva Patrone seconded).

Action: Vote: 6-0, approved for distribution.

Locking the Tennis Courts:

Recent and recurring incidents of inappropriate use of the tennis courts were described (dogs, rollerblading, other). A motion was introduced to lock three (3) or four (4) of the gates at the tennis courts to protect them and the community garden (by Peter Nagrod, Eva Patrone seconded). The issues discussed included the risk of damage to the courts and Edible Garden and the procedure for managing court access. The present policy of use restricted only to residents was noted as being unwelcoming. ([See Ordinance 2008-02 “Regulations for the Use of Woodward Park” here](#)).

A motion to postpone action until the April meeting was offered to enable further consideration (by Barbara Raimondo, Peter Nagrod seconded.)

Action: Vote: 6-0, motion to be further considered in April.

Unfinished Business

Ordinance 2025-01, “Vacant Properties Registry and Maintenance Standards”:

A review of the proposed ordinance by the Town Attorney is still pending. There was a brief discussion of enforcement of the violations section. A motion was made to hold a Public Hearing on Ordinance 2025-01 (by Mary Warfield, Kriss Grisham seconded).

Action: Vote: 6-0, public hearing to take place on April 14, 2025, at 7:30 pm.

New Business

Resolution 2025-02, Approving and Adopting the Montgomery County Hazard Mitigation Plan 2024:

Kriss Grisham moved to introduce Resolution 2025-02, Mary Warfield seconded. Kriss explained the purpose of adopting this plan is to allow the Town to have access to disaster funds. The Emergency Preparedness & Safety Committee actively participated in 2023 and 2024 in development of the 2024 plan.

Action: Vote: 6-0, Resolution adopted.

Review of 2022 Comprehensive Plan:

Mayor Compton introduced a proposal that emerged from the recent DEIB education sessions: that the Town assess the diversity, equity, inclusion and belonging goals in the 2022 Comprehensive Plan for progress made. Council discussion clarified that this could be mandated to the Committees and Commissions to solicit participation of residents, might be a one-year process, and would not change the Comprehensive Plan. The expectation would be to develop actions for moving forward on goals for DEIB.

Action: Councilors Eva Patrone and Barbara Raimondo, and Patty Klein, will include this review of the Comprehensive Plan in proposals they are developing to build upon the recent education sessions attended by Town leadership.

Town Council Reports: The following were noted:

- a. *Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Belonging (DEIB) Workshops (Raimondo):* Participants agreed to evaluate the Town's comprehensive plan through the DEIB lens and ultimately make recommendations to the Town Council (see Agenda item above).
- b. *Meadows (Grisham):* Plans by the Parks Department call for planting hundreds of wildflower plugs in April or May. Trees to be planted to enhance the forest line between the upper and lower meadows. Interest in additional planting along Ridge Rd. is being solicited.
- c. *Planning Commission (Nagrod):* Agreed to have a survey done to delineate Town boundaries on Railroad Street.
- d. *Maintenance (Nagrod):* A town-wide "signage repair party" for volunteers is being considered.
- e. *Recreation (Patrone):* Installation of Community Bulletin Board Kiosks was discussed.

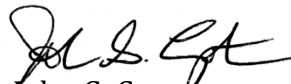
Next Meetings:

- a. *Hybrid Town Council and Budget Work Session, Tuesday March 18, 2025, 7:30 pm.*
- b. *Hybrid Town Council meeting Monday April 14, 2025, 7:30 pm.*

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:30 p.m

Kathryn L. Lehman


John G. Compton