Meeting of the Town Council
Monday, June 8th, 2026; 7:30 p.m.
In person and Online by Zoom video conference

Minutes

All documents for this meeting (referring to PDF) may be obtained until at least July 1,2027, at the following link: Agenda and Agenda Documents for the Town Council meeting 060826

Call to Order: Mayor Compton called the meeting to order at 7:38 p.m. A quorum was present.

Approval of the Agenda (PDF) (Compton): Mayor Compton noted the draft Agenda had been altered to address Resolution 2026-05 as the first order of business. Peter Nagrod moved to adopt the agenda as presented, Mary Warfield seconded.
Action: Vote: 6-0, Agenda adopted.

Unfinished Business

Resolution 2026-05 "Driveway Access to McCauley Avenue for Block 18, Lots 2, 3, 4, 5, and 6" (PDF) (Compton): Citing ongoing negotiations with the owners of 503 McCauley, the Mayor requested further discussion be deferred until the next Town Council meeting on July 13, 2026. Peter Nagrod moved to defer Resolution 2026-05 discussion until the July meeting, Barbara Raimondo seconded.
Action: Vote: 6-0, discussion deferred.

Regular Business

Approval of the Minutes: Approval of the May minutes was deferred until July.

Public Appearances - Attendees may address the Town Council –

Betsy Klinger expressed concerns about Resolution 2026-05 and communication and decision making about Challstrom's driveway. *Her testimony is attached to these minutes*.

Treasurer's Report:

a. May Treasurer's Report: Jean Moyer reviewed her proposed transfer of funds among the FY26 Budget line items to eliminate projected overspending. John Porter moved to accept the report, Peter Nagrod seconded.
Action: Vote: 6-0, Treasurer's Report accepted.

b. Financial Reimbursement Policy **(PDF):** Jean Moyer described the standardized process for reimbursement she has implemented. There was a brief discussion.

Mayor's Report

a. *Kudos:*

i *To Paula Puglisi, Patty Klein, and Barbara Raimondo* for spearheading and organizing the Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Belonging Workshop May 30, attended by about 40 interested residents, who learned how to better foster inclusion, diversity, and participation by town residents in town activities. A workgroup is being formed to examine next steps in meeting the Town's commitments, including review of DEIB in the Comprehensive Plan.

ii *To the Circle Fest organizers and volunteers* for pivoting the event to using McCathran Hall due to rain and carrying off the festive event attended by over 300 persons..

b. *The Washington Grove Connector Shared Use Pathway:* Reviewing an easement to allow for construction at the end of Brown St is being reviewed. A meeting with MCDOT is upcoming.
c. *SWIM Project:* Construction has begun. Steve Werts is serving as the Town's site coordinator. Bob Booher is acting as the Town's quality control engineer.
d. *Tennis court crack repairs:* A test crack is being evaluated and tested to determine whether repairs will be extended to the remaining larger cracks.
e. *Safety and Security in Washington Grove with Officer Melanie Romano, MCPD:* A zoom safety presentation will be held with Officer Romano, Community Relations Officer for the Sixth District, on Thursday June 25th at 7:30pm.
f. *Liability Exposure of Town Volunteers:* Volunteers performing activities under the direction of the Town Council and Mayor are agents of the town and are covered for liabilities from the course of their volunteer activity. Barbara Raimondo and Peter Nagrod request something written describing the insurance coverage.
Barbara Raimondo moved to have the Town Attorney provide a written explanation of liability coverage for volunteers. Nick Patrone seconded.
Action: Vote 3-1, 2 abstentions (Warfield and Grisham)..
g. *Music Weekend activities:* Occurring June 13th and 14th. The postponed Family Day with the Magic Bus will also happen Sunday.
h. *Fourth of July Celebration:* Information will be posted to the July bulletin.

Administrative Matters

Resolution 2026-07 "Budget Transfers for Fiscal Year 2026" (PDF) (Moyer): Peter Nagrod moved to introduce Resolution 2026-07, Nick Patrone seconded. There was no discussion.
Action: Vote 6-0, Resolution approved.

Adhering to Res 2023-07 "McCathran Hall Use Regulations" by All Users (PDF) (Grisham): Kriss Grisham referenced Resolutions 15-08 and 23-07 and emphasized the expectations for all sponsors of resident, and also town events using the Hall. He encouraged other council members to read the Resolution.

Town Administrator -update (Compton): Anna Burke started in her new position as Town Administrator last week, working with Town Clerk Kathy Lehman to familiarize herself with her duties until Kathy retires June 30.

Summer in the Parks update (PDF) (Compton): SITP Program Director Eva Patrone provided a written status report on preparations for the camp opening on July 7, indicating that they were

on track with hiring and permitting from the Maryland Department of Health. Camp registrations have reached capacity.

"2026 Basketball Court Resurfacing" RFP (PDF) (Nagrod): Peter Nagrod reviewed the responses to the RFP from 2025, all of which exceeded funds available in FY26. The low bidder by Mid Atlantic Asphalt, the 2025 low bidder, provided a 2026 cost ($25,320) for the same work only nominally higher. Peter moved that their updated bid be approved, John Porter seconded. Brief discussion followed.
Action: Vote: 6-0, Mid Atlantic bid accepted, pending satisfactory responses to questions.

New Business

Ordinance 2026-06 "203 Second Ave Sale of Town Land" (PDFs) – (Compton) Mayor Compton reviewed Article XVII of the Washington Grove Code of Ordinances that provides a process by which the Council may, by ordinance, sell certain Town-owned land on which a portion of a main building has been constructed, after a request for purchase is submitted by the owner of the main building. Mary Warfield moved to introduce the Ordinance, John Porter seconded.
Action: Public hearing set for the Town Council meeting on July 13, 2026.

Unfinished Business

2026 Washington Grove Playground Renovation and Modernization (RFPs) (Ramos): Oscar Ramos requested the Council's input on the draft RFP prepared by the Playground Committee. The draft RFP described a comprehensive design/build project that would realize much of the vision of the Playground Comprehensive Plan. There was lengthy discussion concerning this approach to the new playground.
Action: By consensus, the Council recommended the Playground Committee revise the RFP for July after consulting with the professional playground individual at the Parks Department who has offered to advise Washington Grove.

Other Regular Business

Town Council Reports (PDF) – of note:

a. McCathran Hall (Grisham): To help preserve the Hall inside in its refurbished condition following reopening in April (ceilings restored, main floor cleaned, walls repainted, deep cleaning throughout, et.), residents and Town organizations using McCathran Hall should adhere more strictly to Resolution 2023-07 "Regulations for the Rental [and use] of McCathran Hall".
b. Maintenance (Nagrod): A major effort by RJ removing the bamboo forest on Grove Avenue near 404- and 406 has been completed.

Next Meetings:

Hybrid Town Council Meeting July 13, 2026including Public Hearing on Ordinance 2026-06.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:41 p.m.

Kathryn L. Lehman

June 8, 2026

To Mayor John Compton and the Town Council:

I am concerned about how the decision was made about the Challstrom house at 503 McCauley and especially about the fact that it was not properly communicated.

I find it unneighborly and disturbing that the mayor and council had apparently identified the use of 6th avenue as a problem and did not, at that point, bring Mary and Charlie into the loop. Instead, they wrote the resolution preventing them from using it as part of their driveway at a Town Council Meeting held a full two weeks after the house had been put under contract. The issue was also not listed on the agenda for the meeting so the Challstroms were completely in the dark.

Such a thing cannot be justified. The Town owes the Challstroms a public apology and, I believe, some financial gift as compensation for the loss of the contract.

Betsy Klinger

410 Center St

301-325-1956