Public Hearing and Meeting of the Town Council
Monday, May 18, 2026; 6:00 p.m.
Online by Zoom Videoconference
Access information below

Agenda

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 051826.

MEETING OF THE TOWN COUNCIL

Call to Order: Mayor Compton called the meeting to order at 6:10 p.m. A quorum was present and the Town Attorney was also in attendance.

Approval of the Agenda (PDF) (Compton): Mary Warfield moved to approve the agenda. John Porter seconded the motion. John Compton added two (2) items to the agenda (PC Resolution and an update of the Commercial Corner).
Action: Vote: 6-0, as amended.

Proposal to Close the Meeting for the Purpose of Obtaining Legal Advice From the Town Attorney
Mayor Compton explained the following three (3) requirements for a closed meeting:

a. Review of the requirements to close the meeting **(PDF)**
b. Review "Meeting Closing Statement" **(PDF)**
c. Discussion and Vote Close the meeting

Nick Patrone moved to close the May 18th meeting of the Town Council. Peter Nagrod seconded the motion.
Action: *Vote – 6-0 to go into closed session..*

TOWN COUNCIL MEETS IN CLOSED SESSION – Public will be excluded.
Open Session of the Meeting Resumes – Public admitted to the meeting. Peter Nagrod moved to open the meeting. Barbara Raimondo seconded the motion. *Vote: 6-0.* The meeting closed at 7:05.

TOWN COUNCIL OPEN SESSION RESUMES – Public admitted.

Public Hearing on Ordinance 2026-03 "Adopting the Town Budget for the Fiscal Year June 1, 2026, through June 30, 2027, and Levying and Ad Valorem Tax on all Assessable Property Within the Town of Washington Grove, Maryland" (PDF)
There was no testimony offered.

Council Organizational Business

Oath of Office. Mayor Compton administered the oath to re-elected Councilor Peter Nagrod and newly elected Councilor Nick Patrone.

The online Council Handbook was reviewed by Mayor Compton.

Town revenue sources and Town accounts were reviewed by Treasurer Jean Moyer **(PDF)** .

Resources provided Councilors in meeting documents were reviewed by Mayor Compton reviewed, including the Council Handbook (admittedly in need of updating).

Maryland Open Meetings Act. The Mayor explained to the Council we are required to operate according to the OMA. He noted the Orientation and Ethics Training Resources for the Town Council provided **(PDF)**, and expressed his expectation that a *Certification of Training* document be provided to the Town Clerk by all Councilors, himself, Planning Commissioners, Historic Preservation Commissioners, , and appointed committee members (Playground Committee and Bicycle Liaison Committee).

Council Responsibilities for the FY26 were discussed.

Election of Mayor Pro-Tem. Mary Warfield moved to approve the Mayor's appointment of Barabara Raimondo as Mayor Pro-Tem.
Action: Vote 6-0, approved.

Council member on the Planning Commission. It was moved and seconded to approve the Mayor's appointment of Peter Nagrod as Planning Commission Chair.
Action: Vote 6-0, approved.

Regular Business

Approval of the Minutes – Peter Nagrod moved to approve the April 13, 2026 minutes of the Town Council. Mary Warfield seconded the motion.
Action: Vote 5-0 (Patrone abstaining), Minutes approved.

Treasurer's Report
Jean provided brief comments on her April financial report. John Porter moved to accept the April 2026 Treasurer's report. Kriss Grisham seconded the motion.
Action: Vote 6-0, approved.

Mayor's Report
a. *Kudos:*
- *To Terry Arnold, master carpenter,* for designing and building 15 bee hotels for town residents' yards to encourage pollinators to flourish in Washington Grove. And for re-creating the "Ann's Folly" signs and plaque, oak leaves, and wood trim for the restoration of the tennis shed.

- *To Town residents Steve Werts and Dane Clark, and Councilor Kriss Grisham* for their extraordinary dedication and contributions in time and effort to accomplish the timely re-opening of McCathran Hall to public use following installation of the new sprinkler pipe system.

b. *Annual Town Meeting review.* Much appreciation to Melissa Aymold and Albert Myers from Montgomery Municipal Cable for providing virtual attendees with full sound and video participation, and for producing the edited video recording of the meeting. **It can be viewed here.**
c. *SWIM Project update*: Construction to begin this month.
d. *Tennis court crack repair*: A trial to test repairing the larger cracks by filling them will take place May 27-29. The court will be closed and will reopen Saturday May 30.

New Business:

Resolution 2026-04 "Renewing the Renewable Energy Conversation Incentives Program **(PDF)**

a. Introduction and Presentation by Paul Patrone – Sustainability Committee. Paul reviewed the changes proposed for the program for heat pumps and electric vehicles to qualify.
b. Resolution 2026-04 was introduced by Mary Warfield, Peter Nagrod seconded the motion. They moved to vote.

Action: Vote 6-0, Resolution 2026-04 *approved.*

Administrative Matters

Introduction of Anna Burke as New Town Administrator (Compton) The Mayor and Council welcomed Anna to her new position.

Proclamation Declaring June 5, 2026, National Gun Violence Awareness Day in Washington Grove (PDF) (Compton)
Mayor Compton noted the Proclamation was similar to those of past years. Residents are urged to wear orange on the June 5-6 weekend.
Mary Warlield moved to approve National Gun Awareness Day on June 5,2026; Peter Nagrod seconded.
Action: Vote 6-0, approved.

Appointment to the Planning Commission (Compton)
It was moved and seconded to approve the Mayor's appointment of Margaret Church as alternate to the Planning Commission for the five year term July1, 2026 through June 30, 2031.

Update on Possible Renovation of Commercial Corner (Nagrod)
Peter reported receipt of a letter and plans from the property owner for this land.

Unfinished Business

Ordinance 2026-03 "Adopting the Town Budget and Tax Rates for FY27" (PDF) – Adoption
It was moved and seconded to approve Ordinance 2026-03 as amended.
Action: Vote 6-0, approved.

New Business

Resolution 2026-05 "Driveway Access to McCauley Street for Block 18, Lots 2,3,4,5,and 6 (PDFs) (Nagrod) Introduction and discussion.
Peter Nagrod introduced the Resolution; Mary Warfield seconded. Peter explained the resolution originated with the Planning Commission at their meeting last week when they learned of sales contract on 503 McCauley after been contacted by the prospective buyer. The Planning Commission considers a sale as a "triggering event" for Council action to correct an existing use (or encroachment) benefitting a selling property owner. The Resolution reverses the actions granted in Resolution 1992-03 permitting the Sixth Avenue walkway to be used the owners of 503 McCauley (Block 18, Lots 2 -6) as a driveway.

Mayor Compton recommended the Council defer action to allow public comment and response by the Challstroms who own the property.
Action: By unanimous consensus, a vote on Res 2026-05 was deferred until the June Town Council meeting.

Town Council Reports (PDF) – of note:
There were not Town Council Reports since annual Town Council Reports were provided to the Annual Town Meeting on May 9.

Next Meeting:
The regular hybrid Town Council meeting on Monday, June 8, 2026 at 7:30p

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:50 p.m.

Submitted by _____ July 12, 2026
John G. Compton, Mayor