



**Public Hearing and Meeting of the Town Council
Monday August 10, 2026; 6:00 p.m.**

Online by Zoom Videoconference

Access information below

Approved October 19, 2026

Minutes

All documents for this meeting (referring to PDF) may be obtained until at least August 1, 2027, at the following link: [Agenda and Agenda Documents for the Town Council meeting 081026](#)

MEETING OF THE TOWN COUNCIL

Call to Order: Mayor Compton called the meeting to order at 7:35 p.m. A quorum was present. Mary Warfield and John Porter joined via Zoom. Town Attorney Suellen Ferguson was also present.

Approval of the Agenda (PDF) (Compton): Peter Nagrod moved to approve the agenda. Nick Patrone seconded.

Action: *Vote: 6-0, adopted as presented.*

Public Hearing on Ordinance 2026-10 “Authorizing an Easement to Montgomery County to Extend the Washington Grove Connector to the End of Brown Street” (PDFs)

- Donna Shriner expressed her continued support for the bike path but raised concerns about the impact of lower Brown Street residents. *Written testimony is attached to the PDF form of these Minutes.*
- Liz Everhart commended the Shared Use Pathway committee for their due diligence in working with the county. Urged the Council to move forward with the easement once it is ready. *Written testimony is attached to the PDF form of these Minutes.*
- Jay Everhart – expressed that the Pathway committee has done their due diligence in planning and is ready to move forward once the easement is back.
- Bill Robertson – Expressed concern with the County’s ability and commitment to responsibility for maintaining for the path.

No further testimonies were offered.

Regular Business

Approval of the Minutes (PDFs) – Mary Warfield moved to approve the July 13, 2026, minutes of the Town Council. Kriss Grisham seconded the motion.

Action: *Vote 6-0, Minutes approved with minor edits.*

Treasurer’s Report (PDF) (Moyer)

Jean provided brief comments on her July report. She pointed out an annual fee from LGIT. Nick Patrone moved to accept the August 2026 Treasurer’s report. Peter seconded the motion.

Action: *Vote 6-0, Treasurer’s Report accepted.*

Public Appearances

- Donna Shriner addressed the Mayor and council and requested a stop sign be placed on the corner of Brown and Chestnut Rd.
- Paula Puglisi requested an update on the storm water management program. Mayor Compton gave an update that the work was delayed by a redesign to save many trees at Chestnut and Center.
- Karen Kelly raised concerns about standing water in the new swale along Hutch's Way.

Mayor's Report

- a. *Kudos:*
 - *To the Staff and volunteers of Summer in the Parks 2026* for delivering a wonderful youth camp experience for over 40 campers. Accolades especially to Camp Director Courtney Osborne and her Assistant Director, Jack Fones, for organizing and coordinating so many imaginative activities, aided by so many resident experts. [See this Listserv post for a personal tribute to all involved \(contains links to a video and a slideshow\).](#)
 - *To Eva Patrone, SITP Coordinator for the four years*, for her amazing job keeping this wonderful summer event flourishing! While Eva has announced she is stepping down after this year, Nick Patrone has volunteered "to keep it in the family" and oversee the '27 SITP program.
- b. *2026 Washington Grove Playground Renovation and Modernization RFP*: The RFP has been finalized with dates and timeline for submissions and evaluation, and distributed. It also was posted on the State of Maryland procurement site, which is available to potential vendors.
- c. *SWIM Project update*. With additional work areas finally staked out by our contracted engineer last week, work should begin in earnest on the project. The work has also been delayed by a redesign to save many trees at Chestnut and Center.
- d. *Gaithersburg - Washington Grove Shared Use Pathway*: At a recent meeting with Gaithersburg, they informed us that engineering plans were in preparation, and at 35%. We can begin drafting an easement from Bell Properties (the Commercial Corner) when progress is more complete. Subsequently, Gaithersburg still needs to obtain construction funding.
- e. *Washington Grove Connector Shared Use Pathway Report*: Ord 2026-10 granting an easement at the end of Brown Street to the County to be taken up under Unfinished Business.
- f. *Hard Tennis Court Maintenance*: Court cleaned, cracks repaired and to be painted. Pickleball lines to restored.
- g. *Amendment to the Accessory Dwelling Unit Ordinance*: The Planning Commission will recommend a ZTA to adopt State-mandated ADU requirements for October 1, 2026. **(PDFs)**

Administrative Matters

Status of repairs to playground equipment (Nagrod)

Peter updated the council on some ongoing safety concerns that will be remediated by RJ Landscaping. There was lengthy discussion about the matter of removing the jungle gym previously authorized by the Council. This was discussed in light of the subsequently adoption of the Playground Comprehensive Playground Plan and whether removal of this and other equipment should happen as part of the plans contemplated in the active RFP for "Playground Maintenance and Renovation."

Status report on the initiatives of the resolution to Establishing a Council Workgroup on Communication (Patrone)

Nick Patrone gave an update on the current communication projects, including reducing the size of the Bulletin and refining the Town website search engine.

Requests for Repair or Maintenance of Town Property (Compton)

Mayor Compton explained the updated process of reporting any repair or maintenance needs electronically. An online form has been created and will be used to track requests and updates.

Memorial Benches Requested (PDFs) (Raimondo)

The Memorials Committee recommended approval of two bench requests for which donations have been offered. Barbara Raimondo made a motion to approve the installation of two memorial benches; one in front of McCathran Hall in honor of the Hundley family and one on the Circle near First Avenue in honor of Allan Janus. Nick Patrone seconded.

Action: Vote: 6-0, benches to be installed.

Request From the Owner of 406 Fifth Avenue to Resolve Encroachments (PDFs) (Compton)

Jill Bloom has requested an encroachment issue concerning her property be settled before she possibly sells. The Planning Commission has recommended that the Council require a brick wall on Town property along Acorn Way, installed by a former owner, be removed prior to sale. There was discussion regarding using triggering events, such as a property sale, to impose resolution of certain encroachment issues.

Action: Vote: 6-0, to defer action on this matter until the September Town Council meeting to enable public comment on the proposal.

Future Ord 2026-13 ZTA “Allowing Waiver of Certain Zoning Requirements Based on Historic Preservation Criteria” (PDFs) (Nagrod)

Peter moved to introduce the ZTA (zoning text amendment) as forwarded to the Town Council by the Planning Commission. Following discussion, Mayor Compton proposed deferring further discussion until the Town’s attorney can review it.

Action: Further discussion was deferred pending Town Attorney review.

Unfinished Business

Introduction of Resolutions 2026-10 “Authorizing an Easement to Montgomery County to Extend the Washington Grove Connector to the End of Brown Street” (PDFs) (Compton)

The County has provided us a draft Easement and suggested discussing an MOU (memorandum of understanding) to commit both parties to discuss concerns over pathway issues. The Town Attorney has advised the Council to defer introducing this resolution to allow time for review of the easement conditions and MOU.

To complete the easement process, the Mayor proposed a Special Town Council meeting to take it up on Thursday, August 27, 2026.

Action: Vote: 6-0, to defer action and schedule a Special Town Council Meeting for August 27th.

New Business

Ordinance 2026-12 “Authorizing a Driveway Access Easement to the Owners of 503 McCauley” (PDFs) (Raimondo, Compton)

Town Attorney Suellen Ferguson explained that the terms of a Settlement Agreement between the Town and property owners, and exact terms of a driveway access easement are under discussion. To facilitate the owner’s interest in an early sale of the property, she recommended this Ordinance be introduced tonight, and the public hearing be scheduled tonight. It can be amended later, as needed. The terms of the

Settlement Agreement will include construction by the Town of a new gravel driveway from Lot 2 across Block 18 Lot 1 to the McCauley Street pavement.

Councilor Raimondo moved, and John Porter seconded, introduction of Ordinance 2026-12.

Action: Ord 2026-12 was. Introduced and the public hearing was set for the September 14th meeting of the Town Council.

Motion to Expend Funds to Construct a Driveway to 503 McCauley and Restore Walkways (PDFs)
(Compton)

To facilitate the owner's interest in an early sale of the property, Mayor Compton proposed that prior to Ord 2026-12 becoming effective, the Town construct the new 503 McCauley Street driveway from Lot 2 across Block 18 Lot 1. He requested authorization to spend up to \$5000 for the necessary work, to include conversion of the gravel drives currently on Fifth and Sixth Avenue to grass.

Nick Patrone made a motion to expend up to \$5000 for this purpose, and Barbara Raimondo seconded.

Action: Vote: 6-0, approved appropriation of funds.

Motion to Expend Funds for a Survey as needed for the 503 McCauley Access Easement (PDF)
(Compton)

Peter Nagrod moved to expend funds for a survey, estimated at \$2000, to provide the metes and bounds of the new driveway proposed for the Easement to be granted to the owners of 503 McCauley. Barbara Raimondo seconded.

Action: Vote: 6-0, approved appropriation of funds.

Other Regular Business

Town Council Reports (PDF) – of note:

- a. *Lighting Committee (Porter)*: Suggestions for replacing the high-pressure sodium bulb fixtures on Ridge Rd and on Brown St (if any exist), possibly with cobra-head LED fixtures, is being planned.
- b. *McCathran Hall (Grisham)*: A new electric hot water heater was installed replacing the defective gas hot water heater, and new cipher locks (i.e. keyless) are being installed.
- c. *Emergency Preparedness and Safety (Grisham)*: Suggestion for a new stop sign at the intersection of Brown and Chestnut on the approach coming from the “dead end” extension may be brought to the Council.
- d. *Planning Commission (Nagrod)*: The idea of requiring a permit to allow resident planting on Town land adjacent to private property was discussed.
- e. *Lake (Warfield)*: Sign-in at the lifeguard stand was instituted on a trial basis to facilitate monitoring who and how many people were coming to the lake. The Porta Potty has received positive feedback from *everyone*!

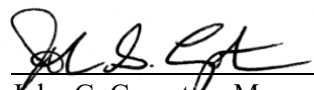
Next Meeting:

The regular hybrid Town Council meeting on Monday, September 14, 2026 at 7:30p

There will be a Special Town Council meeting on Thursday, August 27, 2026 at 7:30p

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:40 p.m.

Submitted by



John G. Compton, Mayor

Two written testimonies at the Public Hearing are part of the PDF form of these Minutes.



For the record, I remain in favor of the shared use path; but, am concerned about the impact on my Lower Brown Street neighbors ... both in the short term and in the long term.

Previous Requests (most recently provided at 65% design stage / Tuesday 14OCT2025)

No increase in path width beyond original proposal

Minimize the level of disturbance

Remove the absolute minimum number of trees

Provide a landscape plan that blocks the direct view of the salt barn and through to Crabbs Branch Way from the Brown Street access point

Minimize path light intrusion on Brown Street

Stage all construction from the Crabbs Branch Way access point

Discussion for Easement Approval (Monday 29JUN2026)

Mark out level of disturbance and tag trees that will be removed BEFORE easement is approved by Washington Grove.

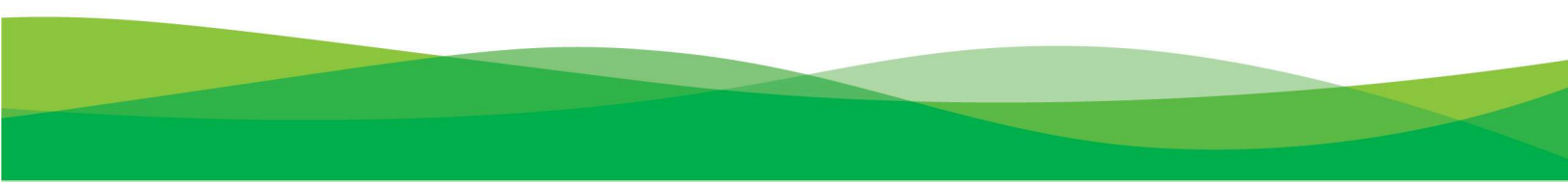
After level of disturbance is marked and trees are tagged and BEFORE easement is signed, conduct on site meeting for Lower Brown (500 block) residents to visually review the impact and to discuss, at a minimum, construction staging, landscaping plans, and lighting plans.

Require written commitment that ALL construction will be staged from the Crabbs Branch Way access point and that NO construction related vehicles will be parked overnight in the Brown Street cul-de-sac. For resident safety, the cul-de-sac needs to remain available at all times.

Planned construction sign (60" x 62") cannot be placed in the cul-de-sac and should be placed within the construction easement.

I am assuming that, once the easement is signed, our ability, as a Town, to advocate on behalf of the most highly impacted Town residents will be limited / lost. Therefore, I request the Town Council to strongly advocate for the above requests prior to signing off on the required easement.

Donna A Shriner
Shared Use Path Committee
503 Brown Street; Washington Grove



From: Liz Everhart lizeverhart9@gmail.com
Subject: Comments on the Shared Use Path easement
Date: August 10, 2026 at 7:59 PM



To: Mary Warfield m.e.warfield@gmail.com, Compton John johncompton@me.com, John Porter jfporter56@gmail.com, Kriss Grisham chambers.grisham@icloud.com, Barbara Raimondo baraimondo@me.com, Nicholas Patrone npatrone@icloud.com, Peter Nagrod pnagrod@msn.com, Town of Washington Grove washgrove@comcast.net

Dear Mayor and Councilors,

I'm writing to commend the Shared Use Path ad hoc committee for working so diligently with the County DOT on the planning and hopefully the building of the shared use path from the end of Brown Street to Crabbs Branch Way. While I'm disappointed that the easement cannot be approved tonight, I hope that the council will move very quickly once they receive any revisions from the County. The connector will be a huge benefit to the Town and surrounding community and I look forward to the day when I can actually walk or bike almost directly to Giant and on to the Metro!

Thank you,

Liz Everhart

118 Grove Ave