Meeting of the Town Council
Monday October 19, 2026; 5:30 p.m.
Online by Zoom Videoconference
Access information below

Minutes

All documents for this meeting (referring to PDF) may be obtained until at least October 19, 2027, at the following link: Agenda and Agenda Documents for the Town Council meeting 101926

MEETING OF THE TOWN COUNCIL

Call to Order: Mayor Compton called the meeting to order at 5:31 p.m. A quorum was present, and the Town Attorney was also in attendance.

Approval of the Agenda (PDF) (Compton): Peter Nagrod moved to approve the agenda.
Action: Vote: 6-0; agenda unanimously approved.

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)**
   Reason for Closing: *To obtain legal advice on granting an easement to Montgomery County for the Washington Grove Connector.*
c. Discussion and Vote to close the meeting

Nick Patrone moved to close the October 19th meeting of the Town Council. Mary Warfield seconded the motion.
Action: Vote: 6-0 to go into closed session.

TOWN COUNCIL MEETS IN CLOSED SESSION – Public will be excluded...

TOWN COUNCIL MEETS RESUMES OPEN SESSION
John Porter moved to reopen the meeting. Kriss Grisham seconded the motion.
Action: Vote 6-0 The meeting reopened at 7:30.

The public was admitted to the meeting.

Call to Order: Mayor Compton called the meeting to order at 7:34.m. A quorum was present. Residents Steve Werts and Kathy Lehman were in attendance in the room, as were Treasurer Jean Moyer and many residents by Zoom.

Regular Business

Approval of the Minutes (PDFs) – Mary Warfield moved to approve the minutes of the August 10th, 2026, and September 14th, 2026, of the Town Council. John Porter seconded.
Action: Vote 6-0, Minutes approved.

Public Appearances
Dennis Kirschbaum addressed the Council in support of approving the Shared Use Pathway easement with Montgomery County.

Jill Bloom conveyed questions regarding the most recent proposal to resolve the encroachment at 406 Fifth Avenue.
Her written statement is attached to the PDF form of these Minutes.

Treasurer's Report (PDF) (Moyer)
Treasurer Jean Moyer's made few comments on her September report, noting that we are only three months into FY27. She clarified that Mid-Atlantic would receive payment once the work is completed.
Peter Nagrod made a motion to approve the September Treasurer's report, Mary Warfield seconded.
Action: Vote 6-0; Treasurer's Report accepted.

Mayor's Report

a. Kudos

- *To Woods Committee Volunteers* for their time and effort spent doing trail maintenance in the East Woods on October 10. **(Photos)** [The Chip Team: Virginia Quesada, Deb Mehlferber, Monica Maher, Sharon Sisson, Dave Cosson, Bruce Daggy, Bob Booher, Pat Klein].
- *To the Recreation committee* and *volunteers* for planning and managing the 2026 Fall Festival at which residents explored the artistic work displayed by 21 on a gorgeous fall day
- *To Sandy Klingenberg and Bill Earl* for restoration of the Clapperton Courts sign.

b. *Request for Repair or Maintenance of Town Property:* The "Maintenance Request Form" for use by all residents is now available from the website homepage. **(Photo)**
c. *SWIM Project update:* Work is largely completed along Chestnut Road, the intersection of Chestnut Road and Center, the intersection of Chestnut Road and Acorn Lane, the swale between Chestnut Road and Chestnut Avenue, and the swale along Oak Street. **(Photos)**
d. *503 McCauley driveway*: Easement finalized for filing by the property owners.
e. *Basketball court resurfaced:* Mid-Atlantic did an excellent job on surfacing, with lines to come. However, repair of the uneven ground left at the edges is pending.
f. *McCathran Hall Door Locks:* All main doors at McCathran Hall, with the exception of one, have been fitted with new electronic keyless cipher locks, replacing the old, keyed locks.
g. *Hard Tennis Court:* Pickleball lines repainted.
h. *Haunted Gazebo 2026*: October 24, 4:00p – 6:30p, at the Gazebo of course.

i. *Meadow Fall Planting Event*: October 28th, 10:00a – 12:00p. Town Volunteers will work with Parks Dept. Personnel to plant ~400 seedling plugs throughout the Meadow.
j. *Town Safety Concerns*: Community Services Officer Melanie Romano, Montgomery County Police, will be present to comment and advise the Council and Town on options for increasing vehicle security.

Administrative Matters

Status of Legal Reviews by Town Attorney Suellen Ferguson (Compton)
Mayor Compton gave an update on tasks currently pending with the Town's Attorney. Mayor Compton highlighted the anticipated letter explaining Town insurance for volunteer working under Town guidance; Ordinance 2026-13, a draft resolution defining a triggering events, and the future ordinance to amend the accessory dwelling unit provisions to comply with the county legislation.

Progress on updating the Code of Ordinances and online access to Ordinances and Resolutions (Compton)
Mayor Compton gave an update on the Town Administrator's progress on updating the Code of Ordinances, highlighting that the Code available from the website is to be updated next.

New traffic calming speed hump on Chestnut Road (PDF) (Compton)
Discussion resumed on the motion to install a new speed hump (introduced in September and deferred for public comment). Kriss Grisham and Mary Warfield reemphasized the excess speeding on Chestnut Road recorded by the radar speed detector, and reported residents in the area are in support of an additional speed hump.
Action: Vote 6-0, approved.

Report from the Playground Committee (PDFs) (Oscar Ramos, Committee Chair)
Oscar Ramos reported that the Committee was leaning towards purchasing a wooden playground set. They were impressed by concept designs presented by Lappset, and Mr. Ramos requested $500 for a more detailed design from Lappset.
Mary Warfield moved to approve the Playground Committee's request for $500 for a concept design from Lappset; John Porter seconded.
Action: Vote: 6-0, approved.

Mr. Ramos also reviewed other restoration repairs the Committee was requesting for equipment that will be retained in the playground.
The metal horse swings. Peter Nagrod moved to approve the Playground Committee's request for $1900 to repair the metal horse swings; Mary Warfield seconded. The timing of the restoration work in relation to new equipment purchases was discussed.
Action: Vote: 6-0, approved as requested.

The horse seesaw. Mr. Ramos requested $3,675 to remove and repair the horse seesaw. He reassured the Council that it will be returned into the playground once it has been restored.
Mary Warfield moved to spend the requested amount to repair the Horse Seesaw; Barbara Raimondo seconded.
Action: Vote: 6-0, approved.

The small wooden fort. Oscar Ramos advised the Council that repairs to the small wooden fort were needed and discussed some of the options that have been discussed.
A motion to approve expenditure of up to $4650 for the repair was made, but to defer any work until the Playground Committee made a final decision to keep the small fort.
Action: Vote: 6-0, approved.

Pending County Council Decision on Long-Term Solid Waste Management in Montgomery County. (PDFs) (Raimondo, Compton)
Mayor Compton reviewed the County Council's pending decision on how the future disposal of solid waste will be managed in Montgomery County and the significant expenditures anticipated: whether the Dickerson incinerator and resource recovery facility will be modernized and remain open, or whether it will be closed, and instead solid waste trucked out of state from an upgraded Shady Grove Transfer Station.

The Town Council has been invited to participate in a joint letter drafted by Rockville to Montgomery County officials. Nick Patrone moved to approve signing the draft letter (with Gaithersburg and Rockville); Barbara Raimondo seconded. Discussion proceeded.
Action: Vote: 5-0-1, approved.

Unfinished Business

Motion to Resolve Encroachments at 406 Fifth Avenue (PDFs) (Compton)
Mayor Compton reviewed the current motion to resolve the encroachments on Town property, which called for removal of the physical encroachments including a portion of the brick patio, and to study of what to do about the brick wall on Town property. Discussion followed regarding how to measure whether the wall was effective at diverting storm water away from the property. Barbara Raimondo moved to amend the motion to target the January Town Council meeting for resolving disposition of the brick wall.
Action: Vote: 6-0, to amend the motion. Vote: 6-0, motion approved.

Ordinance 2026-10 "Authorizing an Easement to Montgomery County to Extend the Washington Grove Connector to the End of Brown Street." (PDFs) (Compton)
Mayor Compton reported that Montgomery County agreed to modify some of the specific wording used in the Easement. In addition, the Memorandum of Understanding proposed by the County in response to Town concerns, was also modified to provide additional assurances and options that should insure the Easement will be managed solely as part of a maintained multiuser pathway.
Barbara Raimondo noted that the Town Attorney believes this is the best deal that we are able to negotiate with the County due to their legislation requiring specific verbiage to be written in their easements.
Action: Vote 6-0, provision of the Easement approved.

New Business
None to report.

Other Regular Business

Town Council Reports (PDF) – of note:

a. Historic Preservation Commission (Raimondo): Progress reported on commemorative signage to be located at the former sites of historic Town buildings.
b. Emergency Preparedness and Safety (Grisham): After a multi-year hiatus, the EPSC has been rejuvenated (thanks to Kriss Grisham and Nick Patrone) and will meet monthly. Numerous issues were raised at the September meeting. Eileen Lisker and Patty Klein will serve as Co-Chairs to share the workload.

Next Meeting:
The regular hybrid Town Council meeting on Monday, November 9, 2026 at 7:00p

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:42 p.m.

Submitted by _____
John G. Compton, Mayor

Written Testimony submitted as part of a Public Appearance.

Hello. I hope by now that the Mayor and Council have come to look at the wall and its relationship to my house at 406 5th Ave. I sent you all a video last week that shows how water running down Acorn Lane comes through the wall opening when there is substantial rain. I continue to believe that the wall helps protect my property from more run-off from the street.

I recognize that the wall is in poor repair. For reasons I have detailed previously, it is my hope that the Mayor and Council agree that making the repairs to the wall is the best course of action. Depending on the details, I would gladly contribute to the cost of repair.

It is not clear to me how removing several feet from the brick patio between my wall and the house and planting grass there will satisfy the Town's interest in making the Town-owned area more accessible to the citizens of Washington Grove. I have two questions about that part of the proposal:

* Does the Town wish to remove the bricks that lead from the street to my house at the wall opening? Doing so would interfere with getting into the house from the street.

* Does the Town intend to maintain the strip of grass inside the wall, for mowing? Since it is not part of my property, I don't wish to be responsible for that.

I agree to remove the trellis and the soccer net near my house and outside the lot line.

One more thing: There is a statement in Georgette Cole's public comments on the situation that states I am trying to sell my property with the wall as part of it. I do not intend to do so. I have publicly stated that the wall is not part of my property, and I have a survey that clearly shows it does not. I believe that conjecture about my motive to do so is not accurate and does not belong in the public record. I have been transparent with the Mayor, Town Council, the Planning Commission, my realtor, and the citizens who prescribe to the listserv that the wall is not mine. I will disclose the information to prospective buyers, but even if I didn't, the survey is available for any interested party to review.

Thank you for considering my request to retain the wall (and the small strip of patio outside my lot). I am grateful to have had the opportunity to work with you to resolve the issue.

Sincerely,

Jill Bloom. 406 5th Ave.