



Minutes of the Town Council
June 13, 2022

Approved: July 11, 2022

The unprecedented emergency health crisis poses a challenge to all - individually and collectively. To protect ourselves and do our part to impede the spread of the coronavirus and COVID-19 disease, the regular meeting of the Town Council was held remotely via ZOOM Video Conferencing. The meeting was recorded.

Mayor Compton called the meeting of the Town Council to order at 7:30 p.m. In attendance were Councilors Darrell Anderson, David Cosson, Christine Dibble, Eva Patrone, Barbara Raimondo, and Gray Yachup. Also in attendance was Treasurer Jean Moyer.

Approval of [Agenda \(PDF\)](#): It was moved and seconded to introduce the agenda. Mayor Compton requested that Resolution 2022-04 and HPC appointments be added.

Action: Voted 6-0 to approve as amended.

Public Appearances: There were none.

Treasurer's Report: It was moved and seconded to accept the [May Treasurer's Report \(PDF\)](#). Brief discussion followed.

Action: Voted 5-0 to accept the report (Gray Yachup absent during the vote).

[Resolution 2022-04 Authorizing Treasurer to Invest Funds at Sandy Spring Bank \(PDF\)](#) was introduced. Treasurer Jean Moyer explained that Town's funds at PNC Bank exceeded the FDIC insurance limit. She asked for the Town Council to authorize her to transfer and invest funds at Sandy Spring Bank where they would be insured.

Action: Voted 6-0. Resolution adopted.

Mayor's Report:

- a. *Kudos:* To Forestry and Beautification Committee volunteers for the very successful workday May 27th! Their energy and enthusiasm created a safer pedestrian path along Railroad Street between Grove Road and Grove Avenue.

- b. Shared Use Pathway Liaison June Updates: The Committee reported to the Mayor they would be meeting with Rebecca Park (MCDOT) and others for a site visit.
- c. Post Office Concerns - Status of Discussions with USPS: An agreement between the Town and the US Postal Service documenting the current absence of mail delivery has not been located, and none presumably exists. Instead, the USPS has referenced the Town's 2009 Master Plan and other unofficial communications as explanation for the absence of mail delivery. Mayor Compton proposes that a formal agreement between the Town and the USPS needs to be negotiated to establish what level of service the USPS will provide residents of Washington Grove. He will ask resident John McClelland work with him to develop such an agreement with the USPS
- d. ARPA Projects Updates:
 - Water Service on Ridge Road* – Resident John Tomlin has been pursuing this issue with WSSC reported to the Mayor that they do not perform water line installation. Instead, the Town should hire engineers to develop a plan for approval from WSSC. John also reported that he is unaware of any resident with well water on Ridge Road, including himself, who is currently interested in connecting to a public water were it to be available. In this situation, the Town Council should consider the wisdom of initiating a project and expense to extend public water service. A formal survey of property owners was mentioned.
 - Stormwater Management* – Regarding erosion in the West Woods due to runoff from Towne Crest Apartments, Frank Dawson from Montgomery County Department of the Environment has proven unresponsive to date. The Mayor will contact other staff.
- e. Pickleball Coming to Washington Grove – The mechanics for providing two pickleball courts on the hard tennis court have been worked out. It will cost approximately \$2,000 for painting lines, nets, and installation, and the work will proceed in the coming weeks.

Administrative Matters:

- a. Confirm Mayor's Re-appointment of Wendy Harris and Emilia Styles to the Historic Preservation Commission for new 5-year terms, June 1, 2022 – May 31, 2027: Barbara Raimondo moved to approve the Mayor's appointments of Wendy Harris, Mimi Styles, and Marilyn Frey (Alternate) to the Historic Preservation Commission. Darrell Anderson seconded the motion.

Action: Vote: 5-0 (Gray Yachup absent during the vote).

- b. Council Responsibilities 2022-2023: No need to discuss, as all have agreed to their assignments.

Unfinished Business

Road Work Contract: The Mayor and Council moved this item to later in the meeting.

2022 Comprehensive Plan – Discussion: It was moved and seconded to approve the [Comprehensive Plan](#). Mayor Compton referenced Dave Cosson's document "Structure of the Comprehensive Plan", "The Approval Process for the Town Council Adoption of the Comprehensive Plan". Barbara Raimondo offered amendments to several recommendations, including deletion, which were seconded by Darrell Anderson.

The Council agreed that it was unlikely that all concerns could be addressed tonight.

During the ensuing discussion, it was apparent that Councilors considered certain recommendations in the plan to be highly controversial. Particularly noted were recommendations to establish local historic preservation district(s), to allow food service as a special exception use at the Commercial Corner, and to rename the Forest and Recreation zone.

Consensus was reached to avoid debate over retaining these recommendations in the plan by agreeing to amended language which would not compel future Town Councils to actions by ordinance or resolution. This approach will retain within the Comprehensive Plan the guidance of these thoughtful recommendations on matters that should be discussed and considered for

implementation by the Town Council, Planning Commission and Historic Preservation Commission.

Barbara Raimondo and Darrell Anderson withdrew their motion in anticipation of amended language in the recommendations.

The Council reviewed the specific wording of a number of recommendations. Changes were proposed, discussed and approved in 1.3a, 1.3b, 4.6b, 4.7.1c, 6.1a, 6.2.2a, 8.2a, 8.2b, 8.2c, 8.4h, 9.4a.

Mayor Compton offered the history of the creation of the Historic Preservation Commission as context for his concern over stating goals for the Plan using such all-encompassing, yet undefined, concepts as historic character, landscape features, view sheds etc. He noted the use of terms such as “enact”, “re-examine” and “ensure” in sections 9.4 and 10. He stated he had not had time to prepared suggestions for these sections of the plan, and requested time do so before the July Town Council meeting.

Darrell Anderson moved to table the motion to approve the Comprehensive Plan. Eva Patrone seconded the motion.

Action: Vote: 6-0, motion tabled.

Action: The Mayor will markup the draft 2022 Comprehensive Plan with amendments approved.

Dave Cosson moved to extend the period for Town Council action on the Comprehensive Plan an additional 60 days. Darrell Anderson seconded the motion. Deadline of July 9 would be extended to September 7, 2022.

Action: Vote: 6-0, extension approved.

New Business

Deer Management Program – Inclusion of the Conservation Meadow in the Fall 2022 Bow Hunt – Discussion and approval to coordinate with the Montgomery County Paris Department: Dave Cosson moved to introduce Resolution 2022-05 Authorizing Deer Management Bow Hunting Sessions, which includes bow hunting on the Conservation Meadow and Piedmont Crossing Local Park (lower meadow) managed by Montgomery County Parks.

Gray Yachup seconded the motion. The Mayor and Council discussed the following:

- Where safe hunting could take place.
- Transparent Notification to residents, particularly those living near the meadow and park
- Signage
- Tree Stands
- Hunting times

Woods Committee Chairs Patrice Klein and Joan Mahaffey indicated they would seek clarifications regarding the Council's concerns from Montgomery County Parks.

Action: Discussion will continue at the next meeting.

Signage in the Washington Grove Conservation Meadow – Discussion:

This item was deferred to a future Town Council meeting agenda.

Road Work Contract – Discussion of Segments to Prioritize and Award of

Contract: Mayor Compton presented a spreadsheet showing the cost breakdown by road segment received from Veirs and Laney (none was received from Ross). The Mayor suggested the amount of the contract award could total at least \$48,255 (the sum of the funds remaining in in the FY22 road paving budget and those in the FY23 Budget).

The Mayor and Councilor Yachup concurred on the subset of segments that should be prioritized with the funds available for this contract. While the Laney bid(s) were often lowest, they did not interact with Councilor Yachup or Mayor Compton on site, and significant concern was expressed over the completeness of the bids and Laney's understanding of the exact area to be paved. Councilor Yachup contrasted the two companies, his site visit experience with Veirs, and recommended using AB Veirs. The Council was in general agreement on the high quality of work by Veirs, and their excellent responsiveness in working with the Town.

Christine Dibble moved to award segments with priority 1 and priority 2 (on the spreadsheet) in a contract to AB Veirs. Gray Yachup seconded the motion.

Action: Vote: 6-0, award approved.

Proposal for an “Edible Garden” in Washington – Presentation by the Sustainability Committee: A plan to create a 500 sq. ft. community garden in the grassy area in the hard surface tennis court was presented. The following was discussed:

- Fencing
- Watering
- Sun
- Parking
- Woodchip walking path
- Possible damage to food from tennis balls
- How to distribute food
- Maryland Public Health Laws
- Regulatory concerns

Dave Cosson moved to approve the “Edible Garden” plan in the proposed location for an 18-month trial. Gray Yachup seconded the motion.

Action: Vote: 6-0, approved use of a portion of the grass area within the hard tennis court fence.

Other Regular Business

Town Council Reports: Gray Yachup moved to approve the [June Town Council Reports \(PDF\)](#) for posting on the website. Dave Cosson seconded the motion.

Action: Vote: 6-0, posting approved.

Approval of [Minutes \(PDF\)](#): Eva Patrone moved to approve the May 24, 2022, Minutes of the Town Council. Christine Dibble seconded the motion.

Action: Vote 6-0 approved.

Adjournment: There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:20 p.m.

Kathryn L. Lehman
Town Clerk