



Minutes of the Town Council  
August 8, 2022

Approved: August 29, 2022

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 7:35 p.m. In attendance were Councilors Darrell Anderson, David Cosson, Eva Patrone, Barbara Raimondo, and Gray Yachup. Also in attendance was Treasurer Jean Moyer.

**Approval of Agenda:** It was moved and seconded to approve the agenda.

*Action: Voted 4-0, approved without amendment (Yachup not voting).*

**Public Appearances:**

Meredith Horan explained her concern over after-hours activity in Woodward Park associated with persons in parked vehicles in the lot after the posted sunset closing time. She has found the road gate open and has roused a number of people out after dark. While maintenance supervisor, Steve Werts had taken responsibility for opening and closing the gate. She would like volunteers to join her with closing the gate at dark and opening it at dawn. There was additional discussion about the activity, asking people to leave, and calling the non-emergency police. Meredith thanked those who helped to monitor the gate closing.

Peter Nagrod gave an update on the dumpster issue at the Commercial Corner. Both Montgomery County and the Town have spoken to the property owner about relocating the dumpster. The property owner is ready and willing to work with both parties to make the parking lot safer.

Peter has also met with a County representative (MCDOT) to address excess foliage along Washington Grove Lane. All agreed that a safety hazard exists as it stands now, and as it is their responsibility, MCDOT agreed to send a crew out to clean up the area.

**Treasurer's Report:** It was moved and seconded to accept the July Treasurer's report.

*Action: Voted 6-0. Report accepted.*

**Mayor's Report:**

- a. Mayor Compton explained his new use of a link to a drop box for distribution of meeting documents.

- b. Kudos: To Bruce Rothrock for road repairs at the entrance to Maple Lake. To Meredith Horan for facilitating repairs of the gate to Woodward Park, and to Steve Werts for doing the gate repairs.
- c. Road repair report: Re-paving has been completed. Stop lines will soon be re-painted at many intersections. Thereafter, the speed bump at Chestnut Road and Acorn Lane will be restored. The stop lines will also be redone at the same time. A concern has been expressed over puddling and water retention at Acorn Lane and on 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue at the new pavement on Acorn Lane, which is inches higher than previously. Runoff from 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue needs to cross Acorn, and the problem may be remedied using dirt and gravel, by creating a channel in the shoulder, or by lowering the new pavement.
- d. Mail service to Washington Grove residents – letter transmitted: Mayor Compton sent another letter to the USPS stating the issue of mail delivery in Washington Grove was not yet resolved and a meeting should take place with USPS for the purpose of discussing solutions and to negotiate a formal agreement. *Any changes to the present service, or lack thereof, will involve consultation with residents and approval from the Town Council.*
- e. ARPA and State Bond funds update: Mayor Compton reported all ARPA funds (\$440K) have been received and that he and Treasurer Jean Moyer have initiated the process for accessing the State Bond funds allocated to the Town (\$250K). There was discussion about the priority use of the funds for flood management, the definition of stormwater management, water quality, water quantity, flood control, and goal for these projects.

**Administrative Matters:**

- a. Maintenance and Landscaping – Procedures for approving unbudgeted projects in FY22: The Mayor and Council reviewed proposed procedures distributed by Darrell Anderson. Committees and Commissions will be directed to send requests for spending on unbudgeted non-emergency projects to Darrell Anderson or the Town Clerk. RJ Landscaping will give the Town an estimate for these special projects.
- b. Maintenance and Landscaping – Guidance for budgeting in FY23: Darrell suggested this process will require better management of the budget and thinking ahead by Town committees. Greater communication about requests for funds will necessary, with budgeting encouraged beginning in December.
- c. Maintenance and Landscaping – Evaluation of the use of Contractors: Darrell Anderson recommended that landscaping services performance by RJ Landscape be evaluated in spring 2023.

*Action: Darrell Anderson and John Compton will write up and distribute a document explaining the procedure for getting non-emergency projects approved and completed in a reasonable time.*

## ***Unfinished Business***

### **Amended 2022 Comprehensive Plan –**

- a. Introduction of Resolution 2022-07 – Adopting the 2022 Comprehensive Plan. Town Council amendments to the Comprehensive Plan will be accessible from the website shortly. Mayor Compton reported that a search of the Maryland Land Use article did not find language requiring that a Comprehensive Plan be enacted by ordinance. Therefore, he proposed the 2022 Comprehensive Plan be enacted by resolution. Barbara Raimondo moved to introduce “Resolution 2022-07; Adopting the 2022 Comprehensive Plan” as amended. Darrell Anderson seconded the motion.
- b. Further items for discussion. Dave Cosson expressed some concern about how to account for changes/amendments to the Plan. The amended Comprehensive Plan will be available in marked-up form showing deleted and added language.

It was moved and seconded to accept the following amendments:

- Revised language in 9.1 and in Recommendations 5.1(d), 9.2(a), and 13.3(a).
- Addition of a new goal that the Town and Montgomery Parks explore restoring the rustic corridor character of Ridge Road. New language was added to 3.7 and to 6.3.3 to support new recommendations 3.7(c), 6.3.3(b) and 6.3.3(c).
- To address the future of USPS mail service to Washington Grove residents, Mayor Compton proposed a new section: “8.6 Postal Service”. Recommendations were included supporting the existing Washington Grove Post Office and engaging with the USPS to reduce the cost of post office boxes or institute residential mail delivery in town. Clarifying language was also added to section 3 Transportation.

*Action: Vote: 5-0, amendments approved.*

- c. Possible adoption of the amended 2022 Comprehensive Plan. In view of the many language amendments made by the Town Council to the Plan, Mayor Compton suggested the Council enable further resident input by holding another public hearing on the Plan. Afterwards the Council could take up approval of the Plan at a Special Town Council meeting. There was general agreement with this approach.

*Action: A Public Hearing and the Special Town Council meeting were scheduled for Monday, August 29<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 p.m. A Grove Alert will be used to provide timely notice.*

### **Woodward Park Kiosk Signage – Discussion**

Eva Patrone presented a proposal for new signs at the kiosk in Woodward Park. Two signs, explaining 1) a permit is required for group use and 2) the trash policy, will be in English and Spanish. It was suggested that the word “soccer” be removed from the title of the sign.

*Action: Eva Patrone will order the weather resistant signs printed metal.*

**Request For Proposal: Comprehensive Stormwater Management Consultant – Gray** Yachup reviewed the current draft RFP and reviewed the scope of work and qualifications for the bidders. Mayor Compton noted that stormwater management generally is used by professionals to refer to water quality issue, whereas the Town was interested in flood control. Patty Klein explained the Woods Committee was also doing a request for proposal and would like to review Grey’s documents in order to move forward in tandem. There was a discussion about the following:

- Sharing information with the Woods Committee
- Issuing a single RFP for both residential and forested areas, or using separate RFPs for residential Washington Grove and for the West Woods
- Problems with lack of clarity in a previous RFP

A clear way to proceed with the RFP will be decided at the next meeting.

**Closure of Cherry Avenue to Vehicular Use and Conversion to Walkway:** It was decided to defer this discussion to the September meeting of the Town Council.

### ***New Business***

None

### ***Other Regular Business***

#### **Town Council Reports:**

- a. Maryland Municipal League (Darrell Anderson) – Contacting municipalities for advice on civil engineers for water line projects. A representative from WSSC told Darrell they did not do this type of work and the Town would have to hire a contractor with a plan for their approval. Darrell’s inquiries to other municipalities resulted in a different opinion.
- b. Tree City USA Certification (Dave Cosson) – Dave reported the Town may apply for Tree City USA certification.
- c. Sustainability (Dave Cosson) – Potential for Town to apply for PEPCO grants supporting sustainability goals.

- d. RASEC (Raimondo) – Educational programs for residents on accessory dwelling units are planned for September, October, and November.

It was moved and seconded to approve and post the Council Reports on the Town website.

*Action: Vote: 5-0. Approved.*

**Approval of Minutes:** Darrell Anderson moved to approve the 11 July 2022 minutes of the Town Council. Barbara Raimondo seconded the motion.

*Action: Vote 5-0 approved without amendment.*

**Adjournment:** There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:45 p.m.

Kathryn L. Lehman  
Town Clerk