



Minutes of the Town Council
November 14, 2022

Approved: December 12, 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, Christine Dibble, Eva Patrone, Barbara Raimondo, and Gray Yachup. Also in attendance was Treasurer Jean Moyer. There were approximately fifteen residents in attendance.

Approval of Agenda: Eva Patrone moved to approve [the agenda \(PDF\)](#). Gray Yachup seconded the motion. Discussion about paid employee leave was tabled until December. The subject of leaf blowing in Town was added to New Business.

Action: Voted 6-0, approved, as amended.

Public Appearances: There were none.

Treasurer's Report: Gray Yachup moved to acceptance of the [October 10, 2022 Treasurer's report \(PDF\)](#). Darrell Anderson seconded the motion. Treasurer Jean Moyer provided an explanation of sources of income she thought to be notable.

Action: Voted 6-0, report accepted.

Mayor's Report:

Mayor Compton called on Councilor Darrell Anderson at his request. Darrell explained that due to his cancer illness, he no longer felt he was able to fulfill his duties to his satisfaction. Therefore, he announced that he was resigning from the Town Council as of the end of this meeting. The mayor expressed extreme regret at the Town Council's loss of Darrell's effectiveness, experience and counsel. All of the Council offered him their support and thanked him for his lengthy service to the Town. This vacancy will be discussed at the December meeting of the Town Council.

- a. **Kudos:** To Ali Faupel, Joey Fones, Emily Cavey and everyone who conceived of, worked on, and contributed to making the Haunted East Woods Spooktacular a resounding success.
- b. **RASEC:** The last of three RASEC-sponsored informational sessions on accessory dwelling units (ADU's) in Washington Grove will be December 1st. The Planning Commission is expected to examine whether ADU's should be permitted in Washington Grove.
- c. **Holiday Show:** The Holiday Show "Clueless in the Grove; a Musical and a Mystery" will be livestreamed on December 10th with a watch party in McCathran Hall.

- d. ***EV Charging Stations:*** Mayor Compton reported the Public Ways & Property Permit has been presented and approved.
- e. ***Streetlight Ownership Process:*** Mayor Compton thanked the Lighting Committee for their work with other municipalities and Pepco, as mandated earlier this year by the Public Services Commission, to revise the process Pepco will follow to enable municipalities to own their own streetlights. A recent meeting with PEPCO to discuss issues of specific concern to the Town proved useful.
- f. ***Snow Removal and Leaf Collection Contracts:*** Both these contracts have been renewed for FY23. The former is a one-year contract with RJ Landscapers with terms unchanged from FY22, and the latter is the fourth and final renewal year of our contract with Green Earth.
- g. ***Shared Use Pathway Liaison Update:*** The geotechnical work in the lower meadow was completed as of November 4th. The 15% design should be completed late this fall. The next public meeting to present the report is expected in December or January.

Joan Mahaffey asked about the recent work in the lower field, wanting to know if it was for the trail or roadway. It was the mayor's understanding this was for developing a proposed route for the road connection, for which funding for construction has not yet been budgeted.

- h. ***USPS Service to Washington Grove Residents:*** Mayor Compton reported that nothing has changed. He will contact our Congressional representatives Cardin, Van Hollen and Raskin for help "encouraging" the US Postal Service engage in a responsible dialogue with the Town.
- i. ***150th Anniversary of Washington Grove Camp Meeting Association:*** In order to mark this important anniversary in 2023, the mayor will act on the suggestion of the Town Archivist, Pat Patula, and the HPC and put together a committee to plan 2023 activities. Bob Booher felt this was not appropriate for the HPC to plan alone. Barbara Raimondo suggested the occasion will be a perfect opportunity to promote inclusivity with our neighbors and suggested that RASEC might help as well. A call for volunteers will be made.

Administrative Matters:

- a. ***Finalize the Revised Paid Holiday Leave Policy for Town Employees:***
Action: Deferred until the December Town Council meeting.
- b. ***Contract Landscaping and Maintenance Services:*** Evaluation of the Town's experience and plans for 2024. Mayor Compton reviewed the draft document

[“Guidance for Landscaping and Maintenance Task Requests” \(PDF\)](#) and asked for feedback. Discussion included the following:

- Having the new contract run April 2023 through June 2024.
- Multi-year contract with option to renew annually for several years.
- Cost structure.
- Including care of newly planted trees.
- Approval for the expenditure of funds.
- Who has responsibility for supervision of projects.
- Adding clarity to the section “Guidance for a Commissions and Committees”
- Procedure for expending contingency funds on projects.
- Putting “Guidance for Residents” in the Town Bulletin.

Action: The “Guidance for Landscaping and Maintenance Task Requests” document will be edited by the mayor per the discussion, circulated and finalized. It will be posted to the website and distributed to Commission and Committee Chairs.

- c. ***Disposition of the Town Inventory of Motorized Groundskeeping Equipment:*** Dave Cosson raised the idea of selling some of the motorized groundskeeping equipment if they remain unused. RJ Landscapers and Green Earth could be contacted about their interest in buying our equipment. He noted most of the equipment is gasoline powered. The use and possible purchase of battery/electric powered equipment as needed was discussed.

Action: This will be discussed further at a future meeting.

Unfinished Business

RFP for a Comprehensive Stormwater Management Plan: The Woods Committee and Councilor Yachup discussed their revised *Request for Proposal for a Comprehensive Storm Water Management Plan*. The project area for the RFP now includes the residential Town west of Grove Road and the West Woods. The Scope of Work and language was revised with the advice of professional engineers. The plan to be provided the Town to control flood water should include incremental short-term and long-term solutions, consider cost effectiveness, assess the extent of disruption to town facilities and functions, and suggest funding sources. The Council discussed current funding for any proposed actions. Minor changes to some wording, clearer description of the Project Area, and clarity on the map were proposed. Dave Cosson moved to approve the RFP pending revisions as discussed. Gray Yachup seconded the motion.

Action: Vote: 5-0 (Darrell Anderson absent) approved as revised.

Guidelines for Performing Volunteer Work on Town Property - Article for the Town Bulletin: The Mayor and Council reviewed the article proposed by Dave Cosson. Minor changes were suggested. It was moved and seconded to approve the article, which should be completed by adding the appropriate contact information for Committees and Councilors. This will go in the December Town Bulletin.

Action: Vote: 5-0 (Darrell Anderson absent), approved as revised, with edits and the contact list to be completed by the Mayor and Clerk.

New Business

Request From the Owners of 404 Fourth Avenue to Purchase Town Land – Discussion. The request is to purchase two parcels of Town land. One parcel, encroached upon by the house at 404 Fourth Avenue, qualifies per Article XVII of the Town Code for sale with an appropriate easement adopted in a future ordinance. And also requires opinions from the Planning Commission and the Historic Preservation Commission.

The second parcel is along Acorn Lane adjacent to 404 4th Ave. In 1988, a similar or identical parcel was declared surplus by the Town Council and offered for sale to the then owner. The sale was never completed. The current owners have now asked to purchase this property.

Action: The Planning Commission and Historic Preservation Commission will review the request.

Use of Leaf Blowers in Town: Christine Dibble questioned why the Town continues to permit the use of gas-powered leaf blowers on public land. She suggests that disruption due to leaf-blower noise and pollutant emissions might be reduced by 75% if blowing leaves on Town land was reduced and electric blowers used. Discussion included the pros and cons of collecting and disposing of leaves from Town land, noise and pollutant emissions, and proposed County legislation about restricting the use of gas-powered blower equipment.

Action: none proposed.

Other Regular Business

Town Council Reports (PDF) Highlights:

- a. *Gateway Committee (Patrone):* Recommendations that 4th Avenue and Grove Avenue from McCauley to WGL be smoothed out with fill dirt and surfaces with gravel, and for new signage. There was a discussion about maintenance and making the walkway useable.
- b. *Gateway Committee (Patrone):* It was reported that the speed limit on Washington Grove Lane will change to 25 mph soon.
- c. *Forestry and Beautification (Raimondo):* An expanded tree planting plan will be presented to the Mayor and Town Council in December or January.
- d. *Deer Management:* Loose dogs in the woods have been reported again and are interfering with the Town Deer Management bow-hunting program. They may have been under the control of their owner to some extent. In general, residents may call

the County if they perceive animals are a nuisance, as enforcement by the Town is problematic.

Action: Mayor Compton will talk to the dogs' owner.

Dave Cosson moved and Gray Yachup seconded approving the November Council Reports for posting on the website.

Action: Vote 5-0(Darrell Anderson absent), approved for posting.

Approval of Minutes: Eva Patrone moved, and Christine Dibble seconded, approving the October 10, 2022 minutes of the Town Council.

Action: Vote 5-0(Darrell Anderson absent), approved.

Adjournment: There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:35 p.m.

Kathryn L. Lehman
Town Clerk