



Minutes of the Town Council
March 13, 2023
Approved April 10, 2023

The regular meeting of the Town Council was held remotely via ZOOM Video Conferencing. The meeting was recorded.

Mayor Pro-Tempore Barbara Raimondo called the meeting of the Town Council to order at 7:30 p.m. In attendance were Councilors David Cosson, Christine Dibble, Sylvie Favret, Rob Gilmore, and Eva Patrone. Also in attendance were Treasurer Jean Moyer, Planning Commission Chair Peter Nagrod, Historic Preservation Commission Chair Bob Booher, and approximately seven residents.

Approval of Agenda: Eva Patrone moved to approve the agenda. Rob Gilmore seconded the motion.

Action: Voted 5-0, Agenda approved.

Public Appearances: There were none.

Treasurer's Report:

- a) It was moved and seconded to accept the February Treasurer's report. Christine Dibble mentioned the Lake Committee has engaged a new company for lake maintenance.
Action: Voted 5-0, report accepted.
- b) Reminder – Budget Work Session scheduled for March 29, 2023

Mayor's Report:

- a) *Kudos:* To Peter Nagrod and Tom Land, for fixing a sign at McCauley Street and 5th Avenue. To Emily Cavey, for the 15 years she ran Summer in the Parks.
- b) *USPS Service to Washington Grove:* Barbara Raimondo reported that the USPS has proposed to the Town to make PO boxes free to Washington Grove residents going forward. On behalf of the Town, Mayor Compton has accepted the proposal. The USPS is completing details of the new policy and will be informing box-holders of the change. This welcome outcome is the result of several years of letters, meetings, and discussions with USPS, facilitated by our Congressional representatives Senator Cardin, Senator Van Hollen, Congressman Raskin and Congressman Trone.
- c) *ARPA Funds:* Mayor Compton has been advised by consultants provided by the State of Maryland that the lost revenue option, which does not require detailed submissions from municipalities, allows use of ARPA funds for any normal municipal purpose. On this basis, use of the Town's ARPA funds for stormwater and floodwater management expenses will qualify.
- d) *EV Charging Station Installation:* Permits are approved, and pre-construction meetings have taken place. Peter Nagrod noted our requests are being honored and our history is being respected by all those involved.

- e) *RASEC Forum*: A RASEC sponsored forum, “Are We Segregated by Design” will take place on March 25th.
- f) *Special Town Council Meeting*: The Special Town Council Meeting and Public Hearing to receive public input on Resolution 2023-01 “Acknowledging Washington Grove's Racially Exclusionary Past” will take place by Zoom on Monday March 27th at 7:30.
- g) *RASEC-sponsored discussions of the proposed anti-racism resolution*: Paul Thorne-Keziah, a graduate student in divinity school, will facilitate low-key, relaxed meetings to discuss the resolution about social equality. He invited everyone to attend the meetings which will take place at the Washington Grove United Methodist Church on March 15th and April 5th.
- h) *150th Anniversary Committee*: Peter Nagrod reported the Committee is meeting monthly. He reviewed a list of activities planned for August 10–13. He also brought up the possibility of renovated Whetstone Springs.
- i) *Washington Grove Connector*: Montgomery County Department of Transportation will hold a meeting in McCathran Hall on April 13th to present the plan for the Washington Grove Connector Shared Use Path.

Unfinished Business

Landscaping and Maintenance: Review of Bids and Award of Contract. Dave Cosson reported four replies to the RFP were received. The Council decided they needed more time to review the RFP and deferred award of the contract until the next Town Council meeting.

Comprehensive Stormwater Management Plan RFP: Further discussion focused on how divergent the three bids are and the need for clarifying with each vendor their proposed work product. Councilor Cosson and Patty Klein will seek the necessary information and report back to the Council in April.

Other Regular Business

Town Council Reports – Items of note:

Woods (Cosson), Sustainability (Cosson), and Forestry & Beautification (Raimondo): The Committees plan to co-sponsor a webinar, in May or June, about land restoration, invasive species, and related topics.

Recreation (Patrone): Yoga will be taught by resident Rachel Schwartz every Tuesday.

Lighting (Raimondo): Still working on ownership of municipal streetlights. Filings from weekly meetings will be submitted to the Maryland Public Service Commission on April 7, 2023.

Emergency Preparedness and Safety Committee (Favret): In light of the recent Ohio train derailments, the EPSC recommends revisiting communications with CSX for current updates.

Lake Committee (Favret): Annual Lake Cleanup will take place on Saturday, April 15th at 10:00 PM.

Approval of Minutes: Christine Dibble moved to approve the 13 February 2023 minutes of the Town Council as presented. Dave Cosson seconded the motion.

Action: Vote: 5-0, approved.

Next Meetings:

- The next regular meeting of the Town Council will be on Monday April 10, 2023.
- A Special Town Council meeting and the Public Hearing on Resolution 2023-01 is scheduled for Monday March 27, 2023, at 7:30.
- The Town Council Budget Work Session will take place on Wednesday March 29, 2023, at 7:30.

Adjournment: There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

_____/s/_____
Kathryn L. Lehman
Town Clerk