

May 10, 2024

Mayor Compton and the Town council,

First, a sincere thank you to ALL Washington Grove volunteers. You are appreciated.

The Town of Washington Grove depends upon resident volunteerism in its elected officials and various committees. All acting with a common goal of reinforcing/protecting the spirit and character of the Town and its residents according to the Constitution of the United States, the State of Maryland Constitution and laws, and the Charter and ordinances of the Town of Washington Grove.

Within that "spirit" the following is requested:

Committees

- Members of the Town Council (including the mayor), various commissions, committees, groups etc. are prohibited from receiving remuneration of any kind because of their volunteer participation. This ban would also apply to all situations that have the appearance of cronyism.
- All committee/commission budgets, including every potential distribution of those tax payor funds regardless of amount, are subject to the oversight and approval of the Town Council (before payment is made). Prior misuse of taxpayer money must also be returned to the Town.
- All members of the committees are required to be residents and/or property owners in the Town of Washington Grove.
- The Open Meetings Act must apply to all committees – especially those receiving taxpayer funds.
- The Robert's Rules of Order must apply to ALL committees and their associated meetings.
- The Freedom of Information act must apply to ALL committees.
- All committees must follow the U.S. Constitution, Maryland's Constitution and Washington Grove's Charter. If the committee fails in this regard, it must be immediately dissolved, and all Washington Grove taxpayer money (if previously received) returned to the Town.

Voting

- All ordinance and zoning proposed changes allow for one (1) vote per residence. These can be split if multiple owners of a property have differing opinions. This is similar to most HOA and condominium voting parameters to prevent a "clown car" of votes coming from a small number of residences/properties.

Meetings

- Public, in person meetings are needed – NOT just zoom – with all elected officials, commissioners, committee members required to be present in person. Hybrid meetings is an option for those individuals unable to attend in person.

Thank you for your consideration of the above – especially as the vast majority were thought to already exist.

Sincerely,

John A McClelland
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