



Minutes of the Town Council Meeting
Monday, June 10, 2024, 7:30 p.m.
Approved July 30, 2024

Mayor John Compton called the meeting of the Town Council to order at 7:35 p.m. In attendance were Councilors Kriss Grisham, Peter Nagrod, Barbara Raimondo, and Mary Warfield. Eva Patrone arrived later in the meeting. Several dozen residents were also in attendance.

Approval of Agenda: Peter Nagrod moved to approve the agenda. Barbara Raimondo seconded the motion. There was a discussion about doing an amendment to the Town Charter that would allow for different start times for elections and the Annual Meeting.

Action: Vote: 4-0. Agenda approved.

Public Appearances: Liz Everhart requested that if the Zoom chat function was going to be used during the Council meetings, it should be archived. Only chat with the host should be allowed.

Treasurer's Report: Treasurer Jean Moyer directed the Council to the comments imbedded in the May Treasurer's report and asked if there were questions. She reported the flow of revenue was steady and reviewed how revenue was received periodically during the year. Budgeted funds could not be carried over year to year. Mary Warfield moved to accept the May Treasurer's report. Peter seconded the motion. Vote: 4-0.

Mayor's Report:

a. *Kudos:*

- *To the Town Weed Warrior work party of 14 resident volunteers who labored to remove unwanted plants from the Meadow Conservation Park along Ridge Road under the supervision of a Natural Resources Specialist with Montgomery Parks.*
- *To Peter Nagrod and other organizers and contributors for making CircleFest 2024 such a great, better - than-2023 Town party attended by so many residents and invited neighbors and friends.*
- *To Bruce Rothrock, Terry Cox, Phil Mento, Bruch Crise, Chris Bloskey, who cleared fallen tree branches and storm damage at Maple Lake last Saturday.*
- *To Steve Werts and Terry Cox who repaired a damaged tennis net on the clay court.*

b. Music Weekend schedule has been set for the activities of the weekend, June 22-23.

c. The new email address mayorandcouncil@washingtongrovemd.org can now be used to communicate directly with the Mayor and all Town Councilors.

d. Shared Use Pathway Liaison Report – Construction funds for the WGC are explicitly noted in the FY25 County Capital Improvement Plan which the County Council passed as part of the County FY25 Budget.

- e. Town Donation to Heritage Emory Grove – Presentation event to be proposed. Heritage Emory Grove now has a 501(c)(3) status. The donation represents the proceeds from the sale of Craig English’s 150th celebration posters to which Craig donated his time.
- f. Hybrid Town Council meeting – planning, test run, possible trial for July Council meeting. Mayor Compton stated his goal of having the 2025 Annual Town Meeting in hybrid form.

Administrative Matters:

- a. *Stormwater Infrastructure Maintenance RFP – Review timeline for responses. Establish the award process.* Mayor Compton reminded everyone of the timeline extension and explained the notes provided to the seven potential bidders who participated in the walkthroughs. There was a discussion about the following proposed timeline:
 - At the July Council meeting bids received by July 3 will be briefly reviewed.
 - A special Town Council will be scheduled for presentations by bidders and for questions and answers with the Town Council.
 - Anticipate selecting two or three bids for the detailed review.
 - Discuss proposals and contract award at the August Town Council meeting.
 - By September identify contract recipient and refine with them details of the work and award.
- b. *Appointment of Jeff McCrehan to the Planning Commission as a full member for the five-year term June 1, - May 31, 2029.* Barbara Raimondo moved and Peter Nagrod seconded approval of the mayor’s appointment.
Action: Vote: 4-0. Appointment approved.
- c. *Appointment of Bob Christin to the Planning Commission as the Alternate Commissioner for the remainder of the five-year term June 1, 2023 – May 31, 2028.* Barbara Raimondo moved and Peter Nagrod seconded approval of the Mayor’s appointment.
Action: Vote: 4-0. Appointment approved.

Comprehensive Road Work 2024 – Bid opening, discussion and award of contract.

Mayor Compton reported that three (3) companies replied to our Request for Proposal and shared a spreadsheet comparing the bids for the various areas to be paved. He proposed awards based on a total budget of \$80,000, combining \$40,000 for both FY 24 and FY25. He suggested prioritizing eight Areas for attention and awarding work worth ~\$49,000 to MT a Laney and worth ~\$28,500 to Ross Construction. There was brief discussion of Mayor Compton’s funding and award plan. Peter Nagrod moved, and Barbara Raimondo seconded approving the awards as proposed.

Action: Vote: 5-0, (Eva Patrone arrived during the discussion) to approve.

Renewable Energy Conversion Incentive Pilot Program – Continuation for FY25.

Mayor Compton explained that the program was funded in the approved F25 Town Budget and that a new Council resolution was required to continue the Pilot. Eva Patrone moved, and Mary Warfield seconded introduction of Resolution 2024-xx, “Renewable Energy Conversion Incentives Pilot Program for FY25”. This resolution differed from the resolution that

authorized the initial year of the Pilot (Resolution 2023-06) only in adding language referring to continuation of the FY24 program. No changes were made to the program provisions. Brief discussion followed.

Action: Vote: 5-0, adopted.

Resolution 2024-02; Guidelines to Provide for Proper Governance of Washington Grove Committees – *Introduction and discussion and of this proposed revision of Resolution 2019-13.*

Proposed revisions to the 2019 resolution (compiled by John Compton, Barbara Raimondo and Mary Warfield) were discussed and amendments suggested. Barbara Raimondo moved to introduce Resolution 2024-02 as amended. Peter Nagrod seconded the motion. The discussion of the amended resolution focused on the recommendation that the voting and leadership roles of non-residents be restricted, and on the “Whereas” emphasizing non-residents are welcome to participate on Committees.

Action: To allow for public comment, the Council deferred action on the Resolution until the July 8th Town Council meeting.

RASEC Recommendations for Furthering the Goals of Resolution 2023-01; Acknowledging Washington Grove’s Racially Exclusionary Past and Committing to an Equitable and Inclusive Future – *Recommendation to Hire a Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) Specialist.* There was agreement to limit discussion tonight to 20 minutes and defer action, allowing time for further resident input and a report on Councilor research into additional DEI programs offered by local organizations. (Raimondo and Warfield).

RASEC Co-Chair Paula Puglisi reviewed an updated RASEC recommendation that incorporates last month’s Council discussion suggestions. Included were investigations into additional DEI consultants (a total of eight), as well as programs used by the Maryland Municipal League. Further information was provided on the two specialists judged to be the best for the proposed pilot individual education program, and for the collective education program. Performance outcomes metrics would be added. The budget impact was addressed of possible cost sharing between the Town and participants in the individual DEI assessments. Paula stated RASEC had performed all due diligence and asked that their proposal be approved.

The Mayor and Councilors expressed a variety of reservations about the RASEC proposal, asking questions such as clarifying the goals for the DEI training, specific metrics for assessing the outcomes for participants, and total budget implications. Councilors also expressed confusion about how this matter could best be brought to final resolution. Mayor Compton suggested that further questions about the RASEC recommendation be submitted to them in writing.

Action: Mayor Compton will provide a cogent list of all Councilor questions to RASEC no later than two weeks before the July Council meeting.

New Business

Flexibility to Schedule the Annual Town Meeting – Proposal to change the Town Charter to allow the Town Council to schedule the Annual Election and Annual Town Meeting any Time on the second Saturday of May – Mayor Compton explained that changes to the Town Charter

are made by Resolution. The Council agreed to consider a Resolution enabling flexibility in the scheduling of the Town Election and Annual Town Meeting on the second Saturday of May.
Action: A Resolution will be composed and brought to the Council for consideration.

Other Regular Business

Town Council Reports – Of Note by Mayor Compton:

a. *Recreation Committee (Patrone)* – Summer in the Parks has 25 registered campers for the program that will run weekdays July 8 to August 1.

b. *Planning Commission (Nagrod)*. Agreed that changes would be appropriate to our existing use restrictions at the Commercial Corner. They will be considering expanding the types of businesses allowed and possible second floor residential options to encourage renovation of the property.

c. *Maintenance (Nagrod)* – RJ Landscapers was extremely responsive in providing cleanup services early the day after a storm. Of note, they removed a significant tree that fell and totally blocked the sidewalk on Washington Grove Lane.

d. *Forestry & Beautification (Raimondo)* – Twelve canopy trees planted in early May. Planning underway to replace invasive bush honeysuckle that was removed from two areas of Grove Avenue.

e. *Website (Raimondo)* – Recordings of the 2024 Annual Town Meeting and recent/future Town Council meetings can be found on YouTube and are linked to our website.

Approval of Minutes – It was moved and seconded to approve the March 25, 2024, Town Council minutes.

Next Meeting – Virtual on Monday July 8, 2024, at 7:30 p.m.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:05 p.m.