



Minutes of the Town Council  
September 9, 2024, 7:30 pm  
Approved November 11, 2024

**Call to Order:** Mayor Pro Tempore Barbara Raimondo called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. In attendance were Councilors Rob Gilmore, Kriss Grisham, Peter Nagrod, Eva Patrone, Barbara Raimondo, and Mary Warfield. Also in attendance were Mayor John Compton (from Portugal), Jason Mills (Soltesz) and a few Town residents.

**Approval of Agenda:** It was moved to approve the draft Agenda.  
*Action: Vote: 5-0 (Barbara Raimondo, chairing meeting, not voting).*

### ***Regular Business***

**Public Appearances:** There were none.

#### **Treasurer's Report:**

Treasurer Jean Moyer reviewed revenue and expenses through August (two months into FY25). One revenue item was updated. Peter Nagrod moved to accept the updated Treasurer's Report. Eva Patrone seconded the motion.

*Action: Vote: 5-0, as updated.*

#### **Mayor's Report:**

##### *a. Kudos:*

- To Recreation Committee volunteers for Labor Day weekend events – new "Terry Cox Fun Run," after-party at the lake drew almost 70 residents and guests and was a great success in showcasing our beautiful lake. Special shout-outs to Peggy Booher for her enthusiasm, Peter Nagrod for pulling off the fun-run, Sara Parent for making the awards, Renee Moloznik, Arlene McCrehan, Lisa Bielen, Kristina Kough, and everyone else who helped or participated.
- To all the dedicated, reliable, and amazing volunteers who make this Town run.

*b. Road work completed* – The contractor did an excellent job and the project manager was very responsive. Laney is recommended for future work.

*c. Shared Use Pathway* – DOT still waiting for approved permits to enable them to move on to the mandatory referral review by the Planning Board.

*d. "State of the District" event at McCathran Hall* – Saturday, October 19, District 39 State Delegate Gabriel Acevero will be hosting a public event with a theme of environmental justice, as well as to discuss District resident's concerns.

- e. *Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI)* – Training by Leadership Montgomery is scheduled for November 16 from 9:00 a.m.- 12:00 p.m. Sign up will be required.
- f. *Parliamentary Procedure Training* – The session for Committee and Commission chairs and will be held on October 13.
- g. *Speed Bumps in Town Being Considered* – Residents should contact Peter Nagrod with their ideas for placement.

## ***New Business***

### **Stormwater Infrastructure Maintenance Contract Award:**

Mayor's *ad hoc* SWIM RFP group to review the bidder's proposals, suggest criteria for evaluating award of the contract and to make a recommendation to the Town Council. (Resident input by the October Council meeting.)

In closed sessions on July 30 and August 13, the Council previously interviewed the two responding bidders, Biohabitats and SMI Environmental, concerning their proposals. At this meeting the Town Council opened discussion of awarding the SWIM contract.

The discussion was led by Patty Klein, speaking for the Mayor's Ad Hoc SWIM RFP group. Patty gave kudos to everyone who worked on the RFP, presented a chronology, and summarized the design/build RFP. Councilors noted that both bids exceeded the budget for the contract (~\$650,000). Jason Mills (Soltesz) explained that in a design/build project, initial design alternatives and definitive costs should be determined for each Work Area, and then the Town's priorities and negotiation would be used to decide what would be constructed to keep within the Contract budget.

The subsequent discussion touched on the following:

- Costs in each proposal.
- Using comparable assumptions to compare the Bidders
- Lack of drawings for evaluation.
- Permits assumptions for the work.
- Bioswales and maintenance concerns.
- Engaging a Town engineer to monitor the work and protect the Town's interests.
- Request for a recommendation from the SWIM RFP group.
- Reviewing the pros and con's
- Concerns over using too much of the budget for engineering; too little for construction.
- Assurance that final design and construction will meet Town needs (will work, and how much).

*Action: In line with the mayor's previously suggested timeline, the Council agreed to defer further discussion to the October Town Council meeting with the intention of making an award decision then.*

*Action: Prior to the October meeting, the SWIM RFP group will contact and evaluate the references provided by each Bidder, and report to the Council with a recommendation of who should be awarded the contract.*

**Restoration Plan for the Conservation Meadow** – Recommendation by the Meadows Committee to approve Phase 1 of the tree reduction plan proposed by Montgomery County Parks. Discussion and a possible action deferred to allow additional resident input.

Barbara Raimondo reviewed the proposed restoration plan for the Meadow/Park. Public input was taken. Deb Tarasevich read a letter signed from 10 regular users of the park, questioning the need for restoration, the origins of the plan, and specifics within the plan. Considering the questions and uncertainty raised, a group walk through the meadow with Ryan Colliton (Montgomery Parks Ecologist) was suggested for all interested residents.

*Action: Further discussion was deferred to another Town Council meeting.*

*Action: Councilor Raimondo will schedule the meadow walk with Ryan.*

**Proposal for Year 2 of the Municipal Leaf Composting Pilot** – Presentation and Discussion. Kitty Seiferlein to present.

The Council heard a report citing the successes of the first year of the Pilot. Permission was requested for a second year Pilot to include:

- Continued to use the existing bins.
- Development of test sites in resident yards.
- Further testing composting in bins in a niche cut into the bamboo near the Maintenance building.

After some discussion, Peter Nagrod moved to approve continuing the compost pilot program as proposed for another year. Eva seconded the motion.

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

## ***New Business***

None.

## ***Other Regular Business***

**Town Council Reports** – Of note:

- Sustainability Committee (Warfield)* – Discussion of a possible chicken-keeping ordinance.
- Sustainability Committee (Warfield)* – EV charger usage went up this month, saving ninety gallons of fuel.
- Emergency Preparedness and Safety Committee (Grisham)* – is recruiting and re-energizing, so please volunteer.

- d. *Planning Commission (Nagrod)* – is considering changes to improve the Commercial Corner.

**Approval of Minutes:**

*Action: Vote: 5-0, approving the Minutes of the August 12, 2024, meeting of the Town Council*

**Next Meeting:** Virtual on Monday October 14, 2024, at 7:30 p.m.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:45 pm.

\_\_\_\_\_/s/\_\_\_\_\_  
Kathryn L. Lehman