



Minutes of the Town Council Meeting
January 13, 2025, 7:30 p.m.
Approved February 10, 2025

1. **Call to Order:** Mayor Compton called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. In attendance were Councilors Kriss Grisham, Rob Gilmore, Peter Nagrod, Eva Patrone, Barbara Raimondo, and Mary Warfield. Also in attendance was Treasurer Jean Moyer, and a number of residents.
2. **Approval of Agenda:** Peter Nagrod moved to approve the agenda. Rob Gilmore seconded the motion. Eva Patrone moved to remove item 16 from the agenda, noting this item was unanimously approved at the December meeting of the Town Council. Barbara Raimondo seconded.
*Action: Vote 4 - 1 (Grisham), 1 abstention (Nagrod), item 16 removed from the proposed agenda.
Action: Vote 6 - 0, amended Agenda adopted.*
3. **Approval of Minutes:** Mary Warfield moved approval by consent of the following four sets of minutes:
 - Town Council Minutes from October 14, 2024
 - Special Town Council Meeting November 2, 2024
 - Town Council Meeting November 11, 2024
 - Town Council Minutes December 9, 2024*Action: 6 - 0, all Minutes approved.*

Regular Business

4. **Public Appearances:** Howard Harary expressed his concerns about the Town's ice removal policy. Mayor Compton will address this under item #9.
5. **Treasurer's Report:**
 - a. *December Treasurer's Report.* Treasurer Jean Moyer noted the increase in tree planting was partially funded by the George Paine Memorial Fund. Donations for the Stump Carving project is now at \$4,000. There was a motion and a second to accept the December 2025 Treasurer's Report.
Action: Vote: 6-0, report accepted.
 - b. *Process and timeline for preparation and adoption of the FY26 Budget.* Jean Moyer reviewed her FY26 Budget Process and timeline document.
6. **Mayor's Report:**
 - a. *Kudos:*
 - To all the dedicated organizers, creative production staff, and talented participants whose time and energy went into presenting the 2025 Holiday Show, "Grove-A-Doon".
[View a video made by Montgomery Municipal Cable.](#)

- To Bob Booher and Town Attorney Suellen Ferguson for their contributions in the midst of their travel and holiday schedules that made possible award of the Stormwater Infrastructure Maintenance contract by the December 31st deadline.
 - To Dave Cosson, the Meadows Committee, and concerned residents for working together and with Montgomery Parks on the Conservation Meadow Restoration Plan to make a good plan better and make possible completion of Phase 1 in February before nesting season begins.
- b. *The Stormwater Infrastructure Maintenance Contract with SMI Environmental:* Contract executed December 31st. A kick-off meeting for the design phase will be held in January.
 - c. *Shared Use Pathway Committee Report* – The Planning Board’s mandatory referral review of the MCDOT plan for the Washington Grove Connector (35% engineering stage) is scheduled for February 20, 2005. The Committee discussed details of the plan with MCDOT in December. Town comments on the plan will be submitted to the Planning Board.
 - d. *Meadow Restoration Plan Status:* Phase 1 tree removal by March 1.
 - e. *Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Belonging workshops:* Three sessions for Councilors and the Chairs of Commissions and Committees scheduled for February 1, 15, and March 1.

Administrative Matters

- 7. Engagement of Myers and Laws for Tree Removal in the Conservation Meadow:** Myers and Laws Tree Service has been contracted to do the Phase 1 tree removal in the Conservation Meadow.
- 8. Roberts Rules of Order** – Motion to adopt Roberts Rules of Order for Town Council meetings. (Raimondo).
Barbara Raimondo moved and Eva Patrone seconded a motion that the Town Council adopt Robert’s Rules of Order (RRO) for Council business. She noted use of RRO should improve the efficiency of Council business. There was general agreement it would help focus the meetings. Opportunities for public input on issues before the Council were discussed.
Action: Vote: 6-0, motion passed.
- 9. Town Policy for Using Salt for Snow Removal (All)**
Mayor Compton explained the history of our current policy not to use salt for snow removal. Eva Patrone moved, with Mary Warfield seconding, that our snow removal policy be updated to include the use of salt under circumstances when the extended presence of ice may create unsafe conditions.
Action: Vote: 6-0, motion passed.
Action: A revised written Snow Policy will be prepared.
- 10. Delivery of the Town Bulletin to PO Boxes** – Motion to offer an opt-in option for receiving a paper copy of the Town Bulletin (Patrone).

Eva Patrone moved, with Barbara Raimondo seconding, that the Town Bulletin be offered to residents in paper form. An electronic Bulletin would continue, but all residents would be offered the option of also having a mailed paper copy delivered. After discussion of cost and labor, the proposal was modified to mail out a paper questionnaire to explore how many residents would opt-in to the paper option.

Action: Vote: 4 in favor; 2 opposed; exploratory mailing approved.

11. Hybrid Town Council Meetings – Proposed as Preparation for the Hybrid Annual Town Meeting (Compton).

The Annual Town Meeting in May will be in hybrid format and the technical aspects will be handled by Montgomery Municipal Cable (MMC). To provide experience with hybrid meetings, Mayor Compton proposed the Council hold two such meetings: the Budget Work Session in mid-March and the April Town Council Meeting. MMC has agreed to handle technical aspects of both.

Action: There was consensus Council agreement to have the two hybrid meetings.

12. Council Recognition of Volunteer Committees – Recommended Policy and Procedure.

Mayor Compton proposed that the criterion for recognizing a new standing volunteer Committee be the following. A resident group may ask for recognition by the Town Council after organizing according to the Council Guidelines in Resolution 2023-01 and adopting appropriate bylaws or guidelines. Council recognition would make the new Committee eligible for proposing expenditure of funds, executing Council or Mayor approved projects, and being granted permission to act in the Town’s name.

Action: There was general Council consensus approving this policy.

13. Recognition of the Meadows Committee (Grisham).

Kriss Grisham moved the *ad hoc* Meadows Committee be formally recognized as a volunteer Town Committee. The group has organized according to the Council Guidelines in Resolution 2023-01 and adopted appropriate guidelines, and requested this action.

Action: Vote 6-0, approving formal recognition of the Meadows Committee.

14. Installation of New Speed Humps – Recommended Policy and Procedure for Approval.

Mayor Compton proposed that the first step for the Council to consider installing a new speed hump should be receipt of a formal request from multiple residents in proximity to its location.

Action: There was general Council consensus approving this policy. Criteria for approving installation will be established at the time of the next speed hump request.

Unfinished Business

15. Resolution 2025-01 “Vacant Properties Registry and Maintenance Standards”:

Discussion of the Resolution was continued from December. It was noted that little public comment has been received. Mayor Compton raised the question of whether the proposals for a Vacant Properties Registry and maintenance standards shouldn’t be integrated into the Town’s Ordinances. The Ordinances already have sections addressing poorly maintained homes (Article I, Section 13) and those properties that may pose public health concerns

(Article II, several sections). Discussion ended with a motion from Mary Warfield, seconded by Barbara Raimondo, to postpone action on Resolution 2025-01 until next month.

Action: Vote: 5-0 (Rob Gilmore was not present for the vote).

Action: The Resolution will be redrafted as an Ordinance proposal by Councilors Warfield, Grisham and Mayor Compton.

New Business

None

Other Regular Business

16. Town Council Reports. The following was noted:

- a. *Gateway (Nagrod):* Describes a walk-through to develop improvements along Railroad Street.
- b. *Maintenance (Nagrod):* Reports the snow and ice from the last storm has been a maintenances challenge and RJ was very responsive.
- c. *Recreation (Patrone):* Announces that a new ad hoc Playground Workgroup has been formed through the Recreation Committee, led by resident Oscar Ramos, with Eva as council liaison. Oscar a put together [this slideshow](#) with extensive information about the playground improvement project.
- d. *HPC (Raimondo):* Work continues developing a proposal to install commemorative signage at the former sites of historic buildings.
- e. *HPC (Raimondo):* A review has been started of the progress in preserving the Town's historical records and information, with an eye to prioritizing the work of the Town Archivist.

Next Meeting: The next regular Town Council meeting will be held February 10, 2025.

Adjournment

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

_____/s/_____
Kathryn L. Lehman