



Special Town Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, April 29, 2025 at 6:30 PM

Hybrid Meeting

3820 40th Avenue Cottage City, Maryland 20722

This meeting will be hosted on Zoom Only:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85612982514?pwd=bRTNFBpibpp26NenwDNuDgdTHmcwEz.1>

Phone: 301-715-8592 | Meeting ID: 856 1298 2514 | Passcode: 139686

Call to Order at 6:30 p.m.

Attendees

1. Ward 1-Commissioner Young
2. Ward 2- Commissioner Henderson
3. Ward 3- Commissioner Wheatley
4. Ward 4- Commissioner Givens
5. At-Large Report- Commissioner Brooks
6. John Hoatson-Town Manager
7. Kevin Best- Town Attorney

Review of the Agenda

Business

1. Motion To Suspend The Rules To Vote In A Special Town Meeting (Commission Vote)

Motion

The motion was made by Commissioner Givens and seconded by Commissioner Brooks. There was a unanimous vote by the Commissioners. Young, Henderson, Wheatley, Givens, & Brooks. Motion Pass. No nays or abstentions.

2. Little Library Locations (Commission Discussion)

Commissioner Chair Wheatley stated that the Community Garden requested to build two little libraries using the ARPA funds. The location of the little libraries would be one at the Community Garden and the second one near the top lot.

Ward 1:

Commissioner Young stated no discussion, and she thinks it's a good idea, as long as good books are placed in the little libraries.

Ward 2:

Commissioner Henderson stated no discussion, he thinks it's a good idea.

Ward 3:

Commissioner Chair Wheatley stated no discussion, and she supports the little libraries.

Ward 4:

Commissioner Givens stated no discussion, and he supports the little libraries.

At-Large:

Commissioner Brooks stated no discussion, and he supports the little libraries.

Commissioner Chair Wheatley told the Town Manager that he has a consensus from the five Commissioners and the Commissioners approve the request.

The Town Manager stated that he will let the Community Garden members know.

3. **Approval of Emergency Ordinance: 2025-01: An Emergency Ordinance Amending Chapter 15 (Public Ethics Ordinance), Section 15-6 (Disclosure & Use Of Confidential Information) Of The Code Of The Town Of Cottage City (Commission Vote)**

The Town Manager stated that this is an emergency ordinance to address the confidentiality that the Commission has been addressing. The town 1st off did it as a resolution and now the town has moved it into an emergency ordinance. The purpose of this ordinance is to address some issues that the Commission and Town Manager have been having with confidentiality and the leaking of some things. The Commissioners and Town Manager have been trying to address it by now, having it as an emergency ordinance. The Town Manager read the ordinance into the record.

Ward 1:

Commissioner Young stated that some of the items in the ordinance she didn't agree with and that she believes it needs to be removed from the ordinance.

Ward 2:

No comments.

Ward 3:

No comments.

Ward 4:

Commissioner Givens stated that the Town manager is the custodian of records on behalf of the town. That's why the Commission consulted with that person. However, if there's any ambiguity in the Commissions consultation the Commissioners do have the right, as it states, simply in the written phrase, there to consult with the town attorney.

At-Large:

Commissioner Brooks stated that he has no objections and would Commissioner Chair Wheatley entertain a motion.

Commissioner Chair Wheatley stated that she would entertain a motion.

Motion

The motion was made by Commissioner Brooks and seconded by Commissioner Givens. Young- Nay, Henderson- Aye, Wheatley-Aye, Givens-Aye, & Brooks-Aye.

Motion Passes with 4-Ayes and 1-Nay, there were no abstentions.

Adjournment

All meetings are subject to closure pursuant to the Maryland Open Meetings Act: Pursuant to the Annotated Code of Maryland, State Government Article Section 10-508(a), the Council by majority vote may retire to executive or closed session at any time during the meeting. Should the Commission retire to executive or closed sessions the Chair will announce the reasons, and a report will be issued at a future meeting disclosing the reasons for such closed session.

Motion to Adjourn the meeting

Meeting adjourned at 6:47 p.m.

The motion was made by Commissioner Givens and seconded by Commissioner Brooks. There was a unanimous vote by the Commissioners. Young, Henderson, Wheatley, Givens, & Brooks. Motion Pass. No nays or abstentions.