



November 2025 Regular Town Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, November 12, 2025, at 7:00 PM

Virtual Meeting

3820 40th Avenue Cottage City, Maryland 20722

This meeting was hosted on Zoom:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/tmmBKAgYAe2QpDUGK4etarLAW6OHIUvc2uQNRXzqJOZTJCOL8aaZCi2ijmHO3I1Y.bfw4NVFzlfOQdQna?startTime=1762991795000>

Phone: 301-715-8592 | Meeting ID: 896 3829 4683 | Passcode: =8.38W1X

Call to Order at 7:00 PM

Attendees

1. Ward 1 - Commissioner Salsich
2. Ward 2 - Commissioner Henderson
3. Ward 3 - Commissioner Wheatley
4. At-Large - Commissioner Brooks
5. John Hoatson - Town Manager
6. Kevin Best – Town Attorney
7. Stephanie DeLorenzo – Indivisible Rte 1 Corridor
8. David Jamison – ALTA
9. Brandon Pecararo - resident

Agenda

1. Call to Order (5:33)

All Commissioners except for Ward 4 Commissioner Givens are present and accounted for.

2. Public Comments (6:13)

None.

3. Consent Agenda (7:15)

Approval of Minutes for Tuesday, September 2 meeting, September 10 regular town meeting, and special meeting on September 16.

Commissioner Wheatley proposed a motion for approval of the September meeting minutes. Commissioner Henderson seconded the motion. Salsich-Aye, Henderson-Aye, Wheatley-Aye, Givens-Absent, Brooks-Aye. Motion passes without nays or abstentions.

Regarding the budget, less money is coming in from speed and red-light cameras than was initially forecast.

Commissioner Wheatley proposed a motion for approval of the July through October financial report. Commissioner Henderson seconded the motion. Salsich-Aye, Henderson-Aye, Wheatley-Aye, Givens-Absent, Brooks-Aye. Motion passes without nays or abstentions.

4. Commissioner Reports (16:39)

Ward 1 – No report.

Ward 2 – Commissioner Henderson would like to be notified of times when Town Hall is being rented. Dogs are still running loose in the block. Mr. Bill Kopecki is having flooding in his back yard, which is being looked into.

Ward 3 – Senior dinner is this Saturday, catered by Miss Angie. Ruby Bridges walk is Friday. Prince George's Gateway Development Authority meeting just happened in North Brentwood and the comprehensive plan is available on their website. Employee Appreciation event is proposed for December.

At-Large – Commissioner Brooks confirmed movie nights for December 5 and 13, *Home Alone* and *Home Alone 2*.

5. Old Business – Ordinance for Street Sweeping (24:23)

Cottage City Ordinance 2025-03 establishing a street sweeping protocol and enforcement procedure. Residents can receive exemptions from the Town Manager by contacting Town Hall.

Brandon Pecararo flagged inconsistent language. Passage of Ordinance was tabled until public comments came through.

6. Town Hall Telephone Maintenance (32:29)

Commissioner Henderson proposed a motion to move forward with Sunrise Solution's Protection and Agreement Renewal of Town Hall's telephones for \$335.21 per quarter. Commissioner Brooks seconded the motion. Salsich-Aye, Henderson-Aye, Wheatley-Aye, Givens-Absent, Brooks-Aye. Motion passes without nays or abstentions.

7. Town Website Platform (34:53)

Commissioner Wheatley proposed a motion to move forward with Civic Plus's proposal to update the Town website for easier navigation in the amount of \$7,186.

Commissioner Henderson seconded the motion. Salsich-Aye, Henderson-Aye, Wheatley-Aye, Givens-Absent, Brooks-Aye. Motion passes without nays or abstentions.

8. Proclamation for Municipal Government Works Month (37:12)

Whereas the State of Maryland is home to 157 municipalities, each providing essential services that enhance the quality of life for residents and strengthen our local communities, and whereas municipal governments are the level of government closer to the people, delivering vital services such as public safety, infrastructure, maintenance, parks and recreation, water and wastewater management, and community development. And whereas the Maryland Municipal League, representing all 157 incorporated municipalities and two special taxing districts, works to promote effective and responsible local government through

advocacy, education, and collaboration, and whereas the MML Annual Municipal Government Works campaign celebrates the hard work, innovation, and dedication of Maryland's municipal officials and employees who make our towns and cities better places to live, work, and play. And whereas, during the month of November, municipalities across Maryland join together to highlight the valuable services they provide and to increase public awareness of the importance of municipal government in our everyday lives. Now, therefore, the Town of Cottage City Commission hereby proclaims November 2025 as Municipal Government Works Month in Cottage City, Maryland, and I encourage all residents to learn more about their municipal government and to recognize the dedicated service of local officials and employees across Maryland. In witness whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the seal of the Town of Cottage City to be affixed this 12th day of November, 2025.

Commissioner Henderson proposed a motion to proclaim November 2025 as Municipal Government Works Month in Cottage City. Commissioner Wheatley seconded the motion. Salsich-Aye, Henderson-Aye, Wheatley-Aye, Givens-Absent, Brooks-Aye. Motion passes without nays or abstentions.

9. Proclamation for Ruby Bridges Walk to School Day (39:10)

Whereas on November 14, 1960, 6-year-old Ruby Bridges courageously became the first Black student to integrate an all-white elementary school in the South, attending William France Elementary School in New Orleans, Louisiana. And whereas Ruby Bridges, bravely, in the face of adversity, became a defining moment in the American Civil Rights Movement and inspired generations to continue the pursuit of equality and justice for all. And whereas the Town of Cottage City recognizes the importance of teaching our children about the power of courage, kindness, and perseverance in overcoming injustice. And whereas the Ruby Bridges Foundation continues to promote the values of respect, inclusion, and community engagement that reflect the principles upon which our town is built. And whereas students, families, educators, and community members across the nation participate in Ruby Bridge's Walk to School Day to honor Ruby's legacy and reaffirm our shared commitment to diversity, unity, and equality, equal opportunity in education. Now, therefore, be it proclaimed that the Cottage City Commission of the Town of Cottage City hereby proclaim November 14, 2025, as Ruby Bridges Walk to School Day in Cottage City and encourages all residents to participate in the observance by joining together in the spirit of unity, respect, and hope for a more equitable future. In witness here whereof, I hereunto set my hand and caused the seal of the Town of Cottage City to be affixed this 12th day of November, 2025.

The Ruby Bridges Walk will take place on Friday at 7 AM at 34th and Otis in Mt. Rainier. Special guests can also greet walkers at the school between 7:15 and 7:30 AM and hand out stickers. Group photo will be taken between 7:40 and 7:50 AM. Class readings will begin at 8 AM.

Commissioner Henderson proposed a motion to proclaim November 14, 2025, as Ruby Bridges Walk to School Day for the Town of Cottage City. Commissioner Wheatley seconded the motion. Salsich-Aye, Henderson-Aye, Wheatley-Aye, Givens-Absent, Brooks-Aye. Motion passes without nays or abstentions.

10. Old Business – Ordinance for Street Sweeping, Part 2 (47:15)

Public comments having come in, comments have raised concerns about the inconsistency of language in the ordinance and a few typos. Suggestions were made about signage to have a specific schedule.

Passage of ordinance was tabled for further corrections and increased clarity.

11. New Business – Accepting Resignation of Private First Class of Cottage City Police Department (51:09)

Private First Class tendered their resignation effective on November 24. Commission thanks them for their service and wishes them the best in future endeavors.

Commissioner Wheatley proposed a motion to accept the resignation of the Private First Class, effective November 24, 2025. Commissioner Salsich seconded the motion. Salsich-Aye, Henderson-Aye, Wheatley-Aye, Givens-Absent, Brooks-Aye. Motion passes without nays or abstentions.

12. New Business – Police Shortage (53:13)

Police Department is being rebuilt. The goal is to have the new Chief in place on January 5. Acting Chief Thompson is doing very well. Colmar Manor is assisting with patrolling. Prince George's County helps when the Cottage City Police Department is closed. Town Manager and Acting Chief will maintain close contact with the community in case of any issues.

It may be a good idea to get quotes on a part-time security firm for evening/late hours as there is essentially only one police officer on staff right now. Town Manager agreed to coordinate with the Acting Chief to get quotes.

13. New Business – Composting Extension (1:03:31)

Current contract ends in November. It would cost \$391.30 per month to extend it to the 14 houses currently using it.

Commissioner Wheatley proposed a motion to continue the composting program for \$27.95 per month per home, which totals to \$4,695.60 per year. Commissioner Henderson seconded the motion. Salsich-Aye, Henderson-Aye, Wheatley-Aye, Givens-Absent, Brooks-Aye. Motion passes without nays or abstentions.

14. Town of Cottage City Retreat (1:08:24)

A retreat for Town staff and Commission in January for defining roles and responsibilities, strategic planning, setting goals, and team building. Cost would be \$2,500.

Commissioner Henderson proposed a motion to go forward with a retreat for the Town staff and Commissioners for \$2,500. Commissioner Wheatley seconded the motion. Salsich-Aye, Henderson-Aye, Wheatley-Aye, Givens-Absent, Brooks-Aye. Motion passes without nays or abstentions.

15. Prince George's County Municipal Association Legislative Holiday Celebration (1:12:34)

Takes place on Thursday Dec 11 at 6 PM at Prince George's Ballroom in Landover. Individual tickets are \$40. A group of 5 is \$180. Ward 2 and 3 Commissioners can attend. Ward 1 and At-Large Commissioners cannot. Was suggested to buy 5 tickets.

Commissioner Henderson proposed a motion to move forward with buying five PGCMA Legislative Holiday Celebration tickets for \$180. Commissioner Wheatley seconded the motion. Salsich-Aye, Henderson-Aye, Wheatley-Aye, Givens-Absent, Brooks-Aye. Motion passes without nays or abstentions.

16. Rte 1 Corridor Indivisible (1:15:35)

R1C covers communities from Mt Rainier to Beltsville. It is partnering with PG Immigrants' Rights Collective and Food Justice DMV to set up a food and hygiene donation drop-off site. Could also partner with the Seventh Day Adventist Church and the Pentecostal Church to set up donation sites as they have the space.

Town Manager will reach out to local churches and circle back with R1C.

17. Donation for Brentwood Volunteer Fire Department (1:22:55)

\$1,000 already discussed. There are spaces in the budget where money could be pulled from, either from English classes or legal fees.

Commissioner Henderson proposed a motion to move money from the English classes budget to donate \$1,000 to the Brentwood VFC. Commissioner Wheatley seconded the motion. Salsich-Aye, Henderson-Aye, Wheatley-Aye, Givens-Absent, Brooks-Aye. Motion passes without nays or abstentions.

18. Community Garden Petty Cash (1:26:12)

Might be better to set up a separate bank account for them. Discussion tabled until next session.

19. Financial Assistance for Residents Affected by Government Shutdown (1:27:27)

Need to review budget. Discussion tabled until next session. Residents can always request ARPA Assistance from Town Hall. Food Share list is almost full.

20. Town Manager Updates (1:31:39)

43rd Avenue project is almost complete. Police review panel is set for Thursday, November 13. Goal is to have new Chief in place by January 5, 2026.

21. Adjournment (1:37:01)

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.

The motion to adjourn was made at 8:33 PM by Commissioner Brooks and seconded by Commissioner Henderson. Salsich-Aye, Henderson-Aye, Wheatley-Aye, Givens-Absent, Brooks-Aye. Motion passes without nays or abstentions.