



May Regular Town Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, May 14, 2025 at 7:00 PM

Hybrid Meeting

3820 40th Avenue Cottage City, Maryland 20722

This meeting will be hosted on Zoom:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82573671277?pwd=Unl6eEJrNTVoNjFmTHULzViZlITdz09>

Phone: 301-715-8592 | Meeting ID: 82573671277 | Passcode: 361522

Call to Order 7:00 PM

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. Anthony Ayers- Chief of Police (Via Zoom)
8. Todd Frankenfield- Treasurer Alta CPA Group (Via Zoom)
9. Kevin Best- Town Attorney
10. Demetries Ramsey- Election Supervisor and Resident
11. Gerry Mobley-Clerks Office
12. Jolene Ivey-County Council Member
13. Diana Finnell -Delegate
14. Jeff Finnell
15. Tom Litke-Resilience Partners
16. Robin Barnhart- Charles P. Johnson & Associates, Inc. (CPJ)
17. Ann Young- Resident

Pledge of Allegiance

Reading of Election Results - Board of Supervisors of Elections

Election Supervisor Ms. Ramsey read off the election results. Ms. Ramsey stated that there were two candidates Ward 1, Julia Salsich and At-Large John Brooks. The winners of the election were Julia Salsich with 40 votes and John Brooks with 29 votes. The votes were certified by the Election Board.

Swearing-In of Commissioners (Thank you Clerk of the Circuit Court for administering the oaths of office)

Commissioner Chair Wheatley stated that swearing in of the Commissioners would begin. Commissioner Chair Wheatley thanked Commissioner Ann Young for all her many years of service to the residents of Ward One and the Community of Cottage City.

Julia Salsich - Ward 1 was sworn in by Mr. Mobley from the clerk's office.

John Brooks - At-Large - was sworn in by Mr. Mobley from the clerk's office.

Commissioner Chair Wheatley announced that County Council Member Jolene Ivey, and Delegate, Diana Finnell, was in attendance to present the two Commissioners with proclamations.

Delegate Finnell stated that she had citations for the two Commissioners and something for the Town from the State.

Mr. Jeff Finnell read off The Maryland General Assembly official citation of congratulatory offerings to the Town of Cottage City in recognition of being a recipient of the Chesapeake Bay Trust Grant in the amount of \$70,000 for maintaining the vast free canopy and invasive training for the community. Best wishes for all the future endeavors from Senator Malcolm, Augustine, delegate, Donna M. Finnell, and delegate Julian Ivey, of Prince George's County legislative district 47.

Mr. Jeff Finnell read off The Maryland General Assembly official citation of congratulatory for Commissioner Julia Salsich in recognition to the election presented on behalf of Senator Malcolm, Augustine, delegate, Donna M. Finnell, and delegate Julian Ivey, of Prince George's County legislative district 47.

County Council Member Joleane Ivey read off an official citation from Prince George's County Council for Commissioner Julia Salsich.

Mr. Jeff Finnell read off The Maryland General Assembly official citation of congratulatory for Commissioner John Brooks in recognition to the election presented on behalf of Senator Malcolm, Augustine, delegate, Donna M. Finnell, and delegate Julian Ivey, of Prince George's County legislative district 47.

County Council Member Joleane Ivey read off an official citation from Prince George's County Council for Commissioner John Brooks.

Commissioner Chair Wheatley stated that the \$70,000 grant was due to the hard work of Commissioner Brooks and the Town Manager John Hoatson. Commissioner Chair Wheatley thanked them.

Commissioner Chair Wheatley stated that next the Commissioners will need to nominate a Chair, and she will entertain a motion for the Chair.

Motion to nominate a Chair

The Motion was made by Commissioner Givens to nominate Wanda Wheatley and was seconded by Commissioner Brooks. There was a unanimous vote by the Commissioners. Salsich-Aye, Henderson-Aye, Wheatley-Aye, Givens-Aye & Brooks-Aye. Motion Passes no nays or abstentions.

Motion to nominate a Vice Chair

The motion was made by Commissioner Givens to nominate John Brooks and seconded by Commissioner Henderson. There was a unanimous vote by the Commissioners. Salsich-Aye, Henderson-Aye, Wheatley-Aye, Givens-Aye & Brooks-Aye. Motion Passes no nays or abstentions.

Motion to nominate a Secretary of the Commission

The motion was made by Commissioner Chair Wheatley and seconded by Commissioner Brooks. There was a unanimous vote by the Commissioners. Salsich-Aye, Henderson-Aye, Wheatley-Aye, Givens-Aye & Brooks-Aye. Motion Passes no nays or abstentions.

Consent Agenda

1. Approval of Minutes:

April 1, 2025: Work Session

April 9, 2025: Regular Town Meeting

April 29, 2025: Special Town Meeting

Motion to approve the April 2025 Minutes

The motion was made by Commissioner Givens and seconded by Commissioner Henderson. There was a unanimous vote by the Commissioners. Salsich-Aye, Henderson-Aye, Wheatley-Aye, Givens-Aye & Brooks-Aye. Motion Passes no nays or abstentions.

2. Approval of April Financials

Commissioner Chair Wheatley inquired with the Town's treasure Mr. Frankenfield on the April financials.

Mr. Frankenfield stated that the April financials look pretty good, and the Town is up \$55,000, meaning revenue has exceeded expenses by \$55,000, which is great, considering the Town is through month, 10 of the fiscal year. Mr. Frankenfield stated everything looks as expected, and the Town is on target to hit budget.

Motion to Approve the April 2025 Financials

The motion was made by Commissioner Brooks and seconded by Commissioner Givens. There was a unanimous vote by the Commissioners. Salsich-Aye, Henderson-Aye, Wheatley-Aye, Givens-Aye & Brooks-Aye. Motion Passes no nays or abstentions.

3. Public Safety Report

The Chief stated that the Town had some vehicle break-in and last month they have been working with the County Police Department detectives as well as Williamsburg and Mount Rainier's detectives in reference to a spring of break-in throughout the area. The main area that got hit the most was Laurel City. Laurel City believes it's the same group of people that's going around in cars into all the Northern municipalities and breaking the cars. The suspect is believed to be in a Jeep vehicle and is parking in the middle of the street, getting out, looking at cars, and breaking inside cars or opening up the doors. The Town sent out flyers to the Community and information through social media and there hasn't been any break-in since then. The Chief stated that the Town can work with the County to start a task force to try and identify these groups of individuals which are believed to be an organized group from DC. The Chief stated that he contacted WAZE & Google Maps to make the street a non-access street and they agreed. The Chief stated that since that occurred the number of vehicles cutting through the Town has dropped and the Cottage City Police are enforcing traffic on Cottage Terrace in the afternoon to discourage people from coming through the Town. The Chief stated that the decals for the resident's vehicles are being worked on and once

they arrive the information will be sent out via the newsletter, constant contact and the Towns social media for residents that have registered their vehicles in the city to come pick them up. The Chief stated that he did reach out to five security companies and only one returned the proposal. The Chief stated that he will send it over to the Commission and that he will have them to send over all the communities that they provide security for. The Chief stated that cruiser 126 went down and the estimate for the repairs is \$10,530.00 and he is asking the Commission if he can decommission the vehicle.

Commissioner Givens asked the Chief how many miles are on the vehicle

The Chief stated that he thinks 75,000.

Commissioner Givens stated that he isn't advocating decommissioning a vehicle at this time because the cost of the vehicles was \$50,000. Commissioner Givens stated that the Town can put a new engine in the vehicle and get eight to ten years out of the vehicle. Commissioner Givens stated that one of the avocations is for this take-home car program is that, oh, people are going to take care of the vehicles, and the Town are going to get more longevity out of the vehicles. Commissioner Givens stated that head gaskets typically blow when people let the engines overheat and they keep driving them.

Commissioner Brooks stated to the Chief that he thought starting April 5, 2025, the Police Department would start citing individuals for cutting through traffic and driving on Cottage Terrace.

The Chief stated that he did say the Police Department would be citing individuals that are cutting through Cottage Terrace to avoid traffic.

Commissioner Brooks asked how many citations were given out.

The Chief stated none, because they have been turning individuals around.

Commissioner Brooks stated that the problem is that the days the Police Department are not out there the same individuals are coming down Bunker Hill, and the do not enter traffic signs. They're blowing through them as well, there's a blatant disrespect for traffic, whether it's a few cars or not. They need to be cited at some point.

The Chief stated that he can go back to citing.

Commissioner Givens stated that the Police can't cite at the moment because the proper signage isn't up and available. Commissioner Givens stated that the signs have been ordered.

Commissioner Brooks stated that something needs to be done to alleviate this situation of people cutting through the Town and blowing through the stop signs.

The Chief stated that he will work on a resolution to resolve this issue.

Commissioner Henderson stated that the Chief stated that the cars on the street with DC tags had 60 days to get Maryland tags and does he have an update on that information.

The Chief stated that once 60days comes around then the Police Department can start enforcement and issuing citations.

Commissioner Chair Wheatley asked if the permits for the local traffic only been ordered.

The Chief stated that they have been ordered, and they will arrive in two weeks and once they arrive the information will be sent out via the newsletter, constant contact and the Town's social media for residents that have registered their vehicles in the city to come pick them up.

The Chief requested the Commissioners to vote to repair vehicle 126.

Commissioner Brooks stated that the millage on the vehicle was high and that he believed a conversation with the Officer needed to take place.

The Chief stated that she was written up.

Commissioner Salsich stated that after repair it's expected that the town would have eight to ten more years out of the vehicle.

Commissioner Givens stated that he was shocked to see that the head gasket blew and that if the vehicle was fixed the Town could get eight to ten more years out of the vehicle.

Commissioner Henderson stated that he agrees with getting the repairs and that whoever who had the vehicle didn't take care of it and that in the future it should be monitored.

Commissioner Chair Wheatley stated that she agrees on the repair and then she asked the Chief was the Town Manager made aware of the Officer being written up.

The Chief stated that the Town Manager was aware of the Officer being written up.

Motion to repair Cruiser vehicle 126 in the amount of \$10,500.30

The motion was made by Commissioner Givens and seconded by Commissioner Henderson. There was a unanimous vote by the Commissioners. Salsich-Aye, Henderson-Aye, Wheatley-Aye, Givens-Aye & Brooks-Aye. Motion Passes no nays or abstentions.

4. Public Works Report – Oral

Commissioner Givens stated that he's pleased to announce that the Town has identified a candidate for hire and the Town is in the process of conducting the background check and negotiating a start date and the person should be onboard soon. The Town has a new contractor for the grass which the previous contractors were \$17,000 and now it's gone down to \$10,000. Commissioner Givens stated that he didn't factor in the Tot lot, and he will have the Town Manager look into the cost. Commissioner Givens stated that once the new Public Works employee comes onboard, they will fix the trash shed.

Commissioner Brooks stated that he heard about something in reference to the Community Garden.

Commissioner Givens stated that he wasn't aware of American Landscaping cutting the Community Garden.

Commissioner Chair Wheatley stated that Greg and Anthony would come through with the weed whacker.

Commissioner Givens stated that he proposed it to the new contractor Shamrock, and he wasn't opposed of doing it because he is already over there.

Commissioner Brooks thanked Commissioner Givens for putting in all the work he's done for the Town.

Commissioner Henderson stated that he wanted to congratulate Commissioner Givens for all his diligence and hard work.

Commissioner Reports

5. Ward 1

No comment

6. Ward 2

No comment

7. Ward 3

No comment

8. Ward 4

Commissioner Givens asked the other Commissioners to go around there perspective wards and take a look to make sure that nothing needs to be addressed so that if it is they can get it over to the appropriate personnel without the residence having to do so.

9. At-Large Report

Commissioner Brooks stated that he wants to continue to see the Town push the County to come out to clear all the drainages in town. Commissioner Brooks stated that he doesn't want to see flooding in the Town. Commissioner Brooks stated that he and Commissioner Givens will make sure the County comes out and cleans up the drains.

Commissioner Chair Wheatley asked the Town Manager wasn't the landscapers weren't supposed to be cutting the alleyway on 43rd because they haven't been cut.

Commissioner Givens stated that he will follow up about the alleyway.

Commissioner Brooks asked the Town Manager was there an update for the escalation issue with the end of Bunker hill.

The Town Manager stated that he will look into it.

Old Business

**10. Port Towns Joint Resolution 2025-01: Form A Community Development Corporation (CDC)
(Commission Vote)**

The Town Manager read into record the resolution to establish the Port Towns CDC. There was an ask of \$15,000 and the Town Manager stated that the Town of Cottage City wasn't involved with that discussion. The Town Manager informed Commissioner Salisch on the background of creating the Community Development Corporation (CDC).

Commissioner Salsich stated that the Town is much smaller Town than the other municipalities and \$15,000 is a big ask for the Town to contribute.

The Town Manager stated that the Managers of the various Port Towns feel that the Mayors and the Commissioner Chair should have a further discussion on this amount.

Commissioner Henderson asked about each town should do 20 percent does that means that the other 20 percent would be coming from a grant.

The Town Manager stated that he was informed that there was \$12,000 sitting in a fund that can be used for CDC.

Mr. Tom Litke with Resilience Partners explained that his company provides functions to try and improve placemaking and make sure that folks are back outside getting to know their neighbors and trust them.

Commissioner Chair Wheatley stated that she spoke with a few people and back then the CDC was each municipality chipping in based on their size. Commissioner Chair Wheatley feels that the Town does need to have another conversation with the other Towns to work out the amount and she would like to support.

Mr. Frankenfield wrote in the comments he recommends asking for a budget, is the only contribution 15k or is it a 15k contribution annually. What are the revenue streams, and would the CDC be a 501(C)3? With the 4 towns comprising the board?

Mr. Tom Litke with Resilience Partners stated they anticipated that it would be about 60 HA months, about half time, so to speak, and that would get you about \$4,000 a month for 6 to 10 months

Commissioner Givens stated that he would like to support CDC, but he would like to get some clarity based on the size and contributions on an annual basis.

Mr. Frankenfield asked what the revenue streams are.

Mr. Tom Litke with Resilience Partners stated that he has probably raised 25 million in DC, and he has been doing it for over 25 years.

Commissioner Brooks stated that he wants to make sure this benefits the Town and also that it should be a discussion in reference to the amount to contribute.

The Conversation was tabled until further discussion.

11. Port Towns Composting (Commission Vote)

The Town Manager stated that the composting is free and for 20 residents that signs up. It will be free until November. After November the cost will be \$27.00-\$30.00. If the Town wants to move forward the cost will need to be considered after November.

Ward 1

Commissioner Salsich asked if the Town decides to move forward can the town decide in November to no longer participate.

The Town Manager stated that it is correct.

Ward 2

Commissioner Henderson asked if they would be purchasing shipping containers.

The Town Manager stated that they will be providing the shipping containers that will be used for the composting and that's a part of the grant. After November the Town will need to revisit and see if the Town would want to take on this cost.

Commissioner Henderson stated that it would be \$30.00 per home which is \$360.00 a year.

The Town Manager stated that it's free until November.

Ward 3

Commissioner Chair Wheatley stated that she supports composting, and this is something the Green Team has been advertising for it, if the Town decides to continue on after November the Commission needs to figure out where the money is going to come from, if it needs to be placed in the budget now or if there could be another grant.

Ward 4

Commissioner Givens stated that he doesn't agree to the composting.

At-Large

Commissioner Brooks stated that composting is free with the grant, and he made a motion to move forward.

Motion to Approve Port Town Composting until November

The motion was made by Commissioner Brooks and seconded by Commissioner Henderson. There was a unanimous vote by the Commissioners. Salsich-Aye, Henderson-Aye, Wheatley-Aye, Givens-Aye & Brooks-Aye. Motion Passes no nays or abstentions.

12. 43rd Avenue Stormwater Maintenance RFP (Commission Vote)

Robin Barnhart with CPJ stated how her, The Town Manager and Commissioner Wheatley, did a walk through and she updated the plans for the Storm Water Maintenance Project. Everything will

be the same and Robin just wants to move forward so the Commission can vote on this to start receiving bids.

Ward 1

No Comment

Ward 2

Commissioner Hendeson inquired if there is a proposal for a contractor at the moment.

Ms. Barnhart, with CPJ stated that there isn't a contractor at the moment and what her company is looking for is for the Commissioners to approve the plans and specifications so that her company can advertise the proposals from contractors. If the Commissioner approves the plans tonight Ms. Barnhart's company can start the advertisement. Ms. Barnhart also stated that the Town Manager will be emailing, posting it on Marketplace as well as the new website. Ms. Barnhart will also be forwarding it to the previous contractors that were used for the previous three projects in the Town. The proposals have to be advertised for 30 days per the grant requirements per funding so it's a very tight timeline to get awarded and funded and have the project completed by September 30, 2025.

Mr. Best asked if the project is going to be serving six homes in the town.

Ms. Barnhart stated yes, but this project was originally dealing with the icing issue on 43rd Avenue, also this project does include replacement of the curb and gutter along the entire length of 43rd Avenue mill and overlay of the whole road. There're also the alleyways that go parallel to Bladensburg, and then it goes up behind the western houses on 43 rd. along the alleyways that go behind the commercial properties. There's a lot of areas that Ms. Barnhart and her colleagues are seeing potholes developing because of the heavy truck traffic. So those are going to be replaced with heavy duty, concrete pavement, there to deal with that maintenance issue that's happening. Then the alleyway up behind the homes on the 43rd will be repaved, and it will also have a curb and gutter put along there to help direct the water down the alleyway and out to 43rd Avenue instead of going into the backs of those homes which was causing another issue where some of the houses were having sump pumps running almost continuously in the wet times of the year. Ms. Barnhart stated that this project is going to serve all the residents on 43rd Avenue and the fact that they're getting a new road.

The residents may not all have the direct piping, because there is not existing downspouts or sump pumps discharging right to the street so the trench range will be tying into the county stormwater system.

Mr. Best asked if the trench drain would be tying into the county stormwater system, that's in the municipal right away.

Ms. Barnhart stated that her company is waiting on a permit to be issued for the actual connection to the County which has been approved.

Ward 3

Commissioner Chair Wheatley asked Ms. Barnhart to explain the Critical Area Commission.

Ms. Barnhart stated that she contacts and spoke with the Critical Area Commission, and they informed her that a permit is not needed but they do have a process that they are documenting it in there system.

Ward 4

Commissioner Givens asked Ms. Barnhart about the plans and suggested another way.

Ms. Barnhart informed Commissioner Givens why they chose to do it the way they did and informed him that her company originally wanted to do a storm drain system to really capture everything, but because of all the existing utilities where located where they were, Ms. Barnhart's company didn't have enough horizontal or vertical clearance to those utilities to put an actual storm drain inlets and pipe system, either in the alleys or up the street on 43rd Avenue, so an inverted system wouldn't work there either, like an inverted road slightly inverted onto the right and the left and going to the center and coming down.

At-Large

Commissioner Brooks stated that the Town Manager has been working to get this project into fruition, and he asked Commissioner Chair Wheatley would she entertain a motion.

Motion to Approve 43rd Avenue Stormwater Maintenance RFP

The motion was made by Commissioner Brooks and seconded by Commissioner Givens. There was a unanimous vote by the Commissioners. Salsich-Aye, Henderson-Aye, Wheatley-Aye, Givens-Aye & Brooks-Aye. Motion Passes no nays or abstentions.

13. Street Sweeper & Public Works Equipment (Commission Discussion)

Commissioner Givens gave information on the brand-new pull behind street sweepers. Commissioner Givens stated that it gives the Town the ability to get all the trash as well as the debris, the tree debris. Commissioner Givens stated that you want to buy this new and the Town can also take this as an opportunity to provide it to the other small towns like Edmonton and Colmar Manor, because they're of similar size and provide that as a rental to them, perhaps for \$500, for 3 days for them to do theirs per month. And so, if you did, the math on that that equates to about \$6,000 if they were to buy in, and then, you know, it would help pay for the cost of it.

Ward 1

No Comment

Ward 2

Commissioner Henderson stated that he is for the street sweeper.

Ward 3

No Comment

At-Large

Commissioner Brooks stated that he doesn't think it's the right time.

Commissioner Givens stated that the summertime is the best time for this equipment. If the Town doesn't want to pay for it what is the plan to keep the streets clean.

Commissioner Brooks stated that contacted services and what will be taken out the budget to pay for it.

Commissioner Givens stated that the Town has the responsibility to keep the streets clean and that the Town needs to have a plan.

Commissioner Brooks stated that the plan was to have one Public Works worker and contract everything else because that would make things more efficient in the Town Hall.

Commissioner Givens stated that if the Town gets a street sweeper company to come out the cost would be much more expensive than purchasing the street sweeper.

Commissioner Salsich asked if Mr. Frankenfield had already put the money in the budget for the street sweeper.

Commissioner Chair Wheatley stated that he did and asked Todd to leave the money in the budget.

14. 2nd Reading: Ordinance 2025-02: Adopt Budget & Levy Property Taxes FY 2025-2026
(Commission Vote)

The Town Manager stated that this is the second reading of the budget, and this does need to be passed because the Town has to report to the County and State the new tax rates which are due by Friday. The Town Manager read the second ordinance 2025-02: Adopt Budget & Levy Property Taxes FY 2025-2026.

Commissioner Chair Wheatley stated that she needs to see the complete budget.

Commissioner Givens stated that what needs to be turned into the State is the Property Tax information and the Commission has already done what has been requested.

Mr. Frankenfield asked to consult the Town's attorney because he believes that a vote is needed to pass the tax rates.

Commissioner Chair Wheatley stated that there is a correction that needs to be corrected because the document stating the Town of Cottage City was set for the fiscal year, beginning July 1, 2024, and ending June 30, 2025, at the rate of \$0.4538 for non-commercial real property, and at the rate of \$0.6735 and the Commissioners came up with the rate of \$0.72 for the real property.

Mr. Frankenfield informed Commissioner Chair Wheatley that the statement is in reference to the previous year's taxes.

Commissioner Chair Wheatley inquired about where the new tax rate amount was located.

Mr. Best stated that it's in the argument clause under section two on page 65 and the tax rate needs to be approved with the vote. Mr. Best stated that the Commissioners should do a vote to pass the tax rate.

Motion to Approve the increased commercial property tax rate to 0.72 and the non-commercial property tax rate 0.4538

The motion was made by Commissioner Givens and seconded by Commissioner Brooks. There was a unanimous vote by the Commissioners. Salsich-Aye, Henderson-Aye, Wheatley-Aye, Givens-Aye & Brooks-Aye. Motion Passes no nays or abstentions.

Commissioner Chair Wheatley stated that the ordinance 2025-02: Adopt Budget & Levy Property Taxes FY 2025-2026 will be tabled.

New Business

15. Translation Services (Commission Discussion)

The Town Manager discussed the language line services.

Ward 1

No Comment

Ward 2

Commissioner Henderson asked if there would be any sample cost.

The Town Manager stated that the Town can have a demonstration and hear what the Commissioners think on it.

Commissioner Henderson stated that he does think that someone should come and give a demonstration.

Ward 3

Commissioner Chair Wheatley stated that she agrees with Commissioner Henderson

Ward 4

Commissioner Givens stated that there is no need for these types of services because we have residents that communicate fine, and we should consider the English classes and the Town has staff that can communicate with the residence.

At-Large

Commissioner Brooks asked if the residents are requesting or interested in the language services and maybe the Town can put together a flyer and see if they want more translation services. Check with other municipalities and how they engage residents and bring them into the meetings.

Cynthia Henderson resident inquired what is the volume of calls that come in where the resident's needs can't be addressed.

The Town Manager stated that there are two or three calls a week, and the Town does utilize the other staff members when available, also the Town tried purchasing a translator but unfortunately it didn't work so it was returned.

16. Hiring Temporary Office Assistant for Admin Office (Commission Discussion)

The Town Manager stated that the Town has a resident that would like to work with the Town on a temporary basis working on the backlog of minutes, helping out with Cottage City Day and the Firehouse project.

Commissioner Givens stated that the Commissioners already gave approval for the hiring.

Commissioner Chair Wheatley stated that she requested the Town Manager to add this to the agenda and that they will need to discuss this further in a closed session.

Updates

17. Town Manager Update

Commissioner Chair Wheatley asked what was going on with the house on 43rd Avenue.

The Chief stated that Code enforcement staff Perez has put one violation notice to the residents. The resident had five days and after the five days he gave them another violation. The Chief stated that if they haven't fixed the issue then he can give them a citation and go out for abatement.

Commissioner Givens stated when you have a bank you have to send letters out to the registered owners; you have to begin the abatement process.

The Chief stated that the Town has to go through the process of abatement process.

Commissioner Givens stated that when there is a vacant property there is no need to hang the notice because the property is vacant.

Commissioner Chair Wheatley asked what day the abatement was going to start.

The Chief stated that it's up to the court and the court will provide a court date, and he will send it to the court on Friday.

Mr. Best stated that it can take a month for an abatement and that the Commissioners can change the ordinance.

Public Comments

Anyone seeking to speak under Public Comments must sign in prior to the end of the Town Meeting. There is a 3-minute time limit. When you come up to speak, you will need to state your name, address, what organization that you represent and your topic of concern(s).

Ms. Young reminisced on her time as a Commissioner and wished the Commissioner good luck in the future.

Motion To Go Into Closed Session

This meeting will be closed under General Provisions Art. § 3-305(b) only: (1) ___ "To discuss the appointment, employment, assignment, promotion, discipline, demotion, compensation, removal, resignation, or performance evaluation of appointees, employees, or officials over whom this public body has jurisdiction; any other personnel matter that affects one or more specific individuals".

The Commission plans to go into a closed session to discuss performance reviews of employees

Motion

The motion was made by Commissioner Givens and seconded by Commissioner Brooks. There was a unanimous vote by the Commissioners. Salsich-Aye, Henderson-Aye, Wheatley-Aye, Givens-Aye & Brooks-Aye. Motion Passes no nays or abstentions.

Open Session Following Closed Session

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 session the Chair will announce the reasons and a report will be issued at a future meeting disclosing the reasons for such closed session.