



Special Town Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, May 20, 2025 at 6:30 PM

Hybrid Meeting

3820 40th Avenue Cottage City, Maryland 20722

This meeting will be hosted at Town Hall: 3820 40th Avenue Cottage City, Maryland 20722

Call to Order at 6:32 PM

Attendees

1. Ward 1- Commissioner Salsich
2. Ward 2- Commissioner Henderson
3. Ward 3- Commissioner Chair Wheatley
4. Ward 4- Commissioner Givens
5. At-Large-Commissioner Brooks
6. John Hoatson-Town Manager
7. Kevin Best- Town Attorney
8. Amy Sawyer-Resident

Business

1. Trapping In Garden (Commission Discussion)

Commissioner Brooks stated that the town has a massive groundhog digging holes under everyone's fence at the end of Cottage Terrace. Commissioner Brooks stated that the groundhog is getting between the two-fence post on the side of the garden, and it's starting to eat up pretty much everyone's vegetables. Commissioner Brooks stated that he called the county, and the county informed him that he would need to get a professional trapper. Commissioner Brooks is looking to receive the Commissioners' approval for a professional trapper.

Commissioner Givens stated that he can set a trap and put a cantaloupe inside or does Commissioner Brooks prefer a professional trapper, and the Town Manager can higher one.

Motion

The motion was made by Commissioner Brooks and seconded by Commissioner Givens. Salsich-Aye, Henderson-Aye, Wheatley-Aye, Givens-abstain, Brooks-Aye. Motion Pass. Four Ayes and One abstention.

Amy Sawyer Resident stated that it's legal to trap groundhogs and that you don't need a permit to do so and that anyone can trap them. Ms. Sawyer suggested that the Commission wait till after Spring because right now is when the groundhog babies are around and judging by their size and appetite it's probably feeding babies. Ms. Sawyer stated that even though you don't need a permit to trap it you do have to have permission to release it into another location or you have the option to euthanizing it. It's recommended that it be released 150 yards from wherever it has been caught. Ms. Sawyer suggested the other side of the river down by Bladensburg Waterfront Park.

That should be fine. The Town can check with MNC, PPC, Parks and Recreation. Or Colmar Manor. There's lots of land out there, but if the town could be delayed for just a short time until the babies are a little bit older that would be good.

Commissioner Brooks asked how long the groundhogs stay with their young.

Ms. Sawyer stated that she isn't sure.

Commissioner Brooks stated that he will do some research.

2. Motion To Suspend The Rules To Vote To Go Into A Closed Session (Commission Vote)

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

Closed Session

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.

3. Motion To Go Into A Closed Session (Commission Vote)

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”; **(7)**____ “To consult with counsel to obtain legal advice”.

The Commission proposes to go into a Closed Session to discuss secondary employment of the CCPD, and other HR matters.

Open Session Following Closed Session

Motion to go into closed session 6:43 PM

The motion was made by Commissioner Brooks and seconded by Commissioner Henderson. Salsich-Aye, Henderson-Aye, Wheatley-Aye, Givens-abstain, Brooks-Aye.

Motion Pass. Four Ayes and One abstention.

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