



Special Called Meeting Minutes

Friday, March 27, 2026, at 6:00 PM

Zoom Only

3820 40th Avenue Cottage City, Maryland 20722

This meeting was hosted on Zoom:

https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/8XzTmjisH6bjL5ES_MuzJThnkMAZO_fMv_UWbO_LEaRTBJwRr5VenpTxwRW4VvbH.0a2HxG-1iQELLw8y?startTime=1774648840000

Phone: 301-715-8592 | Meeting ID: 836 6966 2453 | Passcode: Q+u5@1yp

Attendees

1. Ward 2 – Commissioner Henderson
2. Ward 3 – Commissioner Wheatley
3. Ward 4 – Commissioner Givens
4. At-Large – Commissioner Brooks
5. Town Manager – John Hoatson
6. Chief of Police – David Martini
7. Tom Campos – resident
8. Don Flanders – resident
9. Amy Sawyer – resident
10. Zadia Gomez – resident

Agenda

1. Call to Order and Roll Call (0:26)

All Commissioners except for Ward 1 Commissioner Salsich are present and accounted for.

2. Public Comments (1:15)

None.

3. Motion to Suspend the Rules (1:59)

The motion to suspend the rules was made by Commissioner Brooks and seconded by Commissioner Givens. Salsich-Absent, Henderson-Aye, Wheatley-Aye, Givens-Aye, and Brooks-Aye. Motion passes with no nays, no abstentions, and one absence.

4. Motion to Suspend the Competitive Bidding Process (2:59)

The motion to suspend the rules was made by Commissioner Brooks and seconded by Commissioner Henderson. Salsich-Absent, Henderson-Aye, Wheatley-Aye, Givens-Aye, and Brooks-Aye. Motion passes with no nays, no abstentions, and one absence.

5. Review of Private Security Company Proposals (3:52)

Cottage City has had several car thefts and attempted car thefts in the past couple of months and an uptick in the past couple of weeks. While Chief Martini is trying to rebuild the Police Department, the Commission is considering a quicker temporary solution to have a security presence in town.

In order to have 24-hour coverage in town the police department would need at least five officers, and maybe 6.

Commissioner Henderson stated the need for 24-hour coverage and the usefulness of being able to ticket cars on nights and weekends. Commissioner Wheatley agrees but notes that a security company couldn't give out parking tickets. Commissioner Givens notes that this would be good for now and can always be adjusted later. Commissioner Brooks noted that private security can still call 9-1-1 in case of emergency or active crime.

Commissioner Givens' car has been broken into, and Commissioner Wheatley's car was stolen. Tom Campos' neighbor's car was stolen and he is grateful for the immediate attention to getting something done. Amy Sawyer is concerned that people will be panicky if they see additional enforcement and wants information to go out to the town about who the additional security officers will be.

Proposals have come in from Blue Line Security Services, Harkin Security Services, and Last Watch Security Services. Blue Line has bilingual officers which would be useful. Commissioner Givens noted that the security officers would probably not have much interaction with the public and as such Last Watch is the most cost effective and has his support, despite some information missing from their proposal.

Resident Zadia Gomez suggested waiting for Tetrad to bid as they already patrol Fort Lincoln. Resident Don Flanders sent a note saying that private security is not useful enough and wants a fully funded police department that can patrol.

Chief Martini noted that crime was not actually that high and most crimes are crimes of opportunity that could be prevented if residents took security precautions.

The motion to move forward with Last Watch Security Services at a yearly cost of \$90,520 for seven day a week conference from 11 PM to 7 AM contingent on them having proper licensing and providing overtime rates, if applicable, was made by Commissioner Brooks and seconded by Commissioner Givens. Salsich-Absent, Henderson-Aye, Wheatley-Aye, Givens-Aye, and Brooks-Aye. Motion passes with no nays, no abstentions, and one absence.

6. Job Announcement for Police Officer Position (58:20)

Job announcement was drafted by Chief Martini and vetted through Town Attorney Kevin Best. The idea is to have four officers plus the chief, which means that three more officers need to be hired. Their rank and pay would depend on their experience. Commissioner Givens wants to make sure community policing is referred to in the announcement.

The motion to move approve the job posting language with the flexibility to change the language to make it more attractive was made by Commissioner Brooks and seconded by Commissioner Givens. Salsich-Absent, Henderson-Aye, Wheatley-Aye, Givens-Aye, and Brooks-Aye. Motion passes with no nays, no abstentions, and one absence.

7. Town Manager Updates (1:07:42)

CSX will be assessing and removing trees on the 4000 block of Cottage Terrace on April 3. Easter Egg Hunt is April 4 from 11 to 1. Election nomination forms are due April 6; the election will be May 4. Having petitions notarized is not required.

8. Adjournment (7:40)

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 7:17 PM by Commissioner Brooks and seconded by Commissioner Givens. Salsich-Absent, Henderson-Aye, Wheatley-Aye, Givens-Aye, and Brooks-Aye. Motion passes with no nays, no abstentions, and one absence.