



Town of Capitol Heights

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TOWN COUNCIL WORK SESSION MINUTES October 4, 2021 7:00 PM

Meeting Purpose: Mayor and Town Council Work Session		
Date: 10/04/2021	Time: 7:01 PM	Room: Teleconference
Chair: Renita A. Cason, Mayor Pro Tem		Scribe: Acting Town Clerk – Robin Bailey-Walls
Call-in Number: (301) 715-8592 Meeting ID: 960 1200 3975		Password: 487704

P= present; E = Excused Absence T = present via teleconference; A= absence (not excused) R= Resident G = Guest

Chair/Voting Members:			
T	Mayor Pro Tempore – Renita A. Cason		Town Administrator – Beverly Habada T
T	Council Member Rhonda A. Akers		Town Clerk – Robin Bailey-Walls T
T	Council Member Caroline Brown		Director of NSD – Charles Simpson T
T	Council Member LaTonya Chew		Chief of Police – Mark Cummings T
T	Council Member Faith T. Ford		Town Attorney Best T
T	Council Member Elaine Williams		
Guests/ Residents			
R	James Brown		Former Mayor Shawn Maldon R
R	Netina Finley		Steven McKenzie G
R	Jean Johnson		Former CM Linda Monroe R
R	Kentasha		Elliott Reed R
			Kush El-Amin G

- I. **Call to Order:** Mayor Pro Tem – Renita A. Cason
- II. **Roll Call:** Robin Bailey-Walls, Acting Town Clerk
- III. **Approval of the Agenda – Council**
CM Akers Motioned to add Resolution 2022-02 to the agenda; Seconded by CM Brown
CM Cason requested her Forfeiture Resolution be added
CM Ford requested the Virtual Meeting Protocol be added
CM Akers objected to both CM Cason and CM Ford’s requests; Documentation not presented to residents in time; Also, the Virtual Meeting Protocol failed at the Public Session
CM Cason – Will ensure her Resolution makes it to a Public Session; Anybody can add; Allow the same opportunities to everyone else
TA Habada – The Forfeiture Resolution was returned by the Attorney; Declined to bill the Town to do any more work on it as it’s in a minority position; Maybe I should have placed it on the Rolling agenda
CM Cason – The Attorney doesn’t get to determine what the elected body will do; I will put it on the next Work Session.



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CM Brown – New rules by the Chair; the Virtual Meeting from the beginning was voted not to be on the agendas; it was voted down; One person can't tell the TA to put it back on; Can't override the Council's vote.

VOTE to add Resolution 2022-02 on the agenda

CM Akers – Y

CM Brown – Y

CM Chew – Y

CM Ford – N

CM Williams – Y

Vote carries 4/1

CM Akers Motion to approve the revised Agenda; Seconded by CM Brown

No Objections

IV. 2022 Town Election – TA Habada/Council

Town Clerk reviewed what took place in the last two elections; Offered options (on-site voting; mail-in voting and drop-off voting for upcoming election; **Straw poll vote all Council concurred with all three options for the upcoming election and Unanimous Straw Poll vote for the Town Clerk to establish an election committee.** Additional reports will be forthcoming

V. Bates Services/RFP - TA Habada

Heard from residents at last meeting; Suggested performance-based contract

CM Akers – Wasn't sold on Bates presentation

CM Brown – Would like to see a comparison- See what other companies are out there

CM Chew – No comments

CM Ford – Felt they were responsive; stay with Bates

CM Williams – undecided; Would like to see what else is available; Inclined to work with savings; contract with the ability to use performance measures

CM Cason – An RFP will go to a public vote

Ms. Finley – Month to month since 2018? Our issues didn't start happening until the summer; Yard wastes weren't picked-up today

Former CM Linda Monroe – I gave Jason the election judge information; Bates – Contracts should be bid out

Former Mayor Maldon – Consider doing an RFI or consider collaborating with surrounding municipalities

Ms. Monica Johnson – Mail services is being delayed; Residents should be involved in the election;

Attorney weighing in; Not good for the Town; Find a new attorney

CM Chew- Do a cost analysis; side-by-side comparison chart

TA Habada – Does it make sense to bring back a cost analysis at another Work Session?

Motion by CM Williams to continue month to month with Bastes until we get more information.

Seconded by CM Akers

Straw Poll Vote

CM Akers Y

CM Brown N

CM Chew Y

CM Ford Y

CM Williams N



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Vote Carries 3/2

Resolution 2022-02

CM Akers – The Curative Resolution came about as a result of the complaint to Opens Meeting Act Committee- Bev has done a number of good things.

Attorney Best – The meeting in August 10th in Public Session; minutes can't be found. Approve what has happened; Swearing-in in August by the Clerk of the Court; four signed the contract; Urges stability and consistency; Vote to approve; If fired she may have a grievance.

CM Akers – I asked for minutes from June through August; Wording "Indefinite" presents an issue

CM Brown – Indefinite – approval vote on August 10th; Also requested minutes several times; 4th Whereas "certain members" name the individual.

CM Chew – Hire Bev in correct manner; missing minutes; done in accordance with the law

CM Ford -Excellent job Ms. Habada; there was no public meeting because we were in recess; no Zoom recording; Invitation not sent in a timely manner; the four who moved forward on a decision made by themselves.

CM Williams – It's a matter of writing it down right is my concern; Competent delivery by Town Attorney. Council and community in concert with moving forward.

Attorney Best – Council went against my legal advice; Contract trumps handbook. Council did the opposite.

Former Council Member Monroe – Troubling process used; Take out yearly contract; TA Final approval was brought to Council; If solely TA hiring – the verbiage needs to be changed.

Monica Johnson – I agree with CM Monroe; How is hiring being done? Residents not notified; Not the Town Attorney's job to tell Council what to do.

CM Chew – I agree with Monroe; Residents accusing me of falsifying documents.

VI. Action Item Tracker Review – Council – Updates provided by CM Akers and CM Brown.

VII. Council Announcements – Council

CM Akers – October 20th at 6:30PM Domestic Violence Presentation

CM Chew – October 30th Fall Festival across from the Metro; Food and Games

CM Ford Communication and Outreach Committee Wednesday at 7:30 PM Via Zoom

VIII. Adjournment

CM Brown Motioned to Adjourn; Seconded by CM Chew; Meeting adjourned at 10:30PM.