



# Town of Capitol Heights

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**TOWN COUNCIL  
PUBLIC SESSION MEETING MINUTES  
IN-PERSON MEETING @7PM  
April 11, 2022**

<b>Meeting Purpose:</b> Town Council Meeting		
<b>Date:</b> April 11, 2022	<b>Time:</b> 7:10 PM	<b>Room:</b> Town Hall
<b>Chair:</b> Mayor Pro Tem- Renita A. Cason		<b>Scribe:</b> Acting Town Clerk – Robin Bailey-Walls

Chair/Voting Members:			
<b>T</b>	Mayor Pro Tempore – Renita A. Cason	Town Administrator – Beverly Habada	<b>T</b>
<b>T</b>	Council Member Rhonda A. Akers	Acting Town Clerk – Robin Bailey-Walls	<b>T</b>
<b>T</b>	Council Member Caroline Brown	Chief of Police – Mark Cummings	<b>T</b>
<b>A</b>	Council Member LaTonya Chew		
<b>T</b>	Council Member Faith T. Ford		
<b>A</b>	Council Member Elaine Williams		
Guests/ Residents			
<b>R</b>	Amanda Anderson	Brian A. Marr	<b>R</b>
<b>R</b>	Anita Anderson	Former CM Linda Monroe	<b>R</b>
<b>R</b>	James Brown	Tracy Simmons	<b>R</b>
<b>R</b>	Vetera Graves	Bill Williams	<b>R</b>
<b>R</b>	Mayor Shawn Maldon		

- I. Call to Order: Mayor Pro Tem – Renita A. Cason**
- II. Roll Call: Acting Town Clerk – Robin Bailey-Walls**
- III. Non-Denominational Prayer –**
- IV. Pledge of Allegiance – All**
- V. Reading of Meeting Rules – TA Habada**
- VI. Approval of the Agenda – Council**  
**CM Ford Motioned to Approve the Agenda; Seconded by CM Akers; CM Akers requested a friendly amendment to add Mayor and Council Rules for Meetings; CM Ford accepted the friendly amendment; No Objections**
- VII. Approval of Meeting Minutes Approval of Meeting Minutes for February 22, 2022 Work Session and April 4, 2022 Work Session**  
**CM Ford Motioned to accept the Minutes; Seconded by CM Akers; Minutes were approved.**
- VIII. Legislative items:**
  - 1. Second Reading of Budget Ordinance 2022-25 – Budget Amendment #3 – Motioned by CM Ford to Approve; Seconded by CM Chew**



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## Vote

CM Ford Y

CM Chew Y

CM Akers Y

CM Cason Y

Vote Carries 4/0

2. **Resolution 2022-27 A Resolution Authorizing the Town Administrator to Sign FY NED Grant Agreement – TA Habada**

**Motioned by CM Akers to Approve; Seconded by CM Chew**

## Vote

CM Akers Y

CM Chew Y

CM Ford Y

Vote Carries 3/0

3. **First Reading Ordinance 2022-28 An Ordinance for the Approval of the LDA and Ground Lease Agreement – TA Habada**

CM Brown requested an increase in funding for student scholarships.

CM Ford requested in addition to the scholarship she'd like to have an internship.

TA Habada will look into the matter.

4. **Emergency Ordinance 2022-26 - Town Election Procedures - TA Habada**

CM Akers requested to change on page 6-16 to state – Chief Judge decision only; page 8 remove the language about entering the booth with the voter.

**Motion to Approve made by CM Akers; Seconded by CM Chew; five votes required on an Emergency Ordinance will come back to before the end of the meeting.**

CM Cason recommended making the changes to have a clean copy to vote on once we have the 5 required to pass it.

## **IX. Chief Cummings Report – Oral Report**

Chief reported on the following:

- Explorers – waiting on Nationals – there were rule changes during Covid; debating in-person meetings
- The Bike Patrol will return; bikes are being safety checked
- Change in recruiting- it's harder to get quality candidates; would like to advertise in Indeed
- PG County has two seats available – requires 6 months of training
- The recruiting tri-fold has been redone

## **X. Town Administrator Report**

- Annexation of Public Safety Complex- in contact with an Engineering Firm that can do the survey work
- The County Redevelopment Authority has arranged for preparation of a subdivision to be able to deed the 2-acre Public Safety Complex site over to the Town.
- The Electric bus has tags on it and will be sent out for decal work
- Reimbursement for \$85,563.37 from payments made to Toole Design and another \$12,000 is in process to be paid to Toole Design; we expect to submit this to County DHCD this week for CBDG reimbursement.
- Garbage Collection RFP – multiple calls are being received about new trash cans. Director Simpson has made multiple calls to Bates without success. She believes the next step is to start the RFP process.



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- MNCPPC staff are leading the effort to revise the 2018 Central Avenue - Blue Line Corridor Sustainable Plan proposed by the Dept of Housing and Community Development.
- Candidates have been asked for the photos, bios and platforms to be published in a Newsletter next week
- Salary increases for Mayor and Council must have been made by a CAR in order to impact the incoming Council. There is no time for a CAR to make this salary increase effective; i.e. we can't raise the salaries for the next Council at this point.

**CM Akers** – Mayor and Council Rules included no use of electronic devices; only at Work Sessions

**CM Cason** responded that was for cell phone use; she didn't remember it including laptops. She further stated the purpose in getting laptops and notebooks was because it supported the Council in going green.

**CM Ford** responded that Resolution 2019-03 was for cell phone use.

## XI. Public Comments (3 minutes each speaker)

- **Ms. Vetera Graves** spoke about traffic and speeding on Clovis; her truck has been trashed by a speeder. She's also concerned about children playing being in harms way and inquired if it's possible to get speed bumps.

**Chief** responded that they're deploying Police staff as much as possible. They're working to bring on a vendor to do speed studies.

- **Tracy Simmons** talked about the camera on Eastern; there was a camera there several years ago.
- **Amanda Anderson** announced the Easter Event at 1<sup>st</sup> Baptist Church on 4/6
- **Anita Anderson** talked about Capitol Heights Blvd; several pot holes; excessive speeding especially between 7:15 to 7:45AM and 2:00 to 2:30 PM. She also mentioned four vehicles jacked up in the driveway of her neighbor; no parking is available for her

**TA Habada** will have PSA investigate the vehicles and parking

**CM Cason** stated that sometimes WSSC will patch potholes at no cost

## XII. Rolling Agenda Additions - Mayor Pro Tem Cason – No additions

## XIII. Council Announcements

**CM Brown** – Inquired about partnering for a Food Drive

**CM Ford** – Announced the Toastmasters meetings on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Sundays at 6PM; she talked about the Youth Program and requested it be advertised on the Town website.

**CM Ford** discussed the number of emails she's received from residents wanting to be able to participate via virtual meetings. She **Motioned to resume virtual meetings; No Second**

**CM Cason** stated the Town follows suit with the County. They are meeting in-person and virtual.

**CM Akers** stated we do our own rules and don't have to piggyback off of them.

**CM Williams** announced her Saturday morning Committee meetings, 9:30AM; Garden classes on Sunday; she talked about the Composting Program and she talked about naming the area across from the Metro "Freedom Square".

**CM Ford Motioned to allow for hybrid and in-person meetings; No second**

**CM Brown and CM Williams made additional changes.**

TA Habada left to make the additional changes in order to vote on the Election Resolution.

**Motion by CM Williams to go in to Closed session to discuss a personnel issue with Chief Cummings; Seconded by CM Akers; Approved by All (10:02PM)**

**10:45PM Resume Public Session**

**Roll Call; All present**

**TA Habada** Reviewed all the changes made to Resolution 2022-26 – Town Elections and noted it is effective until May, 2023



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**CM Akers Motioned to Approve Emergency Ordinance 2022-26; Seconded by CMs Chew and Brown**

**Vote**

**CM Akers Y**

**CM Brown Y**

**CM Chew Y**

**CM Ford Y**

**CM Williams Y**

**Vote Carries 5/0**

**TA Habada** asked about Capitol Heights Day and Juneteenth and if Council wanted to combine them. **CM Cason** would like to keep them separate.

**CM Akers Motioned to hold separate events for each: Seconded by CM Chew**

**Vote**

**CM Akers Y**

**CM Brown Y**

**CM Chew Y**

**CM Ford Y**

**CM Williams Y**

**Vote Carries 5/0**

**CM Williams Motioned to go in to Closed Session to discuss Litigation; Seconded by CM Chew**

XIV. **Adjournment** – Meeting adjourned at 11:10PM

**Council Reserves the Right to Go in to Closed Session Anytime During a Public Meeting. Council Is May Adjourn the Meeting to Convene in Closed Session for Legal Review of Pending litigationAnnexation, Election and Personnel**

**Please Note: 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 Council 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.**

## **CLOSED SESSION**

**April 11, 2022**

### **AGENDA**

- I.** Roll Call
- II.** Review of Pending Litigation- Annexation, Election and Personnel
- III.** Adjournment