

Town of Forest Heights  
Town Meeting 8:00 PM  
Minutes Wednesday, April 20, 2022

Minutes Call to Order: 8:00 PM

Roll Call: CPW Hines; CW Noble, CM Lilly, CM Barnes, CM Kennedy 11 and Mayor Washington, not present CM Atkinson; quorum established.

Moment of Silence:

Pledge of Allegiance:

Approval of Agenda: Motion by Mayor Washington to approve the agenda; seconded by CM Kennedy; all in favor; motion passed.

Public Period: Ms. Brownson, mention there's a large political sign on 210 that she feels that's distracting the drivers and would like to know if someone could have it removed.

Mr. Stone stated if you are not vested, you should not be entitled to get early payment. A substantial sum of money has been spent. For more than three years, the Town has spoken about speed bumps, but nothing has been done.

Chief Swann explains how a bill to rename Maryland Route 210 Indian Head Highway to Piscataway Highway is being introduced. The Piscataway was the biggest and most powerful tribal nation between the Chesapeake Bay and the Potomac River, and they would like to thank the Mayor and Town Council for their support on this law.

Staff Reports: Can be picked up from the Clerk's office or viewed on the Town website.

**Legislation:**

**Resolution 17-22** A Resolution approving a Purchase and Service Agreement with diligent to acquire BoardsDocs@ Software regarding electronic meeting agendas and record retention to be administered by the Forest Heights Clerks Office; motive by Mayor Washington to waive the full reading; seconded by CM Kennedy, II; all in favor; motion by Mayor Washington to adopt Resolution 17-22; seconded by CM Kennedy, II; discussion.

CM Lilly ask if the Council will be provided training on the Software also.

John O'Connor state that everyone will be provided with the training. Vote: 6 Yea; 0 Nay; motion passed

**Resolution 18-22** A Resolution to approve a sub-recipient agreement between the Town and the Greater Oxon Hill Community Development Corporation for use of American Rescue Plan Act Funds. motive by Mayor Washington to waive the full reading; seconded by CM Lilly; all in favor; motion by Mayor Washington to adopt Resolution 18-22; seconded by CM Kennedy, II; discussion; None, Vote 6 Yea; 0 Nay; motion passed

**Resolution 19-22** A Resolution to authorize the acceptance of a grant from the Local Government Insurance Trust for Body Cameras for the Town of Forest Heights Police Department. motive by Mayor Washington to waive the full reading; seconded by CM Kennedy, II; all in favor; motion by Mayor Washington to adopt Resolution 19-22; seconded by CM Barnes; discussion; None; None, Vote 6 Yea; 0 Nay; motion passed

**Resolution 20-22** A Resolution to deadline and/or sell or otherwise dispose of Surplus Police Vehicles. motive by Mayor Washington to waive the full reading; seconded by CM Barnes; all in favor; motion by Mayor Washington to adopt Resolution 20-22; seconded by CM Kennedy, II; discussion; None; None, Vote 6 Yea; 0 Nay; motion passed

**Resolution 22-22** A Resolution to set forth and establish the Town's real property Tax Rate for Fiscal Year 2023. motive by Mayor Washington to waive the full reading; seconded by CM Hines; all in favor; motion by Mayor Washington to adopt Resolution 22-22; seconded by CM Hines; discussion.

**The Treasurer** explained the three classes of real property and related the need for a tax hearing if the Council recommended an increase in Noncommercial (Residential) Real Property. In addition, it was recommended that the Town adopt the same rate for both Rented Residential and Noncommercial (Residential) Real Property for Fiscal Year 2023 to allow for a period to fully reconcile Town records and SDAT records. Vote 6 Yea; 0 Nay; motion passed

**Resolution 23-22** A Resolution to establish a renewable Energy Goal for the Municipal Government of the Town of Forest Heights. motive by Mayor Washington to waive the full reading; seconded by CM Lilly; all in favor; motion by Mayor Washington to adopt Resolution 23-22; seconded by CM Barnes; discussion; None; None, Vote 6 Yea; 0 Nay; motion passed

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**Resolution 25-22** A Resolution to allow advance Salary Payment for the Mayor and Town Councilmembers. Mayor Washington read the full reading; motion by Mayor Washington to adopt Resolution 25-22; seconded by CM Kennedy II; discussion.

CM Barnes was curious whether there would be any documentation proving you had received the advance salary and what the procedure would be if you had to leave.

The Town Administrator, Mr. Robinson, stated that anybody who received the extra salary had documentation outlining the method. Vote 5 Yea; 0 Nay; (1) Abstain; motion passed

**Resolution 26-22** A resolution of the Town Council of Forest Heights, Maryland to approve a Memorandum of Understanding with the United States Marshals Service Fugitive Task Force for non-federal Agencies and authorizing the Chief of Police to sign the memorandum of understanding on behalf of the Town; motive by Mayor Washington to waive the full reading; seconded by CM Kennedy, II; all in favor; motion by Mayor Washington to adopt Resolution 26-22; seconded by CM Kennedy, II; discussion. None; Vote 6 Yea; 0 Nay; motion passed

**Emergency Ordinance 02-22** An Emergency Ordinance of the Mayor and Council of the Town of Forest Heights, Maryland to Amend the Fiscal year 2022 Budget. motive by Mayor Washington to waive the full reading; seconded by CM Kennedy, II; all in favor; motion by Mayor Washington to adopt Emergency Ordinance 02-22; seconded by CM Kennedy, II; discussion. None; Vote 6 Yea; 0 Nay; motion passed

**New Business:**

The Mayor mentioned to the police department. The entire staff, I know you don't always get the recognition you deserve for your efforts. And, I just want to say thank you to all the employees of the Town.

CM Kennedy II thanked everyone for coming out and helping with the town's annual cleaning, as well as the sponsors for donating pizza.

CM Lilly thanked Chief Swann and the Piscataway Tribe for their participation. CM Lilly stated that he and Curtis from public works had picked up a mattress that had been left by the side of the street on Arapahoe Drive.

CM Hines also thanked everyone for their help in the annual cleanup.

**Motion by Mayor Washington to enter a Closed Session; seconded by CM Kennedy II**

For a meeting closed under the statutory authority cited above:

Time of closed session: 8:54 pm

Place: Town Hall, 5508 Arapahoe Drive Forest Heights MD

Purpose(s): To consult with counsel to obtain legal advice

Members who voted to meet in closed session: CM Lilly, CM Barnes, CM Kennedy II, CM Hines, CM Nobel and Mayor Washington

Persons attending closed session: CM Lilly, CM Barnes, CM Kennedy II, CM Hines, CM Nobel and Mayor Washington, Attorney Best, Town Administrator Mr. Robinson, Chief Rease, Capt. Jones, Grants Management Mr. O'Connor, Town Clerk Mrs. Hawkins.

Authority under 3-305 for the closed session: (7) to consult with counsel to obtain legal advice

Topics discussed: To obtain legal advice about an indent that happened in the town between to residents.

Actions taken: The Town Attorney would present a letter for one of the town residents.

Each recorded vote: None

Closed Adjourned: 9:54 pm

Town Meet Adjourned: 10:01pm