



**MINUTES OF THE
TOWN COUNCIL INFORMATIONAL
WORK SESSION
MARCH 10, 2026**

- I.** Bruce A. Wahl, Mayor, called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. In attendance were Laura Blackwelder, Daniel Duvall, Jonathan Evans, Anthony Greene, and Eric Reinhardt, Council Members, Dr. Samelia Okpodu, Town Administrator, Sharon L. Humm, Town Clerk, Elissa Levan, Town Attorney, James Berry, Public Works Administrator, Wayne Newton, Town Engineer, and Sarah Franklin, Planning & Zoning Administrator. Absent was Vice-President Shuls, Council member.

- II.** **Pledge of Allegiance** – The Mayor led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Councilman Duvall requested to amend the agenda. Mr. Duvall would like to briefly address several issues that he has discussed with the Public Works Administrator.

MOTION: Councilman Reinhardt moved to approve amending the agenda to add Councilman Duvall's request. Seconded by Councilman Greene, all in favor.

- III.** **Informational discussion on the following:**

1. **Sign Ordinance** – Ms. Franklin stated that there are a number of signs within Town that are non-conforming according to the existing sign ordinance. The Commission spent many months reviewing, discussing, and revamping the sign ordinance. The revised ordinance provides definitions, general regulations, signs that are prohibited, signs that are exempt (not needing a permit) and particular focus on EMC (electronic messaging center) signs. Ms. Franklin, along with Commission Chair Greengold, addressed questions from the Council.

After discussion, the Council recommended several modifications to the ordinance.

2. **Chesapeake Village Connectivity** -

- i. **SHA SRTS** – In regard to the Safe Routes to School project, Dr. Okpodu gave an overview of the history, the design, the grant progress, and where



things currently stand. The goal of the Council is to determine the safest and fiscally responsible path forward for the Town on this project. In particular, continue the project as currently designed, modify the approach, or close out the grant and consider alternate connectivity solutions. Mr. Newton provided clarity for the Council on how the grant process works.

Councilman Duvall expressed his concerns related to such things as environmental conditions, accessibility standards, and traffic safety.

- ii. Alternatives – The Town Engineer provided for the Council four (4) Safe Routes to School alternative alignments to consider. Mr. Newton stated that each option would include a boardwalk across the wetlands and noted that neither path option would be ADA compliant. He discussed advantages and disadvantages of each path and provided a rough cost estimate on each. All the paths would connect to Woodshire Avenue, onto 13th Street, then D Street to reach the school. Alternate #1 “appears” to be the only path that runs entirely through Town-owned land and Alternates #2, 3, & 4 would possibly require easements from property owners. Mr. Newton and Dr. Okpodu addressed questions and concerns from the Council. Dr. Okpodu stated a meeting is scheduled with SHA for Thursday, March 12th and will provide the results of that meeting to the Council.
3. Agenda request by Councilman Duvall – Councilman Duvall wanted to bring before the Council several issues. He and Mr. Berry were able to do a ride-around and discuss issues related to trees, bamboo, alleyways, abandon cars, snow removal, and how to address these issues moving forward. Mr. Berry agreed that there are issues that need to be addressed, and it’s a process, but is willing to work toward a solution.
4. Closed Session - A motion to close the work session meeting to go in closed session under the Statutory Authority of the Md. Annotated Code pursuant to General Provisions Article, §3-305(b), subsection (14) “before a contract is awarded or bids are opened, to discuss a matter directly related to a negotiating strategy or the contents of a bid or proposal, if public discussion or disclosure would adversely impact the ability of the public body to participate in the competitive bidding or proposal process.”



MOTION: Councilman Greene moved to not go into a closed session.
Seconded by Councilman Evans, all in favor.

IV. Adjournment

There being no further comments, the work session adjourned at 7:43 p.m. on a motion by Councilman Duvall. Seconded by Councilman Greene, all in favor.

Submitted by,

Sharon L. Humm
Town Clerk

This meeting can be viewed in its entirety on the Town website on the Town Government page at www.chesapeakebeachmd.gov.