TOWN OF MORNINGSIDE

6901 Ames Street
Morningside, Maryland 20746
PH: 301-736-2300
www.morningsidemd.gov
EMAIL: generalmailbox@morningsidemd.gov

TOWN OF MORNINGSIDE
MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
TUESDAY, MAY 20, 2025

The regular meeting was called to order at 7:00pm by Mayor Wade who led us in the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL:
Mayor Wade – Present
Councilman Anthony - Present
Council Member Fowler – Present
Council Member Mullins – Present
Admin – Karen Rooker – Present
Public Works – Michael Johnson – Present
Code Enforcement – Regina Foster – Present
Police Dept – Chief Franklin
Fire Department – No Representation

INTRODUCTION/ADOPTION OF RESOLUTIONS AND ORDINANCES
None

INTRODUCTIONS –
None

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES
Motion made by Council Member Mullins, seconded by Council Member Fowler to approve the minutes for the Regular Meeting of April 15, 2025, and the Work Session on May 13, 2025. No further discussion. All voted aye.Motion carried.

MISCELLANEOUS/OPEN FORUM - None

REPORT OF OFFICERS/BOARDS/COMMITTEES

- **Public Works** – Michael Johnson provided an oral report.
- **Code Enforcement** –Regina Foster provided an oral report.
- **Administrative** – Karen Rooker provided an oral & written report.
- **Police Dept –** Chief Franklin provided an oral & written report.
- **Councilman Anthony** – no report at this time.
- **Council Member Mullins** – gave an oral report.
- **Council Member Chambers** - gave an oral report.
- **Council Member Fowler** – no report at this time.
- **Mayor Wade** – gave an oral report.

The Mayor opened the floor to the public.

- Ms. Spivey from Skyline spoke.
- Toni Harris from Skyline Hills Homeowners Association spoke.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

2025 ELECTION DAY

- Mayor Wade gave the election results.

RECREATION COMMITTEE UPDATE

- May 30 – Senior Luncheon
- May 31 – Yard Sale 8-3 pm & Skate Van/Ice Cream Social 5:30 – 8pm

WOODLAND ROAD

- Waiting on the geo-tech report.
- Once the report is available only reach out to the companies interested in the original RFP offering.

SPRING CLEAN-UP 2025

- Dates are June 7 – 8.
- Vet will be here on Sunday June 8, 9am – 2pm.

COMMUNICATIONS CALENDAR - FYI

NEW BUSINESS

ALLSTAR COMMUNICATIONS

- There are not enough emergency lights on the large pick-up truck to ensure the safety of the personnel during weather emergencies, particularly snow events.

Motion by Council Member Mullins, second by Council Member Chambers to have Allstar Communications put updated emergency lights on the newer Public Works truck at a cost of $5084.00. No further discussion. All voted aye. **Motion carried.**

GRACO LINE DRIVER

- The Graco line driver is to assist Public Works in painting street lines.

Motion by Council Member Fowler, seconded by Council Member Mullins to purchase a Graco Line Driver for Public Works at a cost of $10235.00. No further discussion. All voted aye. Motion carried.

USFCR

- USFCR provides a service to keep our SAMS number up-to-date so we can qualify for federal grants & loans. The length of the contract is 5 yrs.

Motion by Council Member Chambers, second by Council Member Fowler to pay $2995.00 for a 5-year contract with USFCR. No further discussion. All voted aye. Motion carried.

NTI CONTRACT

- Although the contract was presented at an earlier meeting, no action was taken on it.
- The Council needs more information on 365 & the cost.
- Ask Matt Deskin to attend the June 10 work session meeting.

TAX RATE

- The Council has decided not to raise taxes for the FY26 year.

Motion by Council Member Fowler, second by Council Member Chambers to keep the tax rates as follows: 78 cents per $100.00 value for the real property tax rate and $2.00 for every $100.00 of value for the personal property tax rate. No further discussion. All voted aye. Motion carried.

TAX BILLING REQUEST

In order to have the County do our real property tax billing, we have to make a formal request.

Motion by Council Member Mullins, second by Council Member Fowler to have the County do our real property tax billing for FY26. No further discussion. All voted aye. Motion carried.

DUAL WHEEL EXEMPTION 6707 LARCHES CT

The resident at 6707 has requested to renew his dual wheel exemption to park his work vehicle at his residence.

Motion by Council Member Mullins, second by Council Member Fowler to approve the dual wheel exemption for 6707 Larches Ct. No further discussion. All voted aye. Motion carried.

ABATEMENT – 4308 MAPLE RD

There is a rather large abatement to do at 4308 Maple Rd so the Code Officer has requested that Morningside Tree Service be hired to handle the job. The cost would be $2600.00 which will be billed back to the property owner.

Motion by Council Member Fowler, second by Council Member Chambers to hire Morningside Tree Service to do the abatement at 4308 Maple Rd. No further discussion. All voted aye. Motion carried.

TREE REMOVAL

There is a tree on the Town's property in the field next to the municipal center that is diseased and needs to be cut down. Morningside Tree Service has given an estimate of $2000.00 to cut it down & haul it away, but not remove the stump.

Motion by Council Member Chambers, second by Council Member Mullins to pay $2000.00 to Morningside Tree Service to cut down & remove the debris rom the tree in the field on the Town's property. No further discussion. All voted aye. Motion carried.

MORNINGSIDE CEMETERY

- The resident that was doing the upkeep on the Morningside cemetery has asked if the Town can take over that duty due to it being harder for him to do.
- The Council discussed it and will have Public Works take over that task.

POTENTIAL POLICE DEPARTMENT NEW HIRES

- The Chief had presented the Council with a new pay scale that included new hires for the Police Department to be able to go to 24/7 coverage.
- That would be 5 people per squad.
- The Council has put it on hold until 5/23/25.

SCHEDULING OF BUDGET HEARING MEETINGS

- Council will meet on Thursday, May 22, 2025 at 6pm for the first FY26 budget meeting.

PAY THE BILLS

Motion by Council Member Mullins, seconded by Councilman Chambers to pay the bills from April 16, 2025 through May 20, 2025 in the amount of $167132.36. No further discussion. All voted aye. Motion carried.

DISTRICT HEIGHTS PARADE INFORMATION – FYI

INCOME/EXPENSES CAMERA OPERATIONS - FYI

Motion to go into a closed session after this meeting to discuss personnel matters made by Council Member Anthony, second by Council Member Fowler. All voted aye. Motion carried.

Mayor Wade made the following appointments:
Vice Mayor & Recreation Committee Liaison – Sharon Fowler
Building Manager – John Anthony
Street & Roads – Todd Mullins
Garden Club & Beautification - R David Chambers

OPEN FORUM – No one signed up to speak.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:27 pm with the closed session to follow immediately.

Karen D Rooker
Clerk-Treasurer

Approved 6/17/2025