TOWN OF MORNINGSIDE

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

Minutes of the Regular Meeting
Tuesday, August 19, 2025, at 7:00pm

The regular meeting was called to order at 7:00pm by Mayor Bradly Wade.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Mayor Wade.

ROLL CALL:

Mayor Wade – Present
Vice Mayor Fowler – Present
Councilman Anthony - Absent
Council Member Mullins – Present
Council Member Ronald Chambers
Admin/Code – Regina Foster – Present
Public Works – Christopher Mateus – Present
Police Dept – Chief Franklin - Present
Fire Department – No Representation

INTRODUCTION/ADOPTION OF RESOLUTIONS AND ORDINANCES

None

INTRODUCTIONS

None

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

Motion was made by Council Member Mullins, seconded by Vice Mayor Fowler to approve the minutes for the Work Session on July 15, 2025, Regular Meeting on July 15, 2025, Work Session on August 12, 2025. Discussion: Councilman Anthony noted that he was not present at the July meetings. All voted aye. Motion carried.

REPORT OF OFFICERS/BOARDS/COMMITTEES

- **Code Enforcement** –Regina Foster provided an oral & written report.
- **Public Works** – Christopher Mateus provided an oral and written report.
- **Police Dept –** Chief Franklin provided an oral & written report.

- **Administration** – no report at this time.
- **Councilman Anthony** – no report at this time.
- **Council Member Mullins** – no report at this time.
- **Council Member Chambers** – gave an oral report regarding new landscaping.
- **Vice Mayor Fowler** – gave an oral report regarding upcoming Movie Night.
- **Mayor Wade** – no report at this time.

MISCELLANEOUS/OPEN FORUM

- Ms. Spivy – she enjoyed National Night Out. Also, asked about the Speed Cameras, tire shop and old 7-Eleven Store.
- Mr. Parker has continued concerns with the dwelling on Suitland Rd.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

LED Signs

- Adjustments needed to be made to the electric permit.
- Hill Top Signs has assigned a dedicated person to monitor the process on a daily basis and will be back in touch on Thursday.
- Company is hoping to have the 1 sign installed by the end of September.
- Mayor Wade is concerned as to the other 2 that have not been mentioned.
- Council Member Mullins suggested finding another vendor.
- Mayor Wade would like to invite a representative to the September Work Session.
- Admin Foster will follow up.

Woodland Road Project

- Councilman Anthony received the updated information requested at the work session. He has small concerns about the work scope but feels they can be addressed on an as needed basis.
- They will start at 6706 Woodland and continue from there.
- L&S Dirt Works is projecting a 2-month timeline for the project.
- Mayor Wade has confidence in L&S Dirt Works and Morningside Tree Service to complete the job.
- Mayor Wade has spoken with some of the homeowners in reference to landscaping and he will follow up with information on start dates.

Motion was made by Council Member Chambers, seconded by Council Member Mullins, to except the Quote from L&S Dirt Works and Morningside

Tree Service not to exceed $300,000.00. Discussion – Councilman Anthony will be appointed as POC for the project. Roll Call: Councilman Anthony Aye, Council Member Mullins Aye, Council Member Chambers Aye and Vice Mayor Fowler Aye. Motion carried.

PGCMA

- PGCMA Board will meet September 6, 2025, and will be working on the calendar for the year.
- We can follow up with Treasurer Gomez for available hosting dates.

T-Mobile

- Chief Franklin has a quote from T-Mobile to transfer carriers.
- With adding 2 Hotspots, 10 additional lines, there will still be a cost savings.
- The account will be set up under Police/Public Safety.
- Council Member Mullins thinks it's a rich plan and has more to offer.

Motion was made by Council Member Mullins, seconded by Vice Mayor Fowler, to move our wireless services from Verizon to T-Mobile under a Police/Public Safety Plan. No further discussion was had. All voted aye. Motion carried.

Tuition Reimbursement

- Chief Franklin has made a request to do a partial reimbursement of $2500.00 for 3 new hires to help out with their academy cost.
- The new hires were not included in the July pay increase
- Council Member Chambers believes if the funding is available and to encourage retention we should move forward on the request.
- Councilman Anthony also agrees retention is important and says it was agreed to pay academy cost for new hires and the fact that they are under a 3yr employment contract we should move forward.

Motion was made by Council Member Mullins, seconded by Council Member Chambers, to reimburse the 3 new hires $2500.00 each. No further discussion was had. All voted aye. Motion carried.

Stop Stick

- Chief Franklin presented a quote to purchase 5 Active Shooter Shields for the department at the cost of $21,175.00.
- 2 Sheilds will be given to the department by the FBI and they will also provide training.
- Funding will come from the Automated Enforcement Program.

Motion was made by Council Member Chambers, seconded by Councilman Anthony, to purchase 5 Active Shooter Shields at the cost of $20,175.00. No further discussion was had. All voted aye. Motion carried.

Burch Trash Service

- Burch advised the town that the current Tipping Fee charged by PG County has gone up.
- The increase to the town will be $4.00 per household.
- Mayor Wade noticed that the amount of damaged carts has decreased as of late.

NTI

- NTI has recommended replacing the Battery Back-Up to the server. This unit is older and could fail in case of a power outage.
- Councilman Anthony thinks there could be cheaper options.
- Table until next month's work session.

Street and Road Repairs

- Council Member Mullins has revisited several areas of concern.
- He is recommending that sidewalk and curb repairs be made as soon as possible in these areas.
- The requested repairs will cost about $16,685.00 from L&S Dirt Works.
- Councilman Anthony would like to see written estimates moving forward.

Motion was made by Council Member Mullins, seconded by Councilman Anthony, to approve the estimate from L&S Dirt Works in the amount of $16,685.00 to make the necessary sidewalk and curb repairs. No further discussion was had. All voted aye. Motion carried.

UTILITAC Equipment

- Chief Franklin provided an estimate to add push bars, lighting, etc. to 2 police vehicles.

Motion was made by Council Member Mullins, seconded by Council Member Chambers, to approve the Quote for the new equipment for both vehicles not to exceed $5,600.00. No further discussion was had. All voted aye. Motion carried.

VSP Graphics

- Chief Franklin wants to standardized the look of the police vehicles by replacing the current decals.

- The 2 pickup trucks and the chiefs vehicle will remain unmarked
- 4 vehicles will be marked and the others will be unmarked.
- Vice Mayor Fowler wants to know why not just stay with what we have and not go through the expense of remarking.
- Mayor Wade and Council Member Chambers likes the new designs.
- Councilman Anthony would like all vehicles marked with the exception of the specialty vehicles.
- Phillmark Motors will install the new decals on the vehicles.

Motion was made by Council Member Chambers, seconded by Councilman Anthony to move forward with the new designs for the fleet vehicles at the cost of $5,555.00. Discussion: Councilman Anthony wants to know if this amount includes the installations. Chief Franklin is not sure and will bring information to the next meeting. 3-Ayes and 1-Nay. Motion carried.

Communication Calendar

- FYI

Red Light Camera

- Chief Franklin provided an update on the possibility of adding a new Red Light Photo Enforcement Camera at the intersection of Suitland and Allentown Rd.
- The location was surveyed, and it showed over 100 violations per day.
- Vice Mayor Fowler has concerns about if it's more of a safety issue or a revenue source.
- Council Member Chambers see it as a safety tool which will include a monetary gain to support the police department.
- Councilman Anthony says the funding will supplement police salaries.
- Discussion ensued.
- Mayor Wade If the vendor gets approval, it will be brought back to the town for discussion.

PAY BILLS

Motion was made by Council Member Chambers, seconded by Vice Mayor Fowler to pay the bills for July 16, 2025 – August 19, 2025, in the amount of $201,219.39. All voted aye. Motion carried.

OPEN FORUM –

- None

The meeting was adjourned at 9:10pm.

Respectfully submitted by,

Regina Foster

Regina Foster Administrative Associate