



*Mayor and Town Council  
Town of Friendsville  
Founded 1765*

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**Second Public Hearing Minutes**  
**Friendsville Town Hall**  
**March 4, 2024**

**Attendance:**

Mayor Spencer Schlosnagle, and Wanda Guard, Administrative Assistant, Clerk-Treasurer.  
Council President: Pamela Humberson Council members: Edward Kelley, Sheryl MacLane, James Hook, Michael Artice and Robert Sines.

Citizens/Guests: Bill Bittinger, Lynn Acocyk, Jennifer Spano, Norman Livengood, Karen Meyers, Jennifer Uphold, Carol Squires, Doug Sines, Louann Sines, Carol McMahon, and Claire Sullivan, The Republican newspaper reporter.

The Council President, Humberson, called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. for the second public hearing regarding Friendsville's Comprehensive Plan progress. A total of eleven citizens, along with the Mayor and all Council members, were present as the meeting preceded the regularly scheduled Mayor & Town Council meeting. Humberson briefed the attendees on the progress of the Comprehensive Plan, funded by a \$40,000.00 grant from the Maryland Department of Planning. She noted that the plan is currently under review by the State of Maryland, which initiates a 60-day review process before resolution and adoption planning. President Humberson then invited questions from the floor, during which two residents highlighted the plan's importance for the future of Friendsville. They emphasized the necessity of reviewing the final document upon its availability. As there were no further inquiries regarding the plan or its funding, the meeting was adjourned.

**Friendsville Mayor & Town Council Minutes**  
**March 4, 2024**

Spencer R. Schlosnagle was formally sworn in as Mayor of the Town of Friendsville by William L. Bittinger, Clerk of the Circuit Court for Garrett County, MD.

Mayor Schlosnagle administered the official oath of office to four council members: Pam Humberson, Michael Artice, James Hook, and Edward Kelley.

**Call to Order:** Wanda Guard, Administrative Assistant, Clerk-Treasurer, convened the general meeting of the Mayor and Town Council on March 4, 2024, at 6:05 p.m. As it marked the beginning of a new council term, she initiated the process for nominations for Council President.

**Motion #1:** (Council Member MacLane/ Council Member Kelley): Motion to approve Pamela Humberson as Council President for the upcoming year.  
6 in favor/ 0 opposed/ 0 abstentions. Motion carries.

**Invocation/Pledge of Allegiance:** All attending the meeting recited the Lord's Prayer and the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Motion #2:** (Council member Artice/Council member McLane): Approval to accept the March 4, 2024, agenda. 6 in favor/0 opposed/0 abstention. Motion carries.

**Motion #3:** (Councilmember MacLane/Councilmember Kelley): Approval to accept the general meeting minutes for February 5, 2024. 6 in favor/0 opposed/0 abstention. Motion carries.

**To The Floor:**

Karen Meyers, a board member of the DCL Property Owners Association, extended an invitation to the Town of Friendsville to participate in the upcoming 100th Anniversary of DCL celebration scheduled for 2025. The association envisions this as a county-wide event starting in May. They are planning two main events: a GALA and an event at the GC Fairgrounds in July or August. They proposed adding signage, banners, and flags to enhance the theme of existing events or festivals to incorporate the 100th anniversary of DCL available for the towns to develop a feeling of community. Mayor Schlosnagle accepted the flotilla challenge presented by Jay Moyer who serves on Oakland Town Council.

Deputy Ashley Bittinger reported that there were no significant occurrences for the Town of Friendsville in the past month. She mentioned that there will be an increase in North patrol activities in the upcoming weeks, particularly in Friendsville, amounting to approximately 8 hours a day. Deputy Bittinger encouraged attendees to raise any concerns they may have for her to bring back to the office. Mayor Schlosnagle expressed concern regarding animal control issues that residents have had in the past and confirmed that residents should call 301.334.1911 or contact the Animal Shelter. She confirmed that the Animal Control Officer would investigate any complaints received. Additionally, there were observations made about traffic speed on Main Street and from Bear Creek is traveling too fast, prompting a request for further investigation into the matter. A resident shared her concerns about dogs that went off leash in the Community Park. Council President: Humberson reminded the deputy that the next meeting will be March 18 and the council would like an officer from the GC Sheriff department.

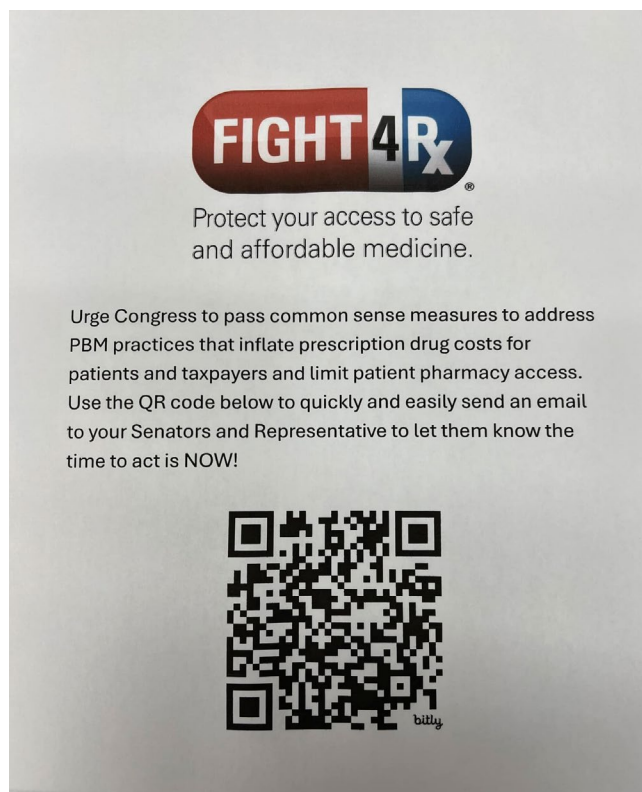
Jamie Spano, GCHD Outreach Worker, announced that the Naloxone (Narcan) Pick-up scheduled for May 7 from 5:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. has been relocated to the Southern end of the County. The Council expressed a preference for such events to be hosted at the Northern Rescue Squad or Friendsville Volunteer Fire & Rescue rather than at the Community Park. Further updates included the upcoming Friendsville Community Watch meeting scheduled for March 14, 2024, from 5:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. at the Friendsville Senior Center. The Easter Egg Event is set to take place on March 23, 2024, at Friendsville Elementary School, and the Garrett County Health Fair will be held on April 6, 2024, at Garrett College. Additionally, the Maryland Food Bank truck will be stationed at the Friendsville Library on March 13, 2024.

Carol McMahon informed the attendees that the annual 5K/3K Kendall Trail Run Event will be postponed to the Fall instead of its usual Spring schedule due to unforeseen circumstances involving several organizers. The proposed date for the event is the first weekend in October, specifically Saturday, October 5th. Carol mentioned that this postponement will provide ample time for organization. She highlighted the scenic beauty of the trail in both fall and spring seasons. She also mentioned that she has reached out to Queen City Striders to confirm the availability of the proposed date and will keep everyone updated on any developments.

Carol Squires informed the group about the current window display at the Friend Family Association Museum, which is dedicated to Women In History for the month of March. The display showcases several notable women from the Friendsville Area. Additionally, Carol mentioned that Ina Hicks was recently inducted into the National Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR). She encouraged everyone to visit the display and learn more about these remarkable women.

Norman Livengood mentioned that within the community, there is growing frustration and concern regarding the potential closure of the US Post Office, local school, and bank. He questioned the source and originator of this statement. Wanda added that the concern was raised at the Town Hall, and an article was included in the Newsletter to urge residents to support and continue utilizing the services of the US Post Office and bank.

Jennifer Uphold, from Friendsville Pharmacy, expressed her frustration with the challenges of keeping her business operational and continuing to serve the pharmacy community. Confluence Pharmacy closed. She distributed a QR code and asked everyone to submit their support to government representatives.



Louann and Doug Sines participated in the meeting to inquire about the progress of their zoning request with the Mayor and Town Council. Mayor Schlosnagle explained that the Comprehensive Plan must first receive approval before the zoning issue can be addressed in the subsequent steps.

### **Unfinished Business:**

The Town of Friendsville opened three bids for the construction of a concession stand and ADA restroom during the meeting:

1. Cornerstone Construction LLC - \$125,235.00
2. Day Star - \$197,824.00
3. Beitzel Corporation - \$234,789.00

After reviewing the bids, the council reached a consensus to table the motion. They decided that the Mayor would contact Cornerstone Construction LLC for further details regarding their submission before making a decision and table the motion.

Wanda informed the group that she had sent two emails to the Mayor and Town Council members, along with the work session minutes, requesting their review and approval to proceed with sending the document to Peggy Jamison. As she hadn't received any responses, she asked them to review the document and provide their approval for moving forward or not.

**Motion #4:** (Councilmember Humberson/Councilmember Artice): Motion to proceed with sending the work session document to Peggy Jamison, requesting her to draft two ordinances using the minutes as a guide. 3 in favor/3 opposed/0 abstention.

As the vote resulted in a tie, Mayor Schlosnagle cast the deciding vote to move forward with the motion.

Arbor Day Celebration Update: Friday, April 26, 2024. Sheryl informed the group that she communicated with Katherine from DNR, who unfortunately cannot attend on April 26th. Sheryl is coordinating with her to determine an alternative date and time for youth participation at the Community Park for the event.

Report from the Business After Hours Committee: Wanda and Carol McMahon provided an overview of today's meeting. The committee includes Tammy Humberson, Susan Johnston, and Kelsey Artice alongside them. Initial plans have been discussed, but they require clarification on the budget from the Mayor and Town Council. The event is scheduled for September 12th from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. It will serve as a networking event, with businesses and officials offering small plates and beverages while highlighting the town of Friendsville. Businesses will be invited, and there will be discussions and highlights of the main events held in the town yearly. Next meeting will be April 8, 2024.

**Motion #5:** (Councilmember Hook/Councilmember Sines): Motion to allocate a budget up to \$1,000.00 from the accommodation tax for the Business After Hours Committee for their event planning purposes.

6 in favor/0 opposed/0 abstention Motion carries.

### **New Business**

Committee Appointments Review: After examining the committee document, it was unanimously agreed to maintain the current committee composition and replace Zach Trautwein's positions with James Hook.

Mayor Schlosnagle shared the February 14, 2024 letter received concerning the 2024/2025 Constant Yield Tax Rate, Real and Personal Property, and Utility Tax Rate and he proposed to council to keep the current tax rates.

**Motion #6:** (Councilmember Sines/Councilmember Kelley): Motion to keep the tax rate the same for FY2025 (7/1/2024-6/30/2025), real estate tax \$0.41/100, personal property \$0.50/100 & utility tax rate \$1.64/100. 6 in favor/0 opposed/0 abstention Motion carries.

The annual advertisement for the seasonal maintenance worker position was reviewed and presented to the council members. The worker will be employed by the town from April to September.

**Motion #7:** (Councilmember Artice/Councilmember Sines): Motion to move forward with the press release for The Republican for a seasonal worker for the Town of Friendsville. 6 in favor/0 opposed/0 abstention Motion carries.

Mayor Schlosnagle informed the group that the renewal for the Maryland Tourism Coalition membership is upcoming. The cost for the remainder of the current year is \$99.00, while a full annual membership amounts to \$350.00. The Maryland Tourism Coalition advocates for its members, aiming to enact positive changes and support the industry. Members participate in direct advocacy, Tourism Day, and educational sessions to engage elected officials. The coalition values diversity as its strength and emphasizes unity as its power.

**Motion #8:** (Councilmember McLane/Councilmember Sines): Motion to pay the \$99.00 membership renewal (February – December) for the Maryland Tourism Coalition from the accommodation tax budget line. 5 in favor/1 opposed/0 abstention Motion carries.

Wanda informed us that an email was received from Traci Stark at Mountain Laurel Medical Center concerning the distribution of food boxes in the park on September 5 from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. The council has expressed a preference for them to set up on the circle drive rather than in the parking lot. Wanda will communicate this decision to Traci.

The CallMultiplier platform was presented to the Mayor and Town Council as a potential communication tool for the residents of Friendsville. Make a single call to CallMultiplier, or use their website to enter a text message, and they will multiply it and quickly deliver your important recorded voice or mass text message to everyone in our group. Wanda conducted research on the platform and revealed that the cost for unlimited usage, accommodating up to 500 members for a 12-month period, would be \$1,079.89. After discussion, the Mayor and Town Council collectively decided not to proceed with implementing this platform at the present time.

Summer MML Conference will be held on June 23-26, 2024, at Ocean City, MD. Mayor Schlosnagle requested that the council members should let him know if they would like to attend by the next meeting, March 18th.

Mayor Schlosnagle shared a letter that was received from 2024 NHS After-Prom requesting a donation. It was pointed out that the Mayor & town council has always gave a monetary amount of \$100.00.

**Motion #9:** (Councilmember Sines/Councilmember Kelley): Motion made to donate \$200.00 to the 2024 NHS After Prom. 6 in favor/0 opposed/0 abstention Motion carries.

**Mayor's Report:**

- Attended the 2024 Maryland Mayor Association Winter Conference at the Governor Calvert House in Annapolis, MD on 2/28-3/1/2024.
- The fourth-grade class from Friendsville Elementary School is scheduled to visit the Town Hall and meet with the Mayor on Thursday, March 7th at 10:00 a.m. This visit serves as a follow-up to the essays submitted by the class for the "If I Were A Mayor..." project.
- Bobby Witt was asked to provide a letter of support to Commissioner Edwards, expressing the Town of Friendsville's endorsement for the Friendsville Water Source and its application for grant funding.
- It has been decided that the bond proposed by Senator McKay for the maintenance building will need to be declined. This decision stems from the Town of Friendsville's financial constraints, as the additional funds required exceed the \$100,000 limit of the bond.
- Mayor Schlosnagle is collaborating with Kevin Cass of the Corps of Engineers to address river-related matters. The Town is in the process of taking current pictures depicting various situations along the river for future reference.
- Zach Trautwein adjusted the solar lights in the Community Park. Mayor Schlosnagle requested that the council members check out the lights and let him know if they need any other additional adjustments.
- Mayor Schlosnagle received an email from Doug Butler (Art Butler's Auto) indicating the availability of a 2021 pickup truck for purchase for the maintenance crew. Butler offered a trade value of \$4,000.00 for our current truck, and \$22,000 has been allocated for the purchase. He requested that a council member accompany him to inspect the truck and decide whether to proceed with the purchase. It was agreed that Ed and the mayor would coordinate a time to go.
- Mayor Schlosnagle will work with zoning & the Garrett County Roads Department, Jay Moyer on making the alley way by the pharmacy a one way. The county will make the appropriate signage. Notification will be sent out regarding the change.

**Clerk's Report, Payables, & Receivables**

Mayor & Town Council reviewed the February's clerk's summary and QuickBooks expense, income & salary reports.

**Motion #10** (Council member MacLane/Council member Hook): Approval to accept the clerk's report, payables, receivables & salaries for the month of February. 6 in favor/0 opposed/0 abstention. Motion carries.

**Committees Reports:**

- Buildings: Mayor Schlosnagle shared that he spoke with the owner of the Old Mill regarding the roof coming off and did not have a favorable response.
- Safety: Sidewalks continue to have issues and are not safe; will be moving forward with ARPA funds to have them repaired this Spring & Summer.

- Streets & Sidewalks: Streets will be milled down and paved again this Spring & Summer.
- Community Park: The tennis court nets can go back up in April.
- Trees & Shrub: Council President Humberson shared that the work done at Friendship Heights looks great.
- Economic Development: Nothing

**Concerns of Council Members:** Wanda shared that she received verbal notice from Georgia Yoder regarding Friendsville Days, and the paperwork was emailed but not received. She asked how to proceed with the billing. The request was tabled.

**Next Meeting:** The next town council meeting will be on March 18, 2024, starting at 6:00 p.m.

**Adjournment:**

**Motion #11** (Council member Artice/Council member Hook): Approval to adjourn the meeting.  
6 in favor/0 opposed/0 abstention. Motion carries.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:55 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

*Wanda M. Guard*

Wanda M. Guard,  
Administrative Assistant, Clerk-Treasurer

Approved :

*Samuel Schlusnager*  
Mayor

3/18/2024