



*Mayor and Town Council  
Town of Friendsville  
Founded 1765*

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**Friendsville Mayor & Town Council Minutes**  
**April 20, 2026**

**Attendance:**

Spencer R. Schlosnagle, Mayor

Wanda Guard, Administrative Assistant, Clerk-Treasurer

Council Members: Michael Artice, Chad Bittinger, James Hook, Edward Kelley, & Robert Sines.

**Absent: Council President, Pamela Humberson**

**Call to Order:** With the absence of the Council President Humberson, Wanda Guard, Administrative Assistant, Treasurer-Clerk called April 20, 2026, the general meeting of the Mayor and Town Council to order at 6:00 p.m. and requested for a motion to select Council President pro tem.

**Motion #1:** (Council member Artice/Council member Sines): Ed Kelley was nominated to serve as Council President pro tem. 5 in favor/0 opposed/0 abstention. Motion carries.

**Citizens/Guests:** Molly Ramsey, Jamie Spano, Amy Beeman, Colton Cervi, Shawn Smith, Michael Smith, Georgia Yoder, Andrew Kyle, Lynn Aycocock, Bonnie Artice, Elizabeth Williams, Ami Jaramallo and Jen Uphold.

**Openings:** All attending the meeting recited the Lord's Prayer and the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America.

***Approval of the Agenda – April 20, 2026***

**Motion #2:** (Council member Bittinger/Council member Artice) Motion to approve accepting the April 20, 2026, agenda. 5 in favor/0 opposed/0 abstention. Motion carries.

***Approval of the General Meeting Minutes – April 6, 2026***

**Motion #3:** (Council member Bittinger/Council member Hook) Approval of accepting the general meeting minutes for April 6, 2026, with no corrections. 5 in favor/0 opposed/0 abstention. Motion carries.

**Closed Executive Session Summary – April 6, 2026**

Mayor Schlosnagle read the following summary:

On April 6, 2026, the Mayor and Town Council held a closed meeting to discuss applications for a seasonal maintenance worker position, as permitted by Maryland law. During the meeting, it was determined that a former employee, Josh Frederick, has a valid contract for 2026 and must be offered work, so new applications will not be considered at this time. The Council also confirmed that employee scheduling is the Mayor's responsibility, with no overtime allowed, and requested a list of employee duties for review. The three maintenance workers will attend the next closed session on April 20, 2026. The meeting adjourned with unanimous approval.

**Motion #3:** (Council member Bittinger/Council member Artice) Approval of accepting the closed executive session summary for April 6, 2026, with Council member Artice adding that as discussed through email that closed session will not need to be held this evening.

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

## **To The Floor**

### ***Garrett County Sheriff's Office***

Deputy Andrew Kyle, Garrett County Sheriff's Department shared the Town of Friendsville's stats report for the month of February and March. There was 1 animal complaint, 25 patrols, 3 incidents, 1 special assignment, 1 traffic enforcement, 1 traffic stop and 3 CDS drug arrests.

### ***Molly Ramsey, Watershed Coordinator GC Planning & Land Management Division***

Ms. Ramsey reported on a proposed bipartisan federal funding opportunity, noting that the Bipartisan Ohio River Restoration Program Act has been introduced in both the U.S. House of Representatives and the U.S. Senate. If enacted, the legislation would establish a federally funded Ohio River Basin Restoration Program. The bill outlines eligible activities including improvements to water quality, flood and storm resilience, habitat, and stream restoration, drinking water protection, and outdoor recreation aligned with ecological needs. She noted that the Town of Friendsville is part of the Youghiogheny–Monongahela–Ohio River system. Ms. Ramsey requested input and general feedback. **(Appendix A)**

### ***Elizabeth Williams – Garrett County Celtic Festival***

The Celtic Festival will celebrate its 10th year, with attendance and participation expected to exceed 1,000 vendors and guests. Jason Donahue is coordinating the setup of the event in collaboration with Clint. Early bird ticket pricing will be available, and Town of Friendsville residents will receive complimentary tickets; distribution will be coordinated with Melissa Custer and Wanda Guard. Council members are invited to attend the opening ceremony on stage at 12:00 noon. A request has also been made to use the Council Chambers for event setup and throughout the duration of the Celtic Festival.

**Motion #5:** (Council member Artice/Council member Bittinger) Approval for the Garrett County Celtic Festival to use the council chambers during their event on June 10, 2026.

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

### ***Georgia Yoder – Friendsville Days Committee***

Georgia shared that this year marks the 47th annual Friendsville Days, scheduled for August 14–16, with setup on August 13 in coordination with Clint and Brandon. She asked if the Town of Friendsville would consider serving again as a Gold Sponsor.

She also requested confirmation regarding the banners Clint handled last year and asked if Wanda could provide a town map for the parade route. Additionally, they are seeking volunteers for the event.

**Motion #6:** (Council member Bittinger/Council member Sines) Approval of Friendsville Days August 13 – 16, 2026 to use the Community Park and to be a gold sponsor.

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

### ***Michael C. Smith – Candidate Garrett County Commissioner, District 3, Maryland***

Michael Smith shared with the Council that he is a candidate for Garrett County Commissioner, District 3. A lifelong resident of Garrett County, Mike is the son of the late Larry and Sandi Smith of Swallow Falls. He and his wife of 37 years, Shawn (Bishoff) Smith, live in the Swallow Falls area

and have two daughters, four grandchildren, and one more on the way. He is a graduate of Southern High School. Mike served 11 years in the United States Navy as an Enlisted Surface Warfare Specialist Nuclear Mechanic, earning multiple commendations and achieving the rank of E-6. He holds dual Bachelor of Science degrees in Electrical and Computer Engineering and an Executive MBA from West Virginia University. He has spent 22 years as a Senior Facilities Engineer and Project Manager for a Fortune Global 500 company, managing multimillion-dollar projects. He has also resolute over 25 years to community service as a National Ski Patroller, Maryland First Responder, youth coach, and active member of several local organizations. Mike stated he is running as a problem solver focused on accountability, transparency, and responsible use of taxpayer dollars. He added that it would be an honor to serve the citizens of District 3 and respectfully asked for their support.

### ***Jamie Spano – Garrett County Health Department Outreach***

This month's prevention message regarding underage drinking.

## **Unfinished Business**

### ***Softball Restroom/Utility/Storage Room***

Mayor Schlosnagle, Councilmember Kelley, and President Humberson met and conducted a walkthrough of the facility. It was noted that hand dryers still need to be installed. Electrical and water inspections have both been approved. Spencer will follow up with Tyler to verify that the camera system is operational. An additional walkthrough will be required prior to closing out the grant funding.

### ***MD42 Bridge MDOT-SHA Update***

Mayor Schlosnagle shared an email from Shelley Miller regarding the tentative bridge painting plan for the MD 42 bridge in Friendsville. **(Appendix B)**

### ***GFBA Request – Closure of Maple Street***

Mayor Schlosnagle reported that he received a telephone call from Paul Harvey, who approved the road closure for May 16 and requested that we contact them each time a closure is needed for the remaining two Makers Market events. They will coordinate with the County Roads Department regarding signage.

### ***FVFRD Concession Stand Events – LGIT Update***

Wanda reported that she contacted LGIT, and because a signed lease agreement is already in place, they will only need to provide a Certificate of Insurance and their alcohol permit. Council Member Kelley supplied the required documents, along with the dates the stand will be open.

### ***GC Public Utilities Water Notices Update***

Mayor Schlosnagle announced that the Garrett County Commissioners, along with County Administrator Kevin G. Null, and Brandon Griffith will be present on April 23, 2026, at 4:00 p.m. for a closed executive session to discuss the water notices.

## **New Business**

### ***Draft Zoning Ordinance – Open for Public Comment April 20, 2026 - May 20, 2026***

Mayor Schlosnagle shared that the draft zoning ordinance is available for public review and is open for comments for 30 days. Wanda shared that the draft zoning ordinance and the flyer is on the Town of Friendsville website.

Council member Kelley shared that he assumed that livestock was not allowed in town. Upon more research under the current ordinance livestock is allowed in RD and EC districts.

### ***Program Open Space FY2027 Grant – Due 5/21***

Mayor Schlosnagle shared that the County receives approximately \$300,000. The grant is 90/10 grant and if we keep it under \$50,000, we have a good chance of getting the grant. We will need an idea of what you want.

### ***Land and Water Conservation Fund Grant – Due 6/24/2026.***

Mayor Schlosnagle shared that this could be for the steps down to the Yough River.

### ***DNR Forestry Grant – Due 7/15/2026***

Council member Artice shared that the tree committee will be meeting at the end of June or beginning of July and will decide what they want to do about submitting the second round of funding for the trees.

## **Mayor's Report (Appendix C)**

### **Committee's Reports**

- **Buildings:** Nothing
- **Safety:** Nothing
- **Streets & Sidewalks:** Mayor Schlosnagle asked council members to inspect the sidewalks and report back with findings.
- **Community Park:** Nothing
- **Trees & Shrub:** Nothing
- **Economic Development:** The next Greater Friendsville Business Association meeting is scheduled for Thursday, April 30, 2026, at 6:00 p.m. at The Root Café. Coming soon will be the Wild Aster Floral shop on Maple Street.
- **Recreational Parking Lot:** Council member Bittinger shared that the committee met last week at the recreational parking lot area and he distributed & reviewed the master plan 1<sup>st</sup> revision for the next 20 years for the recreational parking lot. Looking for comments and thoughts. Lynn Aycock asked about renting a portable toilet with a hand-washing station. **(Appendix D)**

### **Concerns of Council Members**

- Drains at the car wash/laundry mat in the back alley near the Post Office, need to be addressed. Council member Kelley asked the mayor to speak to the property owner again about the issue.
- Mayor Schlosnagle stated that a meeting is needed with the citizens and the Code Enforcement Officer and council regarding the case at 272 Maple Street (Jarrett Mahoney), to be discussed in a closed executive session scheduled for April 23, 2026, at 3:00 p.m.

### **Important Date(s)**

- ALGAR MML Chapter Dinner Meeting – May 13, 2026, Hosted by Loch Lynn Heights at Pleasant Valley Community Center, 975 Joni Miller Road, Oakland, MD  
RSVP to Wanda Monday, May 4, 2026
- Zoning Ordinance Open – Public Comments April 20 – May 20, 2026
- Spring Clean Up – The week of April 27 – May 2, 2026
- Mayor & Town Council Meeting – May 4, 2026, 6:00 p.m.

- Makers Market – May 16, 2026, 10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.
- Town Wide Yard Sale – Saturday, May 23, 2026
- Zoning Ordinance Public Hearing – June 4, 2026, FVFRD 7:00 p.m.

**Adjournment**

**Motion #6** (Council member Hook/Council member Bittinger): Approval of adjourning the meeting.  
5 in favor/0 opposed/0 abstention. Motion carries.

The meeting was adjourned for 7:40 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

*Wanda M. Guard*

Wanda M. Guard,  
Administrative Assistant, Clerk-Treasurer

Approved:  
*Janet Schlarb*  
Mayor  
5/4/2026

### OHIO RIVER BASIN RESTORATION PROGRAM ACT OF 2026 and REGIONAL YOUGHIOGHENY – MONONGALIA RIVER WATERSHED PARTNERS

#### A proposed bipartisan federal funding opportunity

The bipartisan **Ohio River Restoration Program Act** has been introduced in both the **U.S. House** and **U.S. Senate**. If enacted, it would create a federally-funded **Ohio River Basin Restoration Program**. It has **not** been enacted at this time.

#### What kinds of work could it support?

The bill identifies work related to:

- water quality
- flood and storm resilience
- habitat and stream restoration
- drinking water protection
- outdoor recreation that fits ecological needs

#### Why this matters here

Friendsville is part of the **Youghiogheny–Monongahela–Ohio River system**. The Youghiogheny basin drains about **409 square miles of Garrett County**, so future basin-wide funding and partnerships with WV and PA could be relevant to a large share of the county.

#### Why I am sharing this

Even if the bill does not pass, work with partners in **West Virginia and Pennsylvania across the larger Monongahela River basin** is already underway around shared interests including water quality, flood resilience, conservation, and outdoor recreation. The bill is one possible future funding path within that broader regional work.

#### What kinds of local work could be relevant?

- watershed restoration
- flood resilience
- stream and habitat protection
- conservation education
- better public information and safety information
- river-town and trail-town connections
- conservation-minded outdoor recreation
- partnerships that support both natural resources and local communities

#### Important Maryland context

This is **not** a proposal for any specific launch, trail, or water-trail project.

For the Maryland Yough, any future project discussion would still need to consider:

- private property and legal access
- Maryland Wild and Scenic Youghiogheny River rules and COMAR review
- water quality and habitat concerns
- visitor safety and rescue/access realities
- local impacts such as parking, traffic, and maintenance

#### Learn more

Ohio River Restoration Program Act of 2026, National Wildlife Federation (NWF) article  
<https://www.nwf.org/Home/Latest-News/Press-Releases/2026/2-4-26-Ohio-Drinking-Water-Legislation>

**We'd like your input**

*This is for general feedback only. It is not a vote on any specific project.*

**Name (optional):** \_\_\_\_\_

**Email (optional, if you would like updates):** \_\_\_\_\_

**1. What kinds of future projects, partnerships, or improvements should be kept in mind for your town and the surrounding area?**

*Examples: water quality improvement, flood resilience, habitat restoration, conservation education, trail-town connections, better safety information, better mapping of existing access, or other conservation-minded outdoor recreation ideas.*

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**2. What concerns, conditions, or limits should be clearly acknowledged from the outset in any future discussion?**

*Examples: private property and legal access, Wild and Scenic / COMAR requirements, water quality, habitat and conservation protection, visitor safety, parking or traffic, maintenance, or impacts on town character.*

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**3. What updates would you most want shared back with the community?**

*Examples: what projects or ideas were discussed, what opportunities or concerns stood out, what could matter locally, and what might happen next.*

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**Prefer to respond online? Use the online form here:**

<https://forms.gle/mVN3v7xNU1D6EN11A>

Please contact Molly Ramsey, Garrett County Watershed Coordinator for questions – [mramsey@garrettcounty.md.gov](mailto:mramsey@garrettcounty.md.gov)

**Garrett County Watershed Management website:**

<https://www.garrettcounty.md.gov/community-development/watershed-management>

## Tentative Bridge Painting Plan for MD 42 Bridge Friendsville, MD

**Work to be included in this project:** Sandblasting, priming and painting the sides and steel under the bridge

**Start date:** Week of April 27

**Work schedule:** One 12 hr shift daily

7 days a week

Planned to be daytime work

**Estimated completion date:** June 30 (depending on weather, staffing and materials). Additional shifts could be approved if weather causes delays to the planned schedule.

### **Additional information:**

- Crews will begin with sandblasting, which can generate a steady industrial sound like a motorcycle or lawn mower running nearby. While the containment enclosure helps to reduce the sound that travels, a loud humming/vibrating sound will still be heard nearby.
- During painting and priming, neighbors will hear moderate equipment noise like an air compressor or a loud vacuum cleaner running. Typically, the sound will be more consistent and mechanical, and quieter than sandblasting.
- Crews will be using a vacuum truck periodically to collect dust and loose material, keeping the work area clean. The truck works like a large industrial vacuum cleaner and will sound like an industrial shop vacuum/leaf blower that cycles on and off when in use.
- No work is planned on Water Street, all work and traffic impacts will be from/on Friendsville Road/MD 42

## Mayor's Report

April 6, 2026 through April 20, 2026

- On Tuesday, April 7, 2026 I had a Conference Planning Committee meeting that afternoon. We are finalizing everything for our Summer Conference in June. I serve as Vice Chair on the committee.
- On Friday, April 10, 2026 I along with Council President Pam Humberson attended the "If I Were Mayor" recognition ceremony in Annapolis. Jett McCormick was chosen for his essay from the Allegany/Garrett County Chapter. This was held on the second floor of the State House in the Governor's Conference Room. He received a plaque and a citation signed by the Governor and \$100.00 from the Maryland Municipal League. He along with his mom – Catlin Savage, dad – Jeremy McCormick, little sister Jude, stepdad Tim Savage and pap Rick Beissel was also in attendance.
- I attended the Zoning Ordinance Revision Work Session on Tuesday, April 14, 2026 here in the Council Chambers. We are very close to finishing up and have a Public Hearing scheduled, prior to final adoption.
- I along with Council President Pam Humberson, Councilman Ed Kelley and maintenance employee Clint Suter met with Jeremy Gordon from Beitzel Corporation to do a walk through on Thursday morning, April 16, 2026.
- I along with Council President Pam Humberson, Councilman and tree committee member Michael Artice, tree committee member Melissa Custer, our two maintenance employees, two students from Northern High School and three members of the Department of Natural Resources and the fifth-grade class at Friendsville Elementary planted 14 trees in the Recreational Parking Lot. This all happened on Thursday, April 16, 2026.
- I met with Ryan Savage, President of Central Garrett Little League to hand off the keys to the new softball/storage building on Friday, April 17, 2026.
- I met with Jarrett Mahoney on Friday, April 17, 2026 to discuss one of our Code Enforcement cases.
- I attended the Garrett Heritage Area Board meeting this morning, April 20, 2026 at the Garrett County Chamber of Commerce.

- Traffic impact on MD 42 is currently planned to be a lane shift. The shift may be installed and removed each day or in place for the duration using concrete barrier wall. No full roadway closure/detours are anticipated.
- Paint and dust are to be 100% controlled by the containment system, per SHA's standard specifications for this type of work (used across the State on all bridge painting projects)
- There could be some residual odor, but it is not harmful and will dissipate quickly