



*Mayor and Town Council  
Town of Friendsville  
Founded 1765*

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**Friendsville Mayor & Town Council Minutes**  
**October 7, 2024**

**Attendance:**

Spencer R. Schlosnagle, Mayor

Wanda Guard, Administrative Assistant, Clerk-Treasurer

Council President: Pamela Humberson

Council Members: Michael Artice, Edward Kelley, Sheryl MacLane, & Robert Sines.

**Citizens/Guests:** Jennifer Uphold, Friendsville Pharmacy & Lynn Aycok.

**Call to Order:** Council President Humberson, convened the general meeting of the Mayor and Town Council on October 7, at 6:00 p.m.

**Opening Ceremonies:** 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 – October 7, 2024***

**Motion #1:** (Council member MacLane/Council member Artice) Approval to accept the October 7, 2024, agenda with voting response item added to the unfinished business.  
5 in favor/0 opposed/0 abstention. Motion carries.

***Approval of the General Meeting Minutes – September 23, 2024***

**Motion #2:** (Council member MacLane/Council member Kelley) Approval to accept the general meeting minutes for September 23, 2024, with no corrections.  
5 in favor/0 opposed/0 abstention. Motion carries.

**To The Floor:**

**None**

**Unfinished Business**

***Town of Friendsville Property (Map: 0300 Grid: 0023 Parcel 0080, 0.35 acres)***

Mayor Schlosnagle shared details from Phil Smith's email dated September 30, 2024, regarding the 0.35-acre property identified as account 02018519, Map 300, Parcel 080. As discussed, this property is an abandoned spring and water supply for the town of Friendsville, and it is effectively landlocked by Mr. Spear and I-68. After further consolidation, the SDAT will categorize this as tertiary land, reducing its value to \$500. No assessment notices are sent for exempt properties, but they should appear in our real property data search within a couple of days. Phil Smith is the Supervisor of Assessments, Garrett County.

An informal price opinion on the property was received from Dan Shockey, Taylor-Made Deep Creek Vacations & Sales, given these unique factors of this parcel the value is somewhere between \$1,000-\$5,000.

**Motion #3:** (Council member Sines/Council member Kelley) Approval to move forward with advertisement of the sale of the property account # 02018519, Map 300, Parcel 080 with the stipulation that the Town of Friendsville has the right to reject the offer.

4 in favor/1 opposed/0 abstention. Motion carries.

### ***Concession Stand/ADA Restroom – Update***

Mayor Schlosnagle reported that on August 22<sup>nd</sup>, Wanda requested Siera Wigfield to process an advance payment of \$76,185.00 from Garrett County Government to the Town of Friendsville. Today, Mayor Schlosnagle received notification that the advancement has been processed and he will be picking up the check from Garrett County Government tomorrow. Cornerstone Construction has submitted payment requests for Invoice #43 and #44. Wanda will process them for payment once she receives approval that the completion of the work has been completed. Mayor Schlosnagle asked the council members to inspect the building and provide him with a report.

### ***Voting Response – Michael Llewellyn***

Mayor Schlosnagle shared an email response (**Appendix A**) from Michael Llewellyn regarding businesses in the 21531 area to vote in town elections. Wanda will email the response to the Greater Friendsville Business Association and members who attended the meeting on Monday, August 19, 2024.

### **New Business**

#### ***Draft - Resolution #2024-04***

Mayor Schlosnagle announced that he has received the updated 2024 Garrett Hazard Mitigation Plan. The draft resolution for adopting the updated 2024 Garrett County Multi-jurisdiction Hazard Mitigation Plan for the Town of Friendsville was made available to the council members and will be posted in the United State Post Office, Friendsville Library & Friendsville Town Hall. The resolution will be read and voted on at the next Mayor & Town Council meeting on October 21, 2024.

Mayor Schlosnagle received a copy of the 2024 Garrett Hazard Mitigation Plan from Kevin Null. He asked Council Member Kelley, who participated in the committee, for any insights on the plan. Kelley mentioned he only attended the initial two planning meetings and that the plan was completed by JH Consulting, LLC, so he did not have further information to provide. The Council agreed it would be beneficial to invite someone to give an overview of the plan, given its complexity and the need to understand its relevance to Friendsville.

#### ***Mountain Maryland PACE 2025***

Mayor Schlosnagle announced that Mountain Maryland PACE 2025 will take place on Thursday, January 16, 2025, and Friday, January 17, 2025, at the Westin Annapolis Hotel in Annapolis, MD. The reception will be a cocktail party featuring hors d'oeuvres and an open bar, along with displays highlighting businesses, attractions, educational institutions, and organizations from Allegany and Garrett Counties. This event provides a valuable opportunity for Mountain Maryland residents to engage with state and federal government officials in an informal setting, allowing for discussions

on strategic new projects and key legislative issues affecting Allegany and Garrett Counties. A buffet-style breakfast will be served, featuring a keynote speaker, and attendees will include members and leaders of the Maryland General Assembly, county commissioners, economic development officials, chamber of commerce leaders, and citizens from Mountain Maryland. Mayor Schlosnagle is seeking potential funding suggestions for the Town of Friendsville that can be presented to funders. Please bring any ideas to the November meeting.

### **Mayor's Report:**

- Thank you note from Tri-State Truck Show Team was shared with the group.
- Reminder October 9<sup>th</sup> is the next Friendsville Elementary School Walking Bus activity.
- The zoning hearing for Variance 2024-01 was held on October 1, 2024. Rob Smith, Chair, submitted his opinion to Chad Fike, Assistant Director of the Garrett County Planning & Management Division, regarding the Friendsville Library.
- Mayor Schlosnagle shared that Roy Musselwhite that the DNR will address the fence and get the mowing scheduled for the trail. Regarding the trees against the bridge abutments under the I-68 bridges in the Yough, Matt Sell recommended to reach out to the Garrett County Roads Department or the State Highway Administration to look at the issue.
- The Garrett County Heritage Area gathered on Friday, September 27, 2024, at the Friend Family Museum. Carol Squires was present along with six new members, including Mayor Schlosnagle. Amber Sanders announced that a portable kiosk is available for events.
- Michael Llewelyn is handling the probate process for the property on Walnut Street.
- Business After Hours went well and there was a great turn-out for the event.
- Garrett Equipment Rentals, LLC gave a proposal for the cost & installation of an emergency lighting system on the Ford F150 truck at the cost of \$550.00.

**Motion #4:** (Council member MacLane/Council member Kelley) Approval to move forward with the purchase & installation of the emergency lighting system for the Ford F150 truck by Garrett Equipment Rentals, LLC.

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

- 3-Slow Moving Vehicle Triangle Sign, Aluminum 14"x16" Engineering Grade Reflective were purchased to place on the cement barrier. The barrier will be moved next week.
- Mayor Schlosnagle notified that the deed at the water plant has never been transferred.

### **Clerk's Report:**

**Motion #5:** (Council member Sines/Council member MacLane) Approval to accept the clerk's report, payables, receivables, and salary summary for the month of September.

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

### **Committees Reports:**

- **Buildings:** Nothing
- **Safety:** Nothing
- **Streets & Sidewalks:** Nothing
- **Community Park:** Walking trail pavement down by the takeout area is breaking & coming up; Council member MacLane will share pictures with Wanda.
- **Trees & Shrub:** Halian planted a Sugar Maple tree on Maple Street, and Council Member MacLane collaborated with Dred and Clint to stake and straighten the trees at Town Hall.

MacLane also mentioned that she reached out to Katherine about the woodpecker-damaged maple tree at the Cathy Coddington property. They have scheduled a meeting on October 23 at 1:00 p.m. to assess the situation.

- **Economic Development:** Mayor Schlosnagle shared that two properties are possible under contract on Main Street for purchase.

**Concerns of Council Members:**

Council member Kelley inquired about when we are planning to move forward on the construction of the Restroom/electrical room over at the softball field. Mayor Schlosnagle explained that we would reach out to Tiffany DePaoli, DNR to inquire about the process of arranging for advance payment(s) for the Town of Friendsville. Since we have limited working operating funds, understanding the necessary steps and requirements for securing these funds in advance would assist us in planning our project timeline and ensuring smooth execution.


The next Mayor & Town Council meeting will be on October 21, 2024.

**Adjournment:**

**Motion #6** (Council member MacLane/Council member Kelley): Approval to adjourn the meeting. 5 in favor/0 opposed/0 abstention. Motion carries.

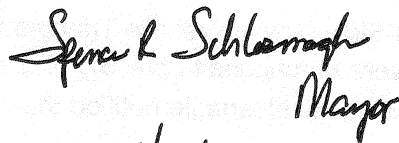
The meeting was adjourned at 7:40 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



Wanda M. Guard,  
Administrative Assistant, Clerk-Treasurer

Approved:



Mayor

11/4/2024

## (Appendix A)

**From:** [Town of Friendsville](#)  
**To:** [Mike Robinson](#); [thearchorusa@gmail.com](#)  
**Cc:** [Jennifer Uphold](#); [Lynn.Aycock819@gmail.com](#); [flannerybrigit@gmail.com](#); [fithian18@gmail.com](#); [ana.sines@ymail.com](#); [articebonnie@gmail.com](#); [pam.jasper@hotmail.com](#); [Alea McClintock](#); [werisepsllc@gmail.com](#); [tfriend0626@gmail.com](#); [Kimb Alexander](#); [Kelsey Artice](#); [coltengeversde@gmail.com](#); [Ed Kelley](#); [humbersonrandy@gmail.com](#); [James Hook](#); [Michael Artice](#); [Pam Humberson](#); [Robert Sines](#); [sherylmaclane@gmail.com](#)  
**Subject:** Ability of Business in 21531 Voting - Town of Friendsville  
**Date:** Tuesday, October 8, 2024 8:57:00 AM  
**Attachments:** [image001.png](#)

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Dear Chairman Robinson & Greater Friendsville Business Association Members,

In response to your recent inquiry regarding the ability of businesses in the 21531 area to vote in town elections, the Mayor has consulted with our attorney, Mike Llewellyn, for clarification.

Below is the email containing the details provided:

As always, we encourage you to attend our Mayor & Town Council meetings to share your thoughts and concerns. Thank you, Wanda

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**From:** Mike Llewellyn <[mllewellyn@gmpglaw.com](mailto:mllewellyn@gmpglaw.com)>  
**Sent:** Monday, October 7, 2024 3:31 PM  
**To:** Town of Friendsville <[info@friendsville.org](mailto:info@friendsville.org)>; Spencer Schlosnagle <[srschlosnagle@gmail.com](mailto:srschlosnagle@gmail.com)>  
**Cc:** Stefan Hoffmann <[shoffmann@gmpglaw.com](mailto:shoffmann@gmpglaw.com)>; Matt Lamp <[mlamp@gmpglaw.com](mailto:mlamp@gmpglaw.com)>  
**Subject:** Question - Can Corporations Vote In Town Elections

Mayor,

You asked whether the Town can amend its charter to allow businesses (i.e. corporations, companies, partnerships, etc.) to vote in Town elections. The short answer is no.

First, I direct you to Section 5-102 of the Charter of the Town of Friendsville, which states:

“**Persons** who reside within the corporate boundaries of the municipal corporation at the closing of registration next preceding any municipal election and who are qualified to vote for members of the General Assembly of Maryland shall have the right to vote in all municipal elections.” (Emphasis added).”

Thus, to allow businesses to vote, this section of the Charter would have to be amended. For the reasons stated below, such a change would not be valid.

Second, I direct you to Section 1-101 of the Charter, which states, in part: “The **citizens of the Town of Friendsville**, in Garrett County, Maryland, **are hereby constituted a body corporate** to be known as the “Mayor and Town Council of Friendsville.” (Emphasis added). So the Town is made up of citizens. As explained below, citizens are people.

Third, I direct you to Article I, Section I of the Maryland Constitution, which states, in part:

“Except as provided in Section 2A or Section 3 of this article, **every citizen of the United States**, of the age of 18 years or upwards, **who is a resident of the State** as of the time for the closing of registration next preceding the election, **shall be entitled to vote in the ward or election district in which the citizen resides at all elections to be held in this State.**”

It follows that to vote in “any election in this state,” you have to be (1) a U.S. citizen, and (2) a Maryland resident. To vote in a Friendsville election, you also have to reside in the corporate boundaries of the Town. What makes a citizen? The 14<sup>th</sup> Amendment of the United States Constitution states, in pertinent part:

“All **persons** born or naturalized in the United States, and subject to the jurisdiction thereof, are citizens of the United States and of the State wherein they reside. “ (Emphasis added).

People are citizens, not businesses. And because you have to be a citizen to vote in Maryland, only people can vote in Maryland. This is true across Maryland in all elections, including municipal elections.

I hope this is helpful. Let me know if you have any questions.

Thanks,

Mike

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