Meeting Minutes

Workshop

Date: November 5, 2026, 6:00 PM **Meeting Type:** Workshop

Call to Order

The workshop meeting was called to order at 6:06 p.m. at Meeting Hall, 111 S. Main St., followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. During opening remarks, the Mayor encouraged residents to display green lights in advance of Veterans Day to honor veterans in the community.

Resolution 2026-R-04 Cooling-Off Period

Kim stated that she had reviewed Lindsay's edits and suggestions to Resolution 2026-R-04 and agreed with the revisions except for the provision applying the cooling-off period to appointed volunteers. Council discussed that unpaid appointees serving on bodies such as the Planning and Zoning Board, the Ethics Committee, and as election judges should not be barred from later seeking Town employment solely because of volunteer service. Pete agreed with that concern. Council also reviewed Lindsay's legal comments concerning terminology, enforcement, and ethics review procedures. Consensus direction was given to revise the draft so the cooling-off restriction would not apply to appointed volunteer board, commission, or committee members.

Council also supported conforming the draft terminology from references to "commissioners" to "council" and incorporating Lindsay's legal edits regarding enforcement and ethics-related language.

The revised resolution is to be returned for further consideration at the November 19 meeting.

Resolution 2026-R-05 Data Center Moratorium

Council reviewed Resolution 2026-R-05 establishing a temporary moratorium on data centers. The discussion focused on allowing the Town time to evaluate potential impacts on infrastructure, including water, sewer, roads, and overall operations, should a data center proposal ever be presented. Cindy noted that she had already removed an outdated comprehensive plan reference and an expired date from the draft. Council discussed the proposed 18-month term, whether a longer period such as 24 months was needed, and the fact that other moratoria had used similar timeframes. Members concluded that 18 months would provide sufficient time for review if needed.

Ordinance 2026-O-12 Solar Zoning

Council discussed Ordinance 2026-O-12 concerning solar zoning and renewable energy installations. The discussion centered on the Town's interest in allowing solar panels at the wastewater treatment plant to reduce electric costs and support grant applications, while limiting the allowance to government-related uses. Members confirmed that the draft would apply within the government services district and for public utility facilities, and that the fire department could also qualify under the proposed language. Council clarified that the ordinance was not intended to authorize private property owners to install large ground-mounted system**s** outside those limits.

Proposal for Town Attorney Kevin Best

Council reviewed the proposal to appoint Kevin Best as Town Attorney. The Mayor and staff reported that Lindsay had advised the Town that additional legal capacity was needed and recommended seeking a replacement for general municipal representation. Mr. Best's qualifications, biography, and fee proposal were discussed, including his municipal practice, his work for Galena, and his teaching role for legal sessions through the Maryland Municipal League. Council noted that his hourly rate matched the Town's current rate and that he had previously assisted Greensboro on a conflict matter involving the ethics commission. Kim raised questions concerning charter procedure, publication requirements, meeting attendance, travel charges, records retention, and access to counsel by individual council

members. It was stated that the ongoing Goldsboro case would remain with Lindsay because of her historical knowledge with that matter. The discussion also expanded to broader governance issues, including unfinished charter updates, the need for a records retention schedule with the State of Maryland, and whether Chapter 16 and the role of the ethics commission should be revisited.

The Mayor stated that Kevin Best was expected to attend the November 19 meeting for Council's consideration and possible swearing-in.

Council was advised that individual council members would not have separate direct access to the Town Attorney outside the Town's established process.

Council Discussion

During Council discussion, Joe raised police recruitment concerns and said officers had told him that participation in LEOPS would improve the Town's ability to hire a chief of police and additional officers. Council recalled prior information that departments with fewer than five officers may not qualify; members agreed staff should verify the current requirements and cost implications. The Mayor also noted that Pastor Morley had requested placement on the November 19 agenda, and Council discussed the workload being placed on volunteer boards, including the ethics body now composed of Reveren Bonnie, Pastor Doug, and Jessica Ortiz, whose terms will end in January 2027. Additional discussion covered making Veterans Day green light bulbs available at Town Hall next year, coordinating with public works on lighting for the November 30 holiday event at the park and pavilion, the December 7 County elected officials swearing-in, the upcoming Maryland Municipal League conference, and the status of the administrative cooperation policy submitted in August.

Staff to report back on LEOPS eligibility and costs.

Staff to review purchase and sale for green Veterans Day light bulbs at Town Hall.

Public works to prepare lighting arrangements for the November 30 event.

Administrative cooperation policy to be included on the November 19 agenda.

Adjournment

Upon motion duly made and approved by those present, the workshop adjourned at 6:35 p.m.

Mayor, David Spencer