

VILLAGE COUNCIL

MELANIE ROSE WHITE, *Mayor*
ROBERT PESTRONK, *Chairman*
DANIEL AHR, *Vice Chairman*
MARTHA SOLT, *Secretary*
ROY SCHAEFFER, *Treasurer*
MICHAEL MEZEY
CHERYL TYLER

JULIAN P. MANSFIELD, *Village Manager*

VILLAGE OF FRIENDSHIP HEIGHTS

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APPROVED MINUTES

PUBLIC SESSION

**FRIENDSHIP HEIGHTS VILLAGE
COUNCIL**

Conducted via Livestream Monday,

March 11, 2024

A video of the meeting can be found at:

<https://www.regionalwebtv.com/village-of-friendship-heights>

ATTENDEES:

Bobby Pestronk, Chairman
Martha Solt, Secretary
Roy Schaeffer, Treasurer
Melanie Rose White, Mayor
Daniel Ahr
Michael Mezey
Cheryl Tyler
Julian Mansfield, Village Manager
Jason Goldstein, Assistant Village Manager/Chief Innovation Officer

RECORDING OF MEETING

Recording of this meeting may be found at:

<https://www.regionalwebtv.com/village-of-friendship-heights>; the reference time on the recording time is noted for each topic.

CALL TO ORDER (0:01)

- o Presentation on Village survey results by Geraldine Hayes, PhD Candidate at the George Washington University Trachtenberg School of Public Policy and Public Administration (4:15)
- o Questions from the public to the Council
 - o Joan Wheeler (41:00)

- o Alfred Muller (41:55)
- o Patricia Canessa (44:24)

- o Chair's announcements (48:15)

- o Mayor's announcements (51:00)

- o Comments from the public to the Council
 - o Charles Schwartz (52:10)
 - o Alfred Muller (56:23)
 - o Roger Cochetti (59:29)

- o Comments from the Council

APPROVAL OF MINUTES (1:03:00)

- o Public session minutes of the February 12 Council meeting
 - o **Secretary Solt moved, Councilman Mezey seconded, to adopt the minutes from the Council meeting of February 12, 2024. The motion passed. For: Mezey, Schaeffer, Solt, Tyler, White; Abstain: Ayr, Pestronk.**

TREASURER'S REPORT (1:04:00))

VILLAGE MANAGER'S REPORT (1:08:07)

COMMITTEE REPORTS (1:09:44)

- o Report of Council Finance Committee meeting of February 13; report of Council Personnel Committee meeting of February 22; report from Council Public Safety Committee; report by Christine Knauer of Climate Change & Environment Committee on salting of Village roads and sidewalks
 - o **Mayor White moved, Councilman Mezey seconded, the creation of a swing or back-up front-desk position for no more than 20 hours per week. The motion passed. For: Ahr, Mezey, Schaeffer, Solt, Tyler, White; Abstain: Pestronk (1:12:11)**

OLD BUSINESS

- o Discussion/vote on new Council member Daniel Ahr's officer position (1:38:10)
 - o **Mayor White moved, Councilperson Tyler seconded, the appointment of Daniel Ahr as Vice Chairman with a special interest in Parliamentary issues. The motion passed. For: Mezey, Schaeffer, Solt, Tyler, White. Abstain: Ayr, Pestronk.**

 - o **Mayor White moved, Councilperson Schaeffer seconded, the appointment of Daniel Ahr to the Parks and Grounds and Communications Committees. The motion passed. For: Mezey, Schaeffer, Solt, Tyler, White. Abstain: Ayr, Pestronk.**

- Possible discussion/vote on Red House tenant's lease proposal and renovation cost estimates (1:42:02)
- Discussion/vote on fountain maintenance/irrigation contract bids
 - **Councilman Mezey, Councilperson Solt seconded, a recommendation by the Village Manager to accept a bid from Culler Irrigation for \$12,822 per year (\$38,467 over three years) for fountain maintenance and irrigation. The motion passed. For: Ayr, Mezey, Schaeffer, Solt, Tyler, White. Abstain: Pestronk. (1:58:00)**
- Discussion/vote on draft Request for Proposals (RFP) for interior plant maintenance contract
 - **Councilman Schaeffer moved, Councilman Ahr seconded, to issue a Request for Proposal (RFP) for interior plant maintenance, including only the first four bullets of the Village Manager's draft scope of work (i.e., excluding the last bullet concerning holidays and special events). The motion passed. For: Ayr, Mezey, Schaeffer, Solt, Tyler, White. Abstain: Pestronk. (2:03:20)**

NEW BUSINESS

- Authorization of signers on Village accounts with Capital Bank
 - **Councilman Mezey moved, Chairperson Tyler seconded, a motion to adopt a resolution authorizing: i) the Mayor, Treasurer, and the Chairperson to have signature authority for the Village's Capital Bank accounts, and ii) the Village Manager, Assistant Village Manager, and Financial Assistant to have signature authority for the Village's petty cash account at Capital Bank. The motion passed. For: Ayr, Mezey, Schaeffer, Solt, Tyler, White. Abstain: Pestronk. (2:11:24)**

CLOSED MEETING

- Discussion/vote on motion to enter closed session pursuant to Maryland Code, General Provisions Article, Section 3-305(b)(1), to discuss the appointment, employment, assignment, promotion, discipline, demotion, compensation, removal, resignation, or performance evaluation of an appointees, employees, or officials over whom this public body has jurisdiction; or any other personnel matter that affects one or more specific individuals. The reason for the closed meeting is to discuss and vote on the Personnel Committee's recommendations for FY 2025 staff salaries and one proposed title change. (2:23:23)

Councilperson Tyler moved, Mayor White seconded, for the Council to move to closed session to discuss salary recommendations for Village employees. The motion passed. For: Ayr, Mezey, Schaeffer, Solt, Tyler, White. Abstain: Pestronk.

ADJOURNMENT (2:25:00)

The meeting adjourned at 9:25 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:

 4/16/2024
Martha Solt, Council Secretary