

**Village of Friendship Heights**  
**February 9, 2026 Meeting Transcript**

**[00:00:07.14] - Speaker 8**

Who have actually shown up on this cold day, so really appreciate it. But also, I know that there are people online, and hopefully our audio system is the improvements are sustained and you can hear better than in prior months. Before we proceed with our agenda, I'm hoping we all have thoughts and prayers for the families involved in the Rockville school shooting today. It's obviously a very difficult situation that should never, ever happen. I hope you'll join me in thinking about them. One question. Is the new proprietor of the Friendship Village, Gourmet, here? Okay. He would like to speak to us at some point, and unfortunately, he didn't communicate that last time, so he was here till the end. So we need to arrange a time. So the first thing on our agenda is the update on Page Park and the Red House from our project manager, Jim Wilson, who you've heard from before. Jim, you have the floor. Thank you.

**[00:01:36.03] - Speaker 1**

Thank you. Red means I'm on. All right, everybody. Hope the rest of you have done better than Martha has with the fighting the snow there. It looks like you lost a little bit of battle. Sorry about that.

**[00:01:58.21] - Speaker 8**

He's talking about the I feel like that I fell on the ice and I have a bruised face.

**[00:02:04.19] - Speaker 1**

The contractor is going to be updating his schedule, but he was actually fortunate enough that he beat a lot of the really cold with the outside foundation work, which was... I don't know if he knew that or just got lucky, but he got it all done. He does have all the inspection reports coming in next week. They've got everything, the geotechnical report for a foundation and as well as concrete concrete cylinder breaks. They actually have to take the concrete, put in a cylinder and break it, making sure it's a correct strength. We'll have that next week. He has not updated the schedule. It sounds like it's not moving much, so he's still close to first week of April of being done. We'll see what happens there, but that was good news. We did have a couple of unforeseen conditions. We had some rotted wood that we found, which is going to happen. There's actually been a handful of them, but most of them we've been able to figure out with solutions that didn't cost anything. So the rotted wood, you can't undo that one. And then there's

another small valve that was I don't know if it was frozen and leaking some, but he's got to fix those.

**[00:03:18.11] - Speaker 1**

So very minor, and he's doing great moving forward.

**[00:03:23.11] - Speaker 8**

Just for everyone's benefit, at our last Parks and Grounds Committee, we approved the village manager is going forward with the payment to replace the rotten wood, as you mentioned. So it's not coming before the council, but it has been approved. Right.

**[00:03:39.04] - Speaker 1**

And it was fair and very incidental. This next week, we should be getting County inspections, closing inspections for the plumbing electrical that's in the wall. So all the rough-in has been done, and he's going to get his inspections for that work. Yes, sir.

**[00:03:58.04] - Speaker 2**

What were the inspectors down for this previous week?

**[00:04:01.24] - Speaker 1**

The inspections would have been, obviously, prior to all the snow and everything. They would have had to... They inspected the footings and the foundations for the new deck that is going out.

**[00:04:13.21] - Speaker 2**

So they did or they did not?

**[00:04:15.04] - Speaker 1**

They did. That was all done. That was done. And then a couple of weeks, week and a half or so before that, they did all the inspections for the widening of the concrete going down into the lower level.

**[00:04:28.22] - Speaker 2**

And approved it?

**[00:04:30.00] - Speaker 1**

Yes, there were no issues. They're going to be getting the concrete test results back next week, and we're not expecting. It'd be very unusual to have any issues there. Thank you. That is all we have right now on Page... Or excuse me, Red House. Do you want questions?

**[00:04:51.11] - Speaker 8**

Any questions on the Red House? Thank you. Great.

**[00:04:57.27] - Speaker 1**

On Page Park, we did The Civil Engineer did resubmit or did submit the designs for the Sediment Erosion Control last week on schedule. He was not able to do it until he had received the concept stormwater management plan. So once that was approved, then he could submit his designs for the stormwater management. So that was submitted. We have also received his The first draft or the beginnings of the design documents for all of the work that was out there because the sequence is very rigid in the county. You have to take one step, do the next one, do the next one. We received those, and from those, we've developed a draft of the proposal for the RFP for the contractors. Julian and I have a few details to go through to finish up, but it's pretty Pretty much ready to go out for bid, and we would expect a three-week bid period is what we're thinking. If it changes, we'll let you know. We're expecting to have final permits from the county round the first of May. Early May is when we're expecting to get permits. If it happens sooner, that would be great, but it's not usually one of those things that the county is able to do.

**[00:06:34.12] - Speaker 1**

They're pretty busy. So that is the next thing that will happen is when we get our bids back is it'll be the selection for the contractors will be whatever that process. I don't know how that process exactly works here, but that'll be done before the be in April that we will be doing that.

**[00:06:54.11] - Speaker 8**

Julian, is the council involved in that? Selection of the contractors?

**[00:06:59.17] - Speaker 4**

Yes. Yes. Okay. So we will issue the RFP with our standard process, and then there's going to be a pre-bid meeting that we have to coordinate when that will be because that needs to be announced with the RFP. And then the proposals, Jim will review them with me and will, and those have to come back to the council, certainly because of the cost involved. Could I ask a quick question about the pergola removal? Sure. I mean, obviously, they can't do that with the frozen tundra outside. Yeah, it There are two things.

**[00:07:30.13] - Speaker 1**

It will not be an issue of the scheduling associated with the work that's going to take place for the park, and he'll do it as soon as he's not having to do it through the ice Crete.

**[00:07:45.18] - Speaker 8**

If I recall, you mentioned at our Parks and Grounds Committee meeting that at this point, the very rough estimate for opening the park is now into the summer.

**[00:07:58.29] - Speaker 1**

It's probably He had communications with the civil engineer. He probably thought it would take him about 90 days to do the whole thing. We'll see what happens when the bids come back. Sure feels like a long time, but at any rate, it would be 90 days after May, the first of May.

**[00:08:18.24] - Speaker 8**

So May, June, July. Whatever that's three months. So May, June, July.

**[00:08:20.20] - Speaker 1**

Right, yeah. End of July.

**[00:08:22.01] - Speaker 2**

Okay. Madam Chair?

**[00:08:23.15] - Speaker 8**

Sure.

**[00:08:25.14] - Speaker 2**

Jim, again, I repeat. I'm sure you know, but repeat for the record, when you get a certain date or week for the removal of the pergola, the budding apartments need to be notified so they're not all calling here and saying, Someone's stealing your pergola.

**[00:08:46.22] - Speaker 1**

We will do that. We'll make sure. However that happens, Julian, we'll just make sure we're communicating. Yes, sir.

**[00:08:56.03] - Speaker 8**

Any other questions or comments? Vik, do you have anything?

**[00:09:03.28] - Speaker 3**

No, I'm fine. Okay.

**[00:09:05.28] - Speaker 8**

Thank you very much. Thank you. I appreciate your continuing work on this. Absolutely. Thank you. The next on our agenda is the Chair's comments. How could I say any words if I didn't mention snow and ice? I can give a personal testament to the fact that there is gravity and that ice is slippery. So I advise everyone to be as safe as they possibly can. It's been a unique type of snow here. I think we've done a pretty good job. It's the crosswalks that have been the most difficult. The ramps into the crosswalks and then the pushing the snow blocking pedestrians, which if you're in a car all the time, you probably wouldn't notice. But But that's been a challenge. And later, our village manager will tell folks how to notify Montgomery County if there's snow or ice that needs to be removed on their property And if it's in the village, please contact the village center here. Can I finish my comments? I'm sorry. It's okay. We had a Winter Fest on the 31st of January. January, and amazingly, 175 people came out in the cold and enjoyed food and entertainment. Finally, the Council members received a briefing on what our managers learned from attending the ICMA conference, and I'll probably butcher this.

**[00:10:49.01] - Speaker 8**

International City... What is it?

**[00:10:53.22] - Speaker 4**

International City County Management Association.

**[00:10:56.06] - Speaker 8**

There we go. Okay. There There are two topics that we as council members are going to be learning more about and I think are very important to our community. That's maintaining civility in public meetings and enhancing civic engagement. Our managers are going to be giving us ideas and possible projects when they dig deeper into those ideas. Council member Muller, did you want to say something?

**[00:11:27.25] - Speaker 2**

I just wanted to say I've lived here for 50 years and we've had more snow two or three times, but we've never had ice like this. Never, not once in 50 years. I don't know about before 50 years, but this has been really a disaster for people. I saw a lady fall just earlier this afternoon, trying to get from her car to the sidewalk. It's terrible.

**[00:11:56.22] - Speaker 8**

Yes, you can't be too careful. Next on our agenda is comments from the public, and we're going to have two sets. If you have comments about development or Geico or the Friendship Pite sector plan, please hold those off until we have the committee report on those, and then we'll open that up. So right now is everything any comments except development, Geico, and Friendship Heights Sector Plan. But before I call people, I'd like to note that one of the recommendations made at the ICMA conference was to be very clear during the public comment period about the various ways that people can communicate with the village and village employees. Every council member has an email address, which you can find on the village website, and please feel free to send an email at any time. If you If you don't know who to send the email to concerning your topic, you can just send it to [info@friendshipheightsmd.gov](mailto:info@friendshipheightsmd.gov), and that's also on our website. That will be either dealt with by our staff or funneled to the correct person. If you would like a copy of a specific existing document maintained by the village, you can submit a public information request.

**[00:13:30.17] - Speaker 8**

I'm sorry. To the village manager or to the info at blah, blah, blah. Yes. So Now, our comment period. This is for the general comments for three minutes to share information concerns or questions with the council. Our intent in this period is to hear from you and learn from you. It is not really to have a dialog. But if there are simple factual questions, we'll try to answer them. For others, or if you feel like you're not getting what you need, please stay after. We can arrange a time to follow up with you. I'm going to read names, and if you are here for a development Geiko

or a sector plan topic, if you could hold off until later, you'll have a chance. Susan Green. Yeah, mine's about the sector plan on that. Okay, thank you. Roger Cuceti.

**[00:14:40.12] - Speaker 6**

Just a few quick things. First on the snow disaster that we've had the last few days, one suggestion I'd make follows the practice of a few other jurisdictions, and that is we all know the problem. It's where the sidewalks and the streets come and then the plow comes and creates a big pile of snow, and the sidewalk being clear doesn't solve it. I think if someone were to create a volunteer group or offer and publicize an opportunity to volunteer, if the village supplied people with ice picks and snow shovels, you would probably get a few dozen, if not a few hundred people who would volunteer to go and take care of that little strip that that's needed. In fact, you might get some people say, We're the guardians for this corner, or some such things. So I think it can be solved through volunteerism, but the village has to provide the supplies and the organization. I've mentioned before my objection to having Zoom-only meetings of the committees, or for that matter, the council, based on my belief that it excludes about a third of the residents who will never participate in the Zoom. So there's simply cut out.

**[00:16:03.26] - Speaker 6**

I wanted to add there's a new development that I've experienced, which makes it even more problematic going into the future. I participated in my first Zoom in which I thought I knew every one of the participants. It lasted about an hour. And then one of them afterwards explained to us that he had never been in the Zoom. It was an artificial presentation of him. So we're entering an era in which you don't know who is really on the Zoom, and this will increase and get better as time goes on. Last thing I wanted to mention is I've served on one advisory committee, so I don't have a lot of experience. But I would say that what experience I have tells me that there's an important disclosure that really needs to be made in advisory committees. Did you know that I am being compensated by Geico when I was appointed to a committee? Did you know that I was being compensated by City Center when I was appointed to a committee? Of course you didn't know because nobody asked. Simply ask the question, are you being compensated by any party with an interest in the matters before the village?

**[00:17:20.02] - Speaker 6**

And if so, who's compensating you? Simple disclosure, I think, would be good government for everybody. And that's all my comments. Thanks.

**[00:17:31.04] - Speaker 8**

Just so you know, we don't currently have the capability to have a dual Zoom in-person meeting, but we're looking into how to make that happen. Okay?

**[00:17:39.20] - Speaker 6**

You should use a help, a cell phone. Set up a cell phone.

**[00:17:43.20] - Speaker 8**

You could, But also, Council member Klein, does our ethics policy address the idea of disclosing where you get compensation if you're Not just, if you are a committee member?

**[00:18:03.03] - Speaker 6**

And if you have a matter that's... Are you being compensated by somebody who has, in some entity, that has an interest before? Not just any... Obviously, everybody's getting some compensation from somebody, but a matter before the count.

**[00:18:21.20] - Speaker 2**

Madam Chair.

**[00:18:22.14] - Speaker 3**

No, it doesn't address that. I think it becomes clear, based on the advisory committee that I'm on, what people's perspectives are. I think that that in and of itself is something people take into consideration. We've been meeting now on the development committee for quite a while, and I think that people have taken positions on things, and it's not surprising when they say certain things. Whether or not they're saying it out of their own belief or whether it's because someone's paid them, it still is a comment that is assessed as to its reasonableness and whether other people agree with it. I haven't been concerned about that in the same way I was concerned when I worked for the federal government, and the stakes were just different, and the sums of money and the policy issue is just very Can I offer a quick comment?

**[00:19:33.16] - Speaker 8**

Sorry. Council member, Paul.

**[00:19:37.19] - Speaker 2**

Yes. Just a quick notation. For those watching, I think you need to know that Mr. Cuceti's specific comments about Geiko were anything but subservient to them. He's been very critical. So I don't want people going away thinking perhaps he was giving something inappropriate. I do think, though, he raises It was an important fact, which I think unintentionally was not understood when many of the new Advisory Committee members were chosen. There is a process in our bylaws and by tradition that for many of these, the mayor appoints in the council then with the consent of the council. But we have, sadly, run amiss because if you check carefully, you will see that on a number of instances, people were asked to be on the committees before the council even knew they were nominated, and we never got resumes. We certainly never got a chance to ask questions in any way to them. I think that should be remedied in the future. I know it was not intentional, and we have very good people on all the committees, so I'm not disparaging them. But it's not a pro-former thing that we should just automatically endorse everyone. It's intended that we have at least the opportunity.

**[00:21:08.21] - Speaker 2**

It's almost never used, but we should, each of us, and not just the person or person's that are nominating.

**[00:21:17.23] - Speaker 8**

Thank you. Morris Antonelli.

**[00:21:22.23] - Speaker 2**

Thank you. Morris Antonelli. I live in 4620 North Park. I'm here to speak a bit on Page Page Park, not to rehash any past history.

**[00:21:35.11] - Speaker 8**

That's a blessing. Thank you. Okay.

**[00:21:37.14] - Speaker 2**

But to go forward, I think that Page Park is in need of something, a unique character. With Humphrey Park, we have the fountain outside and lights and various other things. I would like to propose for consideration from the council that we think in terms of some type of a sculpture, a prominent sculpture, something special. I think that would be an addition to Page Park and to set it aside. What we have now, the pergolas down, that was a feature of the last iteration, but I think we're in need of something distinctive and of high quality. I would like to propose that for

consideration. Further, and I have no relationship to the sculptor, Barton Rubenstein. Some of you may know his work. He happens to have a studio in Somerset. For any of you familiar with the Somerset Elementary School, one of his pieces is there. I suppose. I think his children went there. He has a number of pieces in the Washington area. American University has a couple, some others. He is, I think, rather prominent worldwide with some sculpture in the school with David Smith, the famous stainless steel type sculpture. I just think that Page Park is in need of something distinctive and a piece of high-quality art, I think would be appropriate.

**[00:23:20.17] - Speaker 2**

If a committee is formed, I would volunteer to be part of that, but I have no formal in relationship to Barton Rubenstein. I have been to his studio, and I'm a bit familiar with some of his work, so I get some of his mailings and things like that. That is it. If any of you want to see a piece that is just five minutes the way the garden outside of Somerset Elementary School has a piece of his art that's been there for quite some time.

**[00:23:54.11] - Speaker 8**

That's all I have. Thank you very much. We know your name and how to follow up with you. Okay.

**[00:24:02.23] - Speaker 2**

Thank you very much. That was an intriguing suggestion. Just so you know, before we were slightly detoured for three years on getting the park itself finished, the former chair of the Parks and Grounds Committee had looked into the potential of a sculpture piece around the edge of where the children's play area will be, and specifically looked at some of the Sewell Johnson pieces, of which we have two here as a counterpart, with children involved. So you're on the same wavelength, and I certainly hope you will stay involved. It's a great idea. I'm not proposing any particular place. I think that would be maybe up to the artist and the committee. But well, thank you. I think it would be a positive outcome. Thank you.

**[00:24:56.25] - Speaker 8**

Bobby Pestrunk.

**[00:25:07.25] - Speaker 2**

Martha, sorry to learn about your fall tonight, and I hope it's only cosmetic and temporary.

**[00:25:15.09] - Speaker 8**

It could have been a lot worse, but yeah, I was lucky. Thank you, though.

**[00:25:19.22] - Speaker 2**

With due respect to Council members, since I was not provided an opportunity to respond to the mayor's comments at January's Council meeting, other than to briefly We note the performative deflection, which was consistent with his approach while I served on Council with him. I respond now. Last month, I raised a concern regarding a potential conflict of interest related to the motion made in December for the installation of an EV charging station in the village and its use by anyone without charge. The motion was made by a Council member who owns an electric vehicle and was supported by other Council members whose ownership status was not disclosed. This now seems contrary to Section 714 of the ethics policy discussed, ironically, at that meeting. I also stated that the experience of other communities that have installed EV charging stations were not accurately represented. Those communities implemented more cost-effective methods for installing and funding their charging stations. Additionally, I pointed out that all but one council member did not respond to questions I raised prior to the meeting, both through the village website and to each member directly. This followed a lack of response to a question I raised in January on a different matter.

**[00:26:40.06] - Speaker 2**

These failures to respond to raise additional concerns about transparency advocacy, responsiveness, and the lack of a foundation for a well-informed and involved community. Values raised in the last campaign's candidate literature. I ask residents and council members to consider the mayor's response to comments made by a resident last month. They reflect how the village and council are represented, how an elected official response to residents is relevant to public discourse and civic engagement. Accuracy and respectful communication are important to maintain public trust. So in addition, I wish to correct the mayor's statement that my family members and I used the village shuttle during my time in office. That That statement is incorrect. There was no conflict of interest in my vote to include funding for the Shuttle in the fiscal year '26 budget. At the time of that vote, it was also reasonable to expect that any subsequent council action for installation would be based on appropriate and accurate research regarding installation and its cost. This appears not to have been the case. Thanks.

**[00:27:56.29] - Speaker 8**

Mr. Peatron, I think you're implying I had a conflict of interest because I have an electric vehicle, which you know because I delivered vegetables to you from my garden in that car, so you know

I have an electric vehicle. I have a charging station in my own condo. I don't need anyone else's. If there's something wrong with mine, I'll use my neighbor's. I have no interest in using, but I'm a strong believer in developing the infrastructure for electric vehicles. I'm very strong supporter of what Biden tried to do. It reduces the use of gas engines. It's better for the air. It's better for the noise. I really am a little flummoxed. The actual cost to me is 67 cents a day for my car. I'm a supporter of electric vehicles. I never made any... I didn't hide that. I understand you voted four times for this, and you never raised any of these questions. But I personally will not benefit from this. I hope that addresses your concern.

**[00:29:19.11] - Speaker 7**

Yeah. So let me respond to Mr. Robert Pestrunk's comments. First of all, I disagree with the premise of his remarks. Providing factual in context is not a deflection. It's necessary for accuracy and an honest discussion. And as Council member Solt just mentioned, as a Council member, Robert Pestrung voted three times, or maybe four, to acquire or fund the charging station. He never raised these concerns during these votes. In his two years on the council, he never raised any concerns regarding incidental benefits council members receive simply by being village residents. And I never said that you rode the shuttle. That was an example that when we discussed the shuttle, you didn't volunteer if you rode or didn't ride the shuttle or ask any council members to disclose that. Council member Pestrank did not ever disclose personal benefits he received from village-funded amenities voted in the budget. And as I said, I use the shuttle contract as an example. All council members to use village-funded services, but disclosing these incidental benefits has never been required or even expected. To answer your question directly, that is why no council member mentioned what car they drive. As a council member, Mr. Pestrank had the opportunity to propose a disclosure policy, but did not.

**[00:30:51.18] - Speaker 7**

And as chair of the council who literally set the agenda, if he wanted that discussion, we would have had it, but he never did. And now he's criticizing this council for not following a policy that has never existed and he never suggested. Thanks.

**[00:31:11.25] - Speaker 8**

Susan Hudson. Yes.

**[00:31:16.26] - Speaker 2**

I want to make clear so there's no confusion that I don't think there's any problem with council members, as Councilwoman Assault has done, indicate whether they have an electric vehicle or

not. I think it unnecessarily clouds the issue. I don't have an electric car. This car is going to have to suffice for a few more years if I'm still around. I think council members should not fear saying that they have one or don't have one. I think, personally, at this point, it's irrelevant. I thank the chair for sharing. I think we don't need to get into a back and forth, really.

**[00:32:02.02] - Speaker 8**

Thank you. Susan Hudson. Yes. Good evening. Good evening.

**[00:32:07.18] - Speaker 3**

I have a concern about the shuttle. I ride the shuttle, the new bus. I ride it in the morning, and I ride it in the evening.

**[00:32:14.26] - Speaker 8**

Most most evenings.

**[00:32:16.12] - Speaker 3**

And there are several blind people who need to get on that bus.

**[00:32:23.10] - Speaker 8**

Okay. A couple of things.

**[00:32:25.02] - Speaker 3**

One, there are not enough seats for everybody, including some days you have a lot of people in the evening who are at Whole Foods who have walkers.

**[00:32:34.02] - Speaker 8**

To even get on the bus, even if they let the ramp down, it's so steep that some of them, you have to stand behind them so they don't fall backwards.

**[00:32:46.27] - Speaker 3**

Once they are on the bus, now you have all of this space where they can put their walkers, but there's no place for them to sit. So it's almost not feasible. I don't know who decided that we get this shuttle, but it's almost not feasible for all the people who ride it, especially in the evening.

**[00:33:09.06] - Speaker 8**

Now, there's a blind lady, and she's blind and she's deaf. So in the mornings, there's somebody who helps her on and helps her off.

**[00:33:18.11] - Speaker 3**

Sometimes the ramp works and sometimes it doesn't. New bus, new shuttle, but it has a lot of issues. I'm thinking that maybe if maybe some of the council members can maybe ride it one morning when people are getting on and going to work or ride it in the evening when people are coming home. So you can see what I'm saying.

**[00:33:40.04] - Speaker 8**

And I'm speaking on behalf. I know a lot of them couldn't come because of the ice.

**[00:33:45.12] - Speaker 3**

So I'm able-bodied, and I'm more than willing to help anybody get on and off the shuttle. But if somebody like me or Patrick or Ron who drives in the evening, if we're not there, like we had a new shuttle driver tonight, he was late, and he didn't get off to help anybody do anything. To get on, I had to help the- That was tonight?

**[00:34:06.16] - Speaker 8**

That was tonight.

**[00:34:07.17] - Speaker 3**

That's why I was late coming to the meeting because he was late coming around.

**[00:34:11.07] - Speaker 8**

Then you got to help people on and off because he didn't know how to work the ramp.

**[00:34:16.21] - Speaker 3**

I'm just saying, I think we might need to rethink the shuttle just for the people who need a little bit more help.

**[00:34:25.20] - Speaker 8**

There needs to be more seating for sure.

**[00:34:28.15] - Speaker 3**

The middle seats, there's a hunk, right? So only one-Yes.

**[00:34:33.17] - Speaker 8**

Yeah. I know. So you know.

**[00:34:34.14] - Speaker 3**

So I'm just saying it's really not feasible for all those who need to ride it.

**[00:34:40.16] - Speaker 8**

Can I just ask you, do you notice this more now with the snow and the ice? Are there more people riding now with snow and the ice where you've noticed this, or is this a constant? It's a constant.

**[00:34:53.04] - Speaker 3**

Now, because Amazon Fresh just closed today, and a lot of people will get on there as well. So we may not have as many, but it's just a lot of unused space and not enough space for those who needed to sit, especially those were walkers and the blind, because it's two blind people ride in the morning when they don't want. Okay.

**[00:35:16.23] - Speaker 8**

Just so you know, we do have a shuttle bus. Do we call it an ad hoc advisory committee? Is that what it's called? A number of us participate in that. I know, Allison, you're the Council member on there, and maybe you can talk a little bit about how she might be able to participate, but I do have notes on what you're saying.

**[00:35:38.25] - Speaker 3**

Our next meeting, I believe, is on the 23rd.

**[00:35:41.05] - Speaker 8**

We had to reschedule our shuttle bus meeting because of the snow.

**[00:35:45.13] - Speaker 3**

So it was rescheduled as the 23rd. You're welcome to join us, of course.

**[00:35:49.05] - Speaker 8**

I have a quick question.

**[00:35:50.15] - Speaker 2**

In the afternoons or evenings, when is it particularly busy?

**[00:35:53.24] - Speaker 3**

I tend to ride in the middle of the afternoon when there's not as many people, but I want to get on when it's busy to see. Any time after 6: 00. After 6: 00. Okay, not a problem. Okay.

**[00:36:04.01] - Speaker 5**

I will definitely take that.

**[00:36:06.11] - Speaker 8**

If somebody else can do the mornings, that would be great.

**[00:36:08.11] - Speaker 2**

But I will do that.

**[00:36:10.25] - Speaker 3**

Please come to the meeting. We are addressing some of these issues.

**[00:36:13.22] - Speaker 8**

I know that Charlie, who is the head of that committee, he had raised the issue of the ramp, certainly, and of the seating, and noted that it was a priority. I'm glad that you're chiming in. We agree with you.

**[00:36:29.02] - Speaker 3**

Okay. All Thank you. Thank you.

**[00:36:33.07] - Speaker 8**

I think we're ready for the Village Manager's report.

**[00:36:42.14] - Speaker 4**

Thank you. Just a quick debrief, or hopefully not too much of a rehash, but about the snow removal. I just wanted to point out a few things. Obviously, this was a very difficult event, as everyone knows. Then in my time here, probably unprecedented in terms of the amount of ice and the amount of time to remove the snow. This was not an event that could just be dealt with in a few days like the typical ones that we have. But first, I wanted to thank the buildings and the property owners for generally doing very well as they have in the past. This was a tough one, but I think they did very well with the sidewalk clearing, which we always appreciate. It is the county law, but a lot of other places, it's not done very well. Here, consistently, the buildings do a very good job of removing the snow from their properties. I think our contractor did quite well under the circumstances, but this required lots of back and forth and follow up, particularly with the ramps to the crosswalks. I just wanted to clarify, the village does not take care of Willard Avenue and Wisconsin Avenue.

**[00:37:58.06] - Speaker 4**

I had several requests to clear snow from those areas. But I did put in service calls to 311, Montgomery County, and anyone can do that. There's a snow removal website portal within 311 where you can make these service requests, and they will follow up. We did see some follow up from the county on a couple of areas on Willard Avenue, but those are not maintained by the village. Thank you.

**[00:38:30.22] - Speaker 3**

We have a question.

**[00:38:31.29] - Speaker 8**

Just one thing. Just so you know, the ramps bordering the Metro are still blocked. You have to walk in the street.

**[00:38:45.05] - Speaker 4**

Yeah, and I did report those as well.

**[00:38:47.15] - Speaker 8**

Council member Claimant.

**[00:38:48.23] - Speaker 3**

I just want to be clear of what is something we do and what's not, and give my opinion on it as well. When we have a snow like this, it's because... Let's use Wisconsin Avenue as a rule. The parts of Wisconsin Avenue that are sidewalks, they're property owners, and they're supposed to deal with that. We don't have any extension of jurisdiction on the east side of Wisconsin Avenue. It's not in the village. It doesn't even abut the village. It's across the street. But on the west side of Wisconsin Avenue, let's say, South Park and Wisconsin Avenue, the north and south ramps, I think we do have to clear those. And I'm hoping I'm hoping... I think you had, in fact, our contractor clear those. I feel the same about Willard on Hills Road and the and Friendship Boulevard, that we have responsibility for those ramps as well. Otherwise, they fall into no person zone. No, that's right.

**[00:40:10.26] - Speaker 4**

We did have those cleared. It did require some follow-up, but the South Park in Wisconsin, the two ramps crossing South Park at Wisconsin, but not the ramps going across Wisconsin. That's right. And the same thing on Willard and Hills Plaza and Willard and Friendship Boulevard and Willard and Shoemaker and Willard and North Park. We do the crosswalks on the side of Willard. But when you cross Willard itself, it's Montgomery County. I did have several people ask me about that.

**[00:40:43.22] - Speaker 3**

So you've raised another issue in my mind, which is that when I said the West side and the North and South ramps, you're saying that we shouldn't clear the ramp that is at South Park and Wisconsin Avenue if it's facing in the direction of... If it's facing east. Is that what you're saying because it's on Wisconsin.

**[00:41:16.13] - Speaker 4**

Yes. Crossing Wisconsin. Crossing Wisconsin from either side is not harsh.

**[00:41:23.26] - Speaker 3**

Maybe we need some discussion about that. I don't know how other people feel about that, but with But with Willard, especially, I think as you walk down the hill and you want to cross over to, let's say, Whole Foods, I fully agree that we shouldn't be doing anything on the other side of Willard Avenue. Definitely. But for that crossing, that ramp that gets you to the Metro, gets you across the street, for us to say that because the ramp is facing the direction to cross Willard that we won't deal with it is too fine a point for me. I think in a snow like this, we should really be doing more to assist with the recovery since we already have people there and they're already doing the work. So that's just something I put on the table.

**[00:42:25.29] - Speaker 4**

Okay. Just to clarify, it's not just a ramp across Willard, it's the entire sidewalk on Willard. On our side of Willard is not the village's responsibility either. The sidewalk on Willard is Montgomery County, and so the crosswalks across are theirs as well. But just to clarify that.

**[00:42:49.00] - Speaker 3**

I understand we've got jurisdictions that are involved. But what happens is the people who who clear the sidewalk are not dealing with the ramp. They don't see the ramp as the sidewalk, and I understand why they don't. The people who come to clear the street are not necessarily dealing with the ramp either. So for me, it means that the ramp never gets cleared. That's the problem. Julian, who would you say would clear the ramp that's crossing when you're on Willard and you want to cross Go from Hills to the side that has Whole Foods? Who's responsible for clearing that ramp?

**[00:43:38.17] - Speaker 4**

That's the county. We did get the county to respond to a 311 request to clear the ramp across Willard at Friendship Boulevard.

**[00:43:48.26] - Speaker 3**

How long did that take?

**[00:43:51.06] - Speaker 4**

It took. I did have to report it and follow up, so it's not instant, but yes.

**[00:44:00.04] - Speaker 3**

I think in a situation like this, the community recovery, the difference in cost, the difference in time, we already have a contractor that very capably cleared the ramps when they were fully within our jurisdiction. I looked at them tonight. They looked good on North Park. I just think that it's two final point.

**[00:44:30.00] - Speaker 8**

I would add, as of today, you still cannot get to the Metro. The ramps are blocked. You have to walk in the street. Then you have to walk in the bus lane. There's no way you can get there without either going on ice or trying to get over piles of snow. What are we? Is this day 9 or 10 or something? A lot of people have to go to work, and it's really unsafe.

**[00:44:58.27] - Speaker 4**

This is two weeks, actually.

**[00:45:00.13] - Speaker 3**

Does the council want to take a position on whether the ramp next to it that faces in the direction to cross hills, we are clearing? So these are two handicap ramps that are virtually next to one another in an area where we're doing a lot of work already. And it would be my hope that the council would support clearing those ramps as well.

**[00:45:30.04] - Speaker 8**

Do you want to make a motion on that?

**[00:45:34.04] - Speaker 3**

I move that we extend our snow removal to the ramps that are at South Park and Willard. Those are crosswalks, and they should be cleared with our assistance after a major snow like we had. I didn't hear. Was there a second?

**[00:46:07.07] - Speaker 8**

Yeah. Yeah. I'm sorry. Can I read what I have, or do you need to go next?

**[00:46:13.20] - Speaker 4**

No, I'd like to clarify what the request is, so please proceed.

**[00:46:18.13] - Speaker 8**

And Vick or Secretary Baisal, can I read what I have and maybe compare it to what you have? Yeah, please do. Okay. I have Council member Klein moves to extend snow removal to ramps and crosswalks at South Park. And did you mean at the intersection of South Park in Willard?

**[00:46:44.05] - Speaker 3**

There is no intersection at South Park and Willard.

**[00:46:46.24] - Speaker 8**

Okay, obviously. We're talking about Willard and Wisconsin. Ramps and crosswalks on South Park and Willard.

**[00:46:53.04] - Speaker 3**

Wisconsin. And Wisconsin. South Park and Wisconsin. Okay. It is the west side of South Park and Wisconsin, and it should be all four ramps that appear at that corner, should be cleared by the village.

**[00:47:13.12] - Speaker 8**

Do you have comments near the Metro? Excuse me? Do you have comments about accessing to the Metro? Because that doesn't get you to the Metro.

**[00:47:21.14] - Speaker 3**

No, it's also down at Hills and Willard, and that's the The north side of Hills and Willard. So it's the north side of Willard and the east and west sides of Hills that need to be... All four ramps need to be cleared. And is there another one? French, the one in front of.

**[00:47:53.07] - Speaker 5**

Like the...

**[00:47:55.16] - Speaker 8**

On the corner where the little park is going across Willard.

**[00:47:58.24] - Speaker 3**

So it's French. Yes. Okay. Friendship in Willard also needs to be cleared. Okay.

**[00:48:04.21] - Speaker 8**

Could I suggest that we say additional intersections and then we can provide these separately?  
I guess I'm making a motion to amend the motion?

**[00:48:17.28] - Speaker 3**

Yes, I'm fine with that. Okay.

**[00:48:21.13] - Speaker 8**

Is the seconder fine with that? Okay. Do you understand what we're saying now?

**[00:48:26.17] - Speaker 4**

Not entirely. Okay.

**[00:48:27.27] - Speaker 8**

This is what I have. The motion is to extend the village's snow removal efforts to additional ramps and crosswalks, specifics to be provided.

**[00:48:50.11] - Speaker 4**

Is the guiding principle that we're just extending where we're already doing some and we're only doing the ones next to it because that does not apply to the Metro ramps. There are four corners of Willard in Wisconsin, and none of them were doing anything in any of those four corners. So if you want to extend to all of those, you're going beyond what I thought was the guiding principle.

**[00:49:14.14] - Speaker 3**

Yes, There is one... You're saying Willard and Wisconsin is also an issue. So that one... Did we do anything on that ramp?

**[00:49:27.26] - Speaker 4**

We don't do anything at Willard and Wisconsin in any of the four corners. So South Park in Wisconsin, which you mentioned, and Hills Plaza in Willard, and Friendship in Willard, we're doing the ones that are right next to the ones that aren't getting done. So I understood that rationale.

**[00:49:41.28] - Speaker 3**

That's right.

**[00:49:42.16] - Speaker 4**

But that rationale doesn't really apply to Willard in Wisconsin. That's just what I'm pointing out.

**[00:49:47.29] - Speaker 3**

I personally am okay if we're not interfering with the work someone else is doing, and it doesn't seem like we were, that's another corner. That corner there is within the village. I mean, the sidewalk is, and I realize that's a technical matter, but that is part of the village. The store there, the property there is within the confines of the village. And so I think that we should include that as well. I disagree with that.

**[00:50:20.21] - Speaker 2**

The snowplows don't go out onto Wisconsin Avenue. That would be a completely- But they have the little They have the little...

**[00:50:30.26] - Speaker 3**

What do you call them? The caterpillars? Bobcat. They have the Bobcats, which is what they used for those corners.

**[00:50:37.12] - Speaker 2**

They're focused on within the village. If you clear the intersections and the handicap ramps at the base of Hills Plaza and the base of Friendship Boulevard, people can walk across, hopefully, and go right next to Whole Foods into the Metro. They don't have to use the Wisconsin Willard intersection at all. They just follow the Whole Foods right in. There's an entrance right there. They can walk in.

**[00:51:07.13] - Speaker 8**

Well, that is true, but it has steps, and some people can't do that. So there's an elevator Escalator at the other.

**[00:51:17.22] - Speaker 2**

Could I suggest we have a continuing conversation on the specifics and move forward with- That's fine.

**[00:51:27.20] - Speaker 3**

I do think the Bob Katz would be available, and I understand why it would be difficult for people to understand why we didn't clear that, because I think we're forgetting that Highland House is also part of the village, and those folks come out very close to Wisconsin, they wouldn't be going down hills. They would be going across on those streets, along the medical buildings and Starbucks and the other streets to the corner of Willard and Wisconsin and crossing over there. So if we could clear that ramp as well, I think we would really be doing a public service to residents who live And the Highland House.

**[00:52:18.22] - Speaker 2**

The Highland House people can, theoretically, at least, take the bus that stops right in the shuttle bus, and the shuttle bus then goes around to Whole Foods and drops them off there.

**[00:52:32.19] - Speaker 3**

They could or they could also walk across. So what were you suggesting, Martha, as far as what we should do?

**[00:52:40.22] - Speaker 8**

Well, I was hoping these ramps and crosswalks that get us to the Metro and these other places that you mentioned, we could provide assistance to Montgomery County. We're closer. I think we owe it to our residents to help them get to work. If everybody trying to get to the Metro from the village was riding the shuttle, it wouldn't work. That's just not what it's designed for. I've seen people fall, crossing crossing the street. If there's a simple solution... I understand jurisdiction is difficult, but aren't we all supposed to help out in an emergency? I think relying on Whose responsibility it is when we're right there, it defeats the point of neighborliness.

**[00:53:37.23] - Speaker 2**

Yes. Well, the reason, as I understand it, that nothing on Willard, Wisconsin was done was because that's outside of our jurisdiction. I thought our attorney had said, definitely don't do any of the sidewalks there because that's outside of our jurisdiction. If we begin doing it and someone slips, they will legally accuse us of not doing it right.

**[00:54:03.19] - Speaker 8**

Mayor, could you check on that with our village manager?

**[00:54:06.22] - Speaker 3**

Excuse me? Oh, I'm sorry. Sure.

**[00:54:09.04] - Speaker 8**

Whether it's not legal for us to do that.

**[00:54:13.05] - Speaker 3**

I didn't say that. I thought our attorney advised us long ago not to do anything on those sidewalks, and the sidewalks are Okay, to see if that's a current recommendation. We're not talking about the sidewalks. I want to be clear. I feel that property owners are responsible for sidewalks. This is a cardinal principle of the law. And as you know, Al, you and I spoke during the aftermath of the storm, and we coordinated getting some additional coverage with Julian's help and initiative. So that was a happy circumstance. I feel that we are missing an opportunity to assist the village because the intersection of Willard and Wisconsin is an important intersection. And if we can help clear the ramps, I'm not talking about the sidewalks, and I'm not talking about the street, but I am talking about the ramps which fall into a no man zone. And that's where the problem is.

**[00:55:22.14] - Speaker 2**

I completely share your frustration. In fact, the first day after the storm, when I thought it was safe to walk around with my two walking sticks, I got to that intersection at South Park in Wisconsin, and I couldn't get through, and I almost fell over. So I completely understand. The question of the sidewalks, though, is someone is doing the sidewalks, and we simply... The Bobcats, whatever, don't go around Wisconsin and Willard. So we clear things off, and then the county or the state comes through with their snowmobiles, and they push it back over again. And we're not... We, meaning our snowmobile people, aren't checking out there. They're within the village going round and round and round and round.

**[00:56:12.14] - Speaker 3**

I think they can do it because I saw what they did at South Park and Wisconsin, and he was very adept, the operator, at making sure that none of the snow was pushed back onto the sidewalk or into the middle of the street. So I don't think that's the issue. I think it's an issue of whether or not we commission them to do it, if I can use that word. I would like to go forward with the intersections that we do agree on, Martha, and I'd like Julian to find out what our contractor says about whether they could help with that Wisconsin and Willard Avenue.

**[00:56:57.07] - Speaker 2**

I agree.

**[00:56:58.21] - Speaker 3**

Okay.

**[00:56:59.17] - Speaker 8**

Okay. We have a motion and a second. Now we'll have the vote. All in favor say Aye. Can I? Whoops. I'm sorry.

**[00:57:08.00] - Speaker 3**

I don't have the second.

**[00:57:09.05] - Speaker 2**

Who seconded that?

**[00:57:09.29] - Speaker 8**

It was Council member Mueller. Okay. Okay. Okay. All in favor say Aye and raise your hand. It looks unanimous. So that motion passes. I'll consult with you afterwards, Secretary Baisal, just to make sure we have the same language, okay?

**[00:57:32.20] - Speaker 3**

Yeah, that'd be great.

**[00:57:33.22] - Speaker 8**

Okay. Do you have more on your village manager's report?

**[00:57:43.14] - Speaker 4**

No. I just wanted to clarify this vote was about all the other intersections, but not Willard and Wisconsin, and we'll follow up with Willard and Wisconsin. Yeah. Okay, thank you.. Okay, that's it.

**[00:58:03.08] - Speaker 8**

Now we have mayor's announcement.

**[00:58:07.13] - Speaker 7**

Okay, thank you. This will be quick. So the developer of the Geico property will be presenting plans for the redevelopment of the Geico site at a community meeting on Thursday, February 19th, at 07: 00 PM at Westland Middle School in Bethesda. This is a public meeting, and a notice of the meeting has that has been placed on the village website. My announcement. I also want to thank people for coming out to the Winterfest celebration. I was surprised by the 175 people. I want to thank the staff for their efforts. The original plans called for us to accommodate some people outside, and because of the weather, they really had to scramble and adjust the arrangements, and it was seamless. But there's a lot of work that goes on people don't see. There was some comments about getting in touch with council members. I want to mention that all Council members have office hours by appointment, so we can meet with you at a time that's good for you. The last thing I want to mention is that in our budget, we have a \$5,000 line item for new initiatives. The CAC has been working on that.

**[00:59:23.08] - Speaker 7**

They've been scoring the applications. I believe there were nine. And next month, I'm not sure if they're going to present it, but we intend to discuss those proposals, look at their recommendations, and hopefully, approve one or more of them. Thank you.

**[00:59:45.24] - Speaker 8**

Treasurer's report.

**[00:59:48.20] - Speaker 5**

All right. Thank you, Martha. For the first seven months of the fiscal year through January, our budget remains in pretty good shape this year compared to last. Adjusting for one-time receipts, revenues are down less than 1% compared to last year, and that primarily reflects an 18,000 reduction in parking enforcement for the first seven months of the year. Expenditures are up approximately 4%, reflecting salaries, benefits, and an increase in village center maintenance costs with a offset based on a reduced cost of the bus contract. My preliminary estimate suggests we're likely to finish the year with a \$400,000 surplus, so that's pretty good. Our current reserve balance remains strong at approximately 5 million. Next year, things are expected to get a little bit tighter, mainly because we're looking at an estimated 240,000 approximate decline in income tax revenue doing to slowing economic growth, including the federal government shutdown and layoffs. Going forward, we have a special meeting schedule for February 20th, where staff and Finance Committee members will be reviewing the initial fiscal year '27 operating and capital budget proposals. We are hoping to submit the FY '27 budget proposal at the April Council meeting, but that's tentative depending on how things go.

**[01:01:31.22] - Speaker 5**

One big change we are planning to put forward is a capital plan and budget that include project descriptions, status updates, budget and out year cost estimates, updated monthly as part of our regular budgeting process. Another item on the agenda includes development of a more transparent and comprehensive transaction review process. The transaction review process, I should say, is going to require some tweaks and/or upgrades to our software. I'm working with Donna Bryant on that. And because of the complexity and the amount of work involved, I've put off for now the closely related proposal to streamline check signing procedures until we do have a more comprehensive review process in place. So that's my report.

**[01:02:23.01] - Speaker 2**

Treasurer, Conlo, I understood you to say that the projection, although there'll be some changes, I'm sure, but the possible overage is going to be \$400,000 or thereabouts this year. And next year, you're thinking that the one-time large amount of money we receive this year, the income, we won't get, and maybe 200,000 less. Does that mean we're still Are you still anticipating for next year a roughly \$200,000 surplus?

**[01:03:06.05] - Speaker 5**

I can't say specifically at this point. I think it is likely to get It's a little bit tighter, and some of the very high-level estimates that I've done suggest it could be even lower than \$200,000.

**[01:03:21.15] - Speaker 2**

But still a surplus.

**[01:03:22.23] - Speaker 5**

But still a surplus, correct.

**[01:03:23.29] - Speaker 2**

Still a surplus without changing the tax rate and keeping all of the amenities the same. Except anything that we do, of course, some capital improvements, which comes out of not our income.

**[01:03:35.19] - Speaker 5**

That's right.

**[01:03:36.06] - Speaker 2**

Okay, thank you.

**[01:03:37.02] - Speaker 8**

Council member or mayor?

**[01:03:39.12] - Speaker 7**

Yeah, I want to clarify something. That \$400,000, that's before capital expenses? Yes. Okay, thank you.

**[01:03:48.14] - Speaker 8**

Other questions? I didn't mention this before. If you feel comfortable, could you tell us the status of the pedestrian safety study where we are if you'd rather pass, that's okay.

**[01:04:03.23] - Speaker 5**

I might defer to Julian on that one. Okay.

**[01:04:08.26] - Speaker 4**

The short answer is the status has been somewhat waylaid by the weather. We did have the kickoff meeting with the contractor, and following that, their next step was to start studying traffic data and collecting data on traffic patterns and speeds, but that required installing some equipment on the roads and cameras and things that they have not been able to do with the ice buildup. So I think that's where that is.

**[01:04:35.20] - Speaker 8**

So the weather's delayed us, basically. Correct. Okay.

**[01:04:41.29] - Speaker 3**

Martha, I wonder if we could go into the finance Finance Committee, and then that would be seamlessly then into the development issues rather than have my report on the development. Okay, sure.

**[01:04:54.21] - Speaker 8**

Finance Committee, next. I guess that's Council member, Conla.

**[01:05:03.00] - Speaker 5**

I think I really covered most of the issues. I think the one thing that we talked about quite a bit at the last Finance Committee meeting was quite a bit of research that I did on our check signing and transaction review procedures. I did find as a result of that research that there's no precedent that I could find for check signing procedures where two elected officials sign checks. The standard process is usually one appointed official, such as a finance or a village chair finance director or village chair, and one elected official. In terms of transaction review, I think that, and I've talked quite a bit with staff about this, and they've been very helpful, the The county recommends that you have a regular transaction review procedure in place where you're looking at transactions and making sure that you understand them and that everything is in order. It's a bit of an ongoing audit review process. We don't really have that. We're using check signing as auditing process, and that's not really standard procedure. It tends to overburden staff because because they have to coordinate with two elected officials on every check. But anyway, bottom line on this is we're still working on this.

**[01:06:39.02] - Speaker 5**

There's a lot of issues that need to be looked at, including potential upgrades, revisions to our accounting system, so we have easier and more transparent access to them. So that's what

we're working on right now. It's going to take a little bit of time, but we're going to keep working on it. Thank you.

**[01:07:00.00] - Speaker 8**

Can I make a suggestion since we've rejiggered here? We can do the Advisory Committee on Development, then the vote on the letter, and then I can do the update on parks and grounds because the letter relates to... Right. We're going to take questions and comments on development after Council member Klein's report. So does anybody object to that? It seems more logical. Okay. So we would move on to Advisory Committee on Development. And after this piece, people will have a chance to come to the microphone.

**[01:07:48.21] - Speaker 3**

Well, several months ago, when I moved to at Roy's mayor's request to work with the the Advisory Committee on Development. I did not know exactly how complicated this was going to be and how much is going on. It's a wonderful committee, and I commend everybody who is serving on it. I think we found our stride, and we're doing really well, so I'm happy about that. But there is a lot going on in the county that gives me pause, and that's part of the learning experience for me. There are many outstanding permits where people have decided not to go forward with the work because of the downturn in the economic situation facing the county, which is in part, if not a major part, related to what's happened with the federal government. There's just less demand. At the same time, a county officials are intent on seeing that more housing is built under what has been referred to as a trickle-down effect, that it doesn't matter where we put the housing, we just need to keep building it in order to satisfy the need for more housing and more affordable housing. In our own community, when we look at the projects that were imminent, we have a project that was Maggiano's.

**[01:09:33.20] - Speaker 3**

The Maggiano building was supposed to come down, and Cheese Factory already closed. Cheesecake and Maggiano's, both restaurants were sharing the same parking garage Cheesecake closed. Then shortly after that, Maggiano, the project is not going forward. So that's one thing that's not going forward. We have Closer to Home, a project at the corner of South Park and Wisconsin Avenue. We were supposed to have another major high rise there that's been in the work for a number of years. That's not going forward, last we heard, because of issues with financing and demand. Now we learned that the Sacksfield Avenue is not going to be with us as a store in hard store. It's going into bankruptcy. So the likelihood is that that property is going to be sold as well. And at the same time, We have a sector plan. The sector

plan anticipates that there will be more housing there of uncertain height. And of course, we have the Geico property, where Geico is set to begin a new development of their property, and hundreds of units of housing are anticipated there. If you think about what I'm saying, there are no more roads that are coming from this, and no more schools at present, but an awful lot of plans for additional housing in our immediate area.

**[01:11:27.07] - Speaker 3**

When we look in the village proper, we have our issues with parcel 6, which is the parcel between Shoemaker Lane and 4620 on the south side of North Park. We have the medical building in parcel 4, which is at the corner of North Park and Friendship Boulevard, the northwest corner of Friendship Boulevard and North Park. The planning board has told us on all these sites, it's to be housing, housing, and more housing. With parcel 6, we wrote a letter that Council voted on having a let her go to the planning staff to tell the Planning staff that we do not want a high-rise building on parcel 6. You may recall, if you're familiar with North Park, that the Will the Carleton, the Carleton, the Elizabeth, and 4620, and 4615, the condominiums in 4615, which is a residential rental high. Otherwise, parcel 6 sits in the middle of all of those buildings, and the buildings that are on parcel 6, which are all low scale, and they've been low scale since all of those other buildings went up in the '70s. And the sector plans have said for 50 years, covering 50 years, that those are supposed to be low scale for visual diversity, for light, and for green space.

**[01:13:16.09] - Speaker 3**

Now, we heard from the planning staff, they say they want a building there of 150 feet. That is not low scale. It's quite the opposite. And it will cut off light and green space to all of the surrounding buildings. And if you have any questions about this, you can take a look at the shadows at around 10:00 AM in the morning. You can go out to North Park and take a look at the shadows that are cast by the buildings that are already there, and you can see how much light will be diminished and how little of visual diversity there will be. With Geico, residents at the Willeby and others are concerned about a canyon along Willard, and we're concerned about a canyon effect on North Park, the folks that look at parcel 6, including some in the Willaby. So I give you an overview of where we are. We will continue to promote our point of view. Our point of view is that there should be thoughtful development, that green space needs to be protected, that there needs to be diversity in height, and that the trees, the green space is a top priority, and we need to protect those on parcel 6.

**[01:14:46.26] - Speaker 3**

We need to protect them on parcel 4. We need to protect them at the Geiko building. With that said, the development committee has begun meeting with candidates for office. We've already met with three candidates for office for district 1. We've met with Debbie Spielberg, Drew Morrison, and Julie Yang. We're continuing to meet with other candidates, at large candidates for the Council, because the sector plan will be going to the Council for final review, and They do a pretty thorough review. If we have issues with the sector plan, as I think we will, based on what we've been told so far, we will be able to take our plea for more sensible development to the council proper. We're also starting to meet next week with candidates from that are running for at-large seats on the council. But it's going to be a very busy time, and I think this is a consequential election that's coming up for members of the council. I think you need to, as a concerned voter, understand what the viewpoints are of the different candidates that are running. And in the months ahead, I'll be happy to discuss it a little more.

**[01:16:32.13] - Speaker 3**

So tonight we have on the agenda another letter to go to Parks and Planning about the briefing they gave us in which they told us they were going to say that there could be a building on parcel 6 that goes up 150 feet, and that they are willing to have another such building on the site of the current medical building at the corner of North Park and Friendship Boulevards. That was more than maybe you expected, Martha?

**[01:17:09.28] - Speaker 8**

Never too much from you. Right. Unless council members have comments or questions, I think we're going to open the microphone. First, we'll be Susan Green. Good evening. I'm Susan Green. I'm an owner, and I live in the Willeby. I didn't have a chance to see these preliminary recommendations before I walked in today, but they're very thoughtful and I appreciate them, and I do agree with the recommendations for Parcels 4 and 6 that they not be changed the way the current sector plan or the change in the sector plan envisions them as going up so high. And the point that I've made directly to planning staff in writing is that, especially on parcel four, if they make that building so much taller, our grandmothers and our grandfathers in Brighton Gardens will be in shade and gloom all afternoon. And do we really want them to spend their later years like that? We need that green space in front of the low-rise medical building. It's really important. The one thing I didn't see emphasized in these preliminary recommendations that is important to me and probably other people whose apartments look out on Willard Avenue is this new height overlay that would allow a row of buildings going down Willard and around the corner onto Friendship Boulevard, unless I've misunderstood, the height would be 200 feet.

**[01:19:03.16] - Speaker 8**

And that turns upside down the promise that was made to us in the 1998 sector plan, And I quote, The plan recommends, this is 1998, preserving views from existing high-rise apartment buildings by incorporating guidelines for the height and location of new development, and then by tree preservation and planting. But that's completely opposite, the 200-foot height. What that will do to those of us who live in the village but look across the street towards the Geico area, that devalues our property greatly. Yes, I'll lose my views. I'll be staring at 200-foot buildings. I look right out on the corner of Friendship and Willard. But lots of other people going down for the next two blocks are going to lose their views, too, and they'll be in the shade, and the value of their apartments will go down. So I would ask the committee to look really hard at how that height overlay for Willard and Friendship will affect those of us in the village. Thank you. I know many share your concern.

**[01:20:41.07] - Speaker 3**

I'm sorry, Martha. I apologize. Yes, we agree with you completely. We're waiting to have the meeting on the Geico property on the 19th. I think there'll be a letter that goes out before then, actually, by our attorney who is working on a letter, Dave Brown, who's helped us with all of this. And we are very concerned about the heights and the loss of trees over on the Geico property. And it's the same problem. It's the fact that you promise green space, and then you cut off sunlight to what is a naturally occurring retirement community. We have young people, too, and I'm proud of it. But this community is of non-transience. We have decided, many of us, to retire here in Maryland, in this location, and There's a certain consideration that should be given, which was reflected in the earlier sector plans.

**[01:21:52.09] - Speaker 8**

Exactly.

**[01:21:54.19] - Speaker 3**

This whole pressure cooker that we're talking about, that's why I took the time to explain that this is a perspective that's being promulgated all over the county and even in the state. I think, personally, it's short-sided. I do not think it will result in a good outcome in the end. I don't think it will give us more affordable housing, and I think it will undermine the health and well-being of communities. So I quite agree with you, and we will be doing more on the Geico site as well.

**[01:22:36.04] - Speaker 8**

Thank you. I'll probably be at that meeting. May I make one more? I'm sorry. I think we may have some other people. But you could always send an email and contact anyone here. Yes, I will. Council member Miller.

**[01:22:52.20] - Speaker 2**

Is it Ms. Green? Green, yes. Thank you. I was on the advisory group for the last sector plan.

**[01:23:00.14] - Speaker 8**

I didn't hear you.

**[01:23:02.01] - Speaker 2**

I was on the advisory group for the last sector plan, and you picked out the most key sentence in there, which is the strongest part of what the vice chair has been defending, and that is in the sector plan that the county should protect those in high rises, not just those in surrounding communities that also need to be protected. And the first sector plan, the one before the present one, was initiated to decrease the density. Up until the '70s, the buildings were tall, like your building, the Willowby, like the Willard Towers, like the Barlow building. And the density was twice as much as was then allowed. It was lowered. What they're doing now, quite simply, is going back to the way it was in the 1960s, when there was a county-wide rebellion against being so dense. And if you listen carefully, which you obviously are doing, they have said that buildings that have been approved now are just as big as these tall buildings. So what's the problem, they say? Well, the problem is they're not supposed to be building as big as they were in the '60s. That's why you see the Carlton much smaller.

**[01:24:22.25] - Speaker 2**

They're slowly but surely going backwards, and nothing has changed the same concerns that Councilwoman Klein expressed, that you expressed, are still there. The density impacts the quality of life. Yes. Nothing has changed except in 50 years, they have different people at Park and Planning, the ones that were there in 1998, understood, and they essentially continued the first sector plan. So thank you for catching this.

**[01:24:55.21] - Speaker 8**

Yes. This is obviously an important issue. Anyone else, whether or not they signed up. Does anyone want to talk about... I'm sorry. Sure. Still the three minutes.

**[01:25:11.00] - Speaker 6**

Yes, Roger. Coach Eddie. I've spoken on this issue many times before. When this topic first came up over a year ago, I tried to point out that this whole concept as it regards friendship heights of opportunity zones, in effect, treats the space it's in friendship heights as if it was an Amazon warehouse, and we, residents, are simply commodities put on the shelves and make the shelves taller, and you can't have any floor space without a shelf, and we need to be treated as something other than a commodity. I certainly agree with the recommendations as far as they go. I think as the discussion just showed, they should go much further. I think the Council should strongly emphasize that the concept of preserving the view and preserving access to the moon and the stars and the clouds and the sky is important for all parts of Friendship Heights, not just parcel 4 and parcel 6, but the SAC site, the Geico site, in all sites, that that is a premium priority. And I think, as I've said before, it is also important in our goal to attract families to come to Friendship Heights, that we strongly urge the Council, the County Planning Department, to stop its emphasis on increasing population density in what's already the most densely populated neighborhood next to any Metro site in the county, but that they emphasize creating green space, significant green space that is appropriate for children and families with children, which will bring a completely new demographic to our community.

**[01:27:01.14] - Speaker 6**

So I think those points need to be emphasized as well. I support the recommendations as far as they go, but the principle of preserving views should be emphatically presented as applying to all parts, people whose view of Sacks or people whose view of Geico are no different than people whose view of parcel four and parcel six. Thanks.

**[01:27:25.27] - Speaker 3**

We're taking these one step at a time because we had a meeting with them that specifically dealt with the village. So this is the response to that. We will be making other responses as time goes forward. We already spoke on the Geico. There was a letter from Mayor Schafer telling them to keep it green, not to have high-rise buildings on Willard, and they've just ignored us. That's the thing that we're finding. That's why we're going to continue to build a case so that if we have a council that's responsive, maybe we can get their attention. I think there's a real problem with the roads, too, because we're going to have more bike lanes in our future than we have now. And someone told me the other day that they want to put an Express bus down Wisconsin Avenue. It already goes to Bethesda. They wanted to come further down there to us. If you have a bike lane and you have an Express lane, I just don't understand how you have a street that works anymore. More since there are commuters and there are people who go to the medical building, for instance, and they get let off in front, and they need to pull up to that curb.

**[01:28:57.10] - Speaker 3**

So there's special considerations that we have Not along Wisconsin Avenue in this part of Friendship Heights. Anyway, I just say this so you know that we hear you and we agree with you.

**[01:29:10.10] - Speaker 8**

Thank you very much. We're moving on to Old Business, which is discussion vote on submitting comments from the Village Council to the Montgomery County Planning Board on the Friendship Heights sector plan preliminary recommendations. Excuse me, Madam Chair.

**[01:29:26.26] - Speaker 4**

Parks and Grounds Committee Report.

**[01:29:30.00] - Speaker 8**

We were going to do it later because it flows from what- Understood. Thank you. Then I'm thinking maybe pass and move on because we're running behind. Most of it they learned from Jim anyway. Understood. I would note that this letter has been on the website for, what, at least a few days? How long has it been up there? Posted today. Today. Okay. And there's been copies of it as you came in. And for council members, it's behind tab 3. So who is taking the lead on this?

**[01:30:12.26] - Speaker 3**

John.

**[01:30:14.02] - Speaker 8**

Okay.

**[01:30:16.17] - Speaker 5**

Well, thanks. I think Francine has done a pretty good job already explaining the issue. I do want to emphasize, however, that it's not intended to be comprehensive. There are issues that we need to address more thoroughly. One of the purposes of this letter is that the Montgomery County planning staff is presenting their preliminary recommendations. They're presenting them to the planning board on Thursday. What this letter is intended to do is to make sure that our

voice is heard at this initial planning board committee meeting, because I think it's very important that the village speak up. And this is just one of a number of letters that we've already put forward, and we will continue to put forward. So with that said, should I make a motion?

**[01:31:27.08] - Speaker 2**

Okay.

**[01:31:29.01] - Speaker 5**

I move that the council approve the comments on Friendship Heights sector plan update, preliminary recommendations, and that the mayor transmit these comments to the Montgomery County Planning Board by noon tomorrow. Thanks.

**[01:31:50.25] - Speaker 8**

And so there's a motion. There's a second.

**[01:31:55.26] - Speaker 3**

Who's the second?

**[01:31:59.06] - Speaker 8**

Yeah, Al. That means discussion. I mean, we heard some. If you have more to add, John or other people have any thoughts? I very, very strongly recommend this letter. I think it's very well done and in a concise way explains what our issues are and provides visuals besides just words. So I'm strongly in favor of this.

**[01:32:28.13] - Speaker 3**

I want to thank John for his initiative and hard work. This is a product of your creation, and I really appreciate it. Thank you.

**[01:32:39.29] - Speaker 8**

So unless there are more comments or questions, I think we're ready to vote. All in favor of the motion, which I won't repeat. Say, Aye. Arise their hand. It looks like it's unanimous. So this motion passes. And will you coordinate, mayor, on getting that out as soon as possible, maybe tonight? Sure. Okay, thank you. As I said, I think I'm going to pass on the Parks and Grounds Committee. Much of the really interesting stuff has been shared by our project manager. That

moves us to the discussion vote on proposed amendment to the Village Bylaws. As you may know, these types of changes require what's called a super-majority, and that is five votes to pass, and it needs to have been submitted at a prior meeting, which was done. Council member Muller, I guess I give the floor to you. Is that correct?

**[01:33:50.09] - Speaker 2**

I didn't realize we were moving that quickly, but I- I'm sorry, did I miss something? No, I didn't realize that you moved the items around on the agenda.

**[01:34:03.03] - Speaker 8**

But it's the next one after the letter. Yeah.

**[01:34:06.16] - Speaker 2**

Okay. In any case, I introduced what I thought was a simple motion, and it was accepted, I thought, without any discussion to have it on the agenda as we require for essentially two meetings. The motion was to add a section in our bylaws that all council or advisory committee meetings shall be open to the public and public notice shall be posted at least two days in advance of such meetings. Very simple. Council will recall that presently the bylaws have regular meetings where there's at least a two-day notice and an agenda. The bylaws presently have special meetings where there's a three-day notice required, except if an emergency. The bylaws presently have work sessions where at least there are two days and an agenda required. And public hearings, at least seven days notice. This is all intended to have the public transparently know what's going on with enough time to consider it and either send us written comments or to come as you all have come tonight. The intent of my amendment was simply to bring the advisory groups that are open to the public up to such a standard. And apparently, there were some thoughts expressed in emails, and I would like to just respond or answer that.

**[01:35:59.21] - Speaker 2**

There There was a concern that there hasn't essentially been any problem so far, but I think we've seen a lot of good work done on the Ethics Committee, on other committees where we haven't had any problems, but we don't want to have problems going into the future. There was also a concern that there haven't been, although there were in earlier days, sometimes not enough notice that this an old concern and it's really gone. There's no problem now. Well, actually, just last week, we had essentially a work session. You heard tonight the reference made to A session where the village managers told us what they had learned at the professional meeting. That was all very interesting, and it was a public meeting, but that only had a one-day

notification. I think residents, if they were interested, needed a little bit more time to digest it. I'm glad we had the meeting. The Chair called the meeting, and kudos to her. The only intent, again, was to put all the committees that are mentioned under the same transparency ruling, namely that there be notice. I used at least two days notice, whereas as I I said at the beginning, there could be seven days or three days, depending on some of these other council meetings.

**[01:37:37.08] - Speaker 2**

I simply ask again for something that I thought was just a simple, unobjectionable update of the bylaws. I make that as a motion, the same as I did before, and hope that I can have a second and we can discuss it. Thank you.

**[01:37:58.01] - Speaker 8**

A second? Is there a second available for this? That would be John or Council member Cunlan. As the maker of the motion, would you like the floor again, or do you feel you've said everything you- I I think I've said everything I want to.

**[01:38:17.01] - Speaker 2**

I'd rather hold any comments if there are thoughts that I can answer or respond to.

**[01:38:24.11] - Speaker 8**

Okay. Comments? I have some, or you can go first. I agree with the underlying objective that we should give notice as much as we can. I agree that we should have open meetings that people come to when they are so moved to come. I don't think it should be a requirement. I think one of One of the reasons there is not a requirement on committee meetings is decisions made at committee meetings are generally not final. They're only final when it's a council meeting, and that elevates the importance of notice at a council meeting level. I would also say that it doesn't contemplate the necessity of a closed meeting. It says the meetings shall be open, and I believe that conflicts with with other parts of the bylaws. It doesn't contemplate that we might need to have an emergency meeting or something time sensitive that needs to be processed. But I certainly believe that every chair of a committee should make efforts to provide and to consider the needs of the staff in arranging such meetings to make every effort to provide as much advanced notice as possible. Mayor?

**[01:40:08.24] - Speaker 7**

Yes. I share those thoughts. There's not been, and I think Council member Mullen acknowledged that, a council committee meeting that has been scheduled on less than two days notice. I'm not sure that this is fixing something that happened in the past inadvisably. Sometimes we do want to have a meeting on short notice, sometimes just maybe to have a recommendation prior to a council meeting. But this is not something that I think we need to codify since it's a practice we're already following and we're not fixing a problem that's existed.

**[01:40:54.18] - Speaker 8**

Other comments or questions? Go ahead.

**[01:41:00.00] - Speaker 3**

I've been very impressed with the notifications I get, text and phone messages about the events, including Advisory Committee meetings and this meeting. I think it's the best notification system I've seen in a long time, and it's really to be commended, and I feel it keeps me on track very well.

**[01:41:27.04] - Speaker 8**

If I could add one more comment. From a parroquial interest, I'm a little terrified about the idea of learning something about what DPS might have decided about Page Park and then not being able to hold a meeting or make a decision that wouldn't delay Page Park even further. From a personal interest, that worries me, too. But other questions, Mr. Conlin?

**[01:41:57.17] - Speaker 5**

I'm just wondering whether we I can't add a clarification that there are occasions when you need to have special meetings on short notice and that steps can be taken to make sure that whatever was discussed and decided at those meetings is also part of the public record. I would just ask that we think about the possibility of maybe amending this to make it clear that- All council committee meetings have minutes, right? Yes.

**[01:42:35.16] - Speaker 7**

So there is a public record from every one of these meetings.

**[01:42:39.20] - Speaker 5**

I think the point I'm making is that we could call a Can we offer the option—this is just I'm thinking out loud here—of a special or emergency meeting that doesn't have two days notice, but make it clear that whatever was discussed in the outcomes of those meetings will be part of the public record? I'm just wondering whether we can clarify a little bit that there may be situations where we don't have the time. Something comes up that we need to deal with and therefore have an exception in here that allows us to deal with that.

**[01:43:24.07] - Speaker 8**

John, this is- Could I just say from a procedural point of view, we cannot amend these types of motions given that it's bylaws. It needs to have been submitted and then a second meeting. But that doesn't mean we shouldn't continue talking and so forth. But did you have something to say, Council member Klein?

**[01:43:49.12] - Speaker 3**

Yeah. What I'm hearing is that we already do this as a matter of practice. I'm hearing that I understand respectfully, John, that you would like to try to reach a compromise on this. But there's always an adverse consequence. When you say there's an exception, you have a rule that it's two days, and it's a hard and fast rule unless there's an exception, then people start to argue about whether or not the exception is really met. I personally think, given our pattern practice and the wonderful system that we have for notifying people of all of our committee meetings, not just the council meeting, that there really is no need to amend or by laws. That's what my position would be. Even if we could amend it, I wouldn't be in favor of it.

**[01:44:50.23] - Speaker 2**

Madam Chair, I simply will point out, as far as we have something called special meetings, and The bylaws say you need at least three days. My motion is more conservative. And with all due respect to my colleagues, it hasn't always worked. It was not my impression, but what The managers themselves reported to the mayor that earlier in this council's existence, there weren't always two days. And the only thing that keeps it in to a certain number are the bylaws, and there's nothing in the bylaws about that. Whereas, as I said at the beginning, there is something specific in regular meetings, special meetings, work sessions, and executive sessions. They're there even though we might or might not follow it, or a future council might or might not follow it. This is just in keeping with the spirit and the exact details. I'm I'm really puzzled why there is any concern. I don't know of any time that there was a meeting called with such urgency that it couldn't be within two days. I really honestly don't. So the flip side of we're always doing it correctly or doing it within two days is number one, not so, and number two, what is the danger?

**[01:46:29.13] - Speaker 2**

I haven't really heard, with all due respect, the danger. If someone on the council, including myself, suddenly decides on a Friday, Oh, we're going to have a meeting next week, but I want to have more information. That's not an emergency. That's a personal choice. An emergency is something that obviously we would all know is an emergency, and it can't wait. And I think we all agree. So the The motion that I presented is in keeping with those that are already in the bylaws, shall be posted at least two days in advance. These are advisory committees. These are advisory committees. They're not making decisions. They're giving advice. The important thing is that some of our residents might like to come. They're public open meetings, but we don't have them beating down the doors to come. And a requirement of our advisory groups having a two-day announcement, which can be in the website or any other way that the manager makes it known, it's not unreasonable. It's not of any danger to the council performing its duties. We're not talking about an advisory group having an emergency. Advisory groups don't have emergencies. They have opinions. They have choices.

**[01:47:57.20] - Speaker 2**

They have preferences. They don't I have emergencies. I'm sorry, I just don't understand what a perfectly harmless improvement to the bylaws is creating a minor fuss and using up more time. I certainly didn't intend that. I did not think it was going to be anything controversial, but it seems, sadly, if I introduce it, it becomes controversial. I'll call the question, Madam Chair. Okay. If you're going to vote against it, vote against it, but let's not prolong this. Can he do that? I'd like to respond.

**[01:48:35.18] - Speaker 8**

I think we have another comment. He has been waiting.

**[01:48:39.07] - Speaker 2**

With all due respect, the parliamentarian will correct me, but once it is called, I think it has to be once the question is called, no further discussion. According to the parliamentary rules, you're the parliamentarian.

**[01:48:56.04] - Speaker 8**

You know what? If that's what you want, we'll do it regardless of what That's what the rules are. The motion was made to add a new Section 5 committee meetings, all council or advisory

Committee Meetings. All Council or Advisory Committee Meetings shall be open to the public, and public notice shall be posted at least two days in advance of such meetings. And that motion was seconded. And again, it's an amendment to by law. So to go forward or to pass, it needs five votes. So could everyone in favor of this raise their hand? Okay, I see two in favor and all against or you can abstain later. Mr. Baisal, did you see that? Okay, so it's two, four, and Five against. Great. I'm sorry. Did you get that? I can't see you. Did you record that, Mr. Baisal?

**[01:50:11.07] - Speaker 3**

Yes. Okay, thank you. Can I make a comment?

**[01:50:14.10] - Speaker 8**

Okay, but please try not to prolong this.

**[01:50:16.22] - Speaker 7**

This will be a very quick comment. I just want to clarify something Council member Mueller said. I never said that early in the term, we held meetings on less than two days' notice.

**[01:50:28.20] - Speaker 2**

It was reported in It was an email that you sent that the managers had said something to that effect.

**[01:50:35.04] - Speaker 7**

I never said we held a meeting on less than two days' notice. What I said was that we had a lot of meetings early in the term.

**[01:50:40.29] - Speaker 8**

Could I suggest that this doesn't need to be discussed at this time? Okay. Thank you.

**[01:50:52.12] - Speaker 2**

Well, Madam Chair, the mayor sent an email to all of us. I discussed this amendment.

**[01:50:58.21] - Speaker 8**

I'm suggesting that we not discuss this anymore right now.

**[01:51:01.25] - Speaker 2**

I'm sorry, but I'm reading the mayor's email.

**[01:51:03.23] - Speaker 8**

I hear that, but I'm asking you to please stop now so we can move on. If we'd like to talk about it at another meeting, we can be open to that.

**[01:51:14.09] - Speaker 2**

Excuse me. We voted, and then after the vote, the mayor was given the opportunity to make a further comment. I was not planning to make another comment, but since the mayor did, and he's correcting me when I don't think That's the full story. The mayor's email said, I discussed this amendment with the village managers. They felt that early in the council term, council committee chairs were trying to schedule meetings on short notice. So they were doing it in less than two days.

**[01:51:50.12] - Speaker 7**

Where does it say less than two days in there?

**[01:51:52.20] - Speaker 2**

On short notice, but could not recall a recent council committee meeting where less than two days notice was given.

**[01:51:59.23] - Speaker 7**

And where What did I say in that email that we had a meeting with less than two days?

**[01:52:03.00] - Speaker 8**

Gentlemen, can I suggest that we stop this conversation now?

**[01:52:06.29] - Speaker 2**

The mayor wrote clearly-No, you're misquoting what I wrote. No, come on, Roy.

**[01:52:12.00] - Speaker 7**

Where does it say we had a meeting on less than two days notice?

**[01:52:14.25] - Speaker 2**

You said he could not recall a recent council meeting where less than two days. So obviously, you're saying that this meeting was held prior to recently.

**[01:52:25.23] - Speaker 7**

That's not obvious. We weren't going to go back and look at all our meetings from the beginning of the- They felt that But early in the council term, council committee chairs were trying to schedule meetings on short notice but could not recall a recent council meeting where less than two days was given.

**[01:52:45.27] - Speaker 2**

Clearly that- It doesn't say less than two days. You are picking at straws.

**[01:52:53.09] - Speaker 7**

No, you're misreading the letter.

**[01:52:54.28] - Speaker 2**

I am not. I am reading it verbatim.

**[01:52:57.13] - Speaker 7**

Where does it say two days in there?

**[01:52:59.04] - Speaker 2**

Which is what you keep saying. It says It says two days notice was where less than two days notice was given.

**[01:53:05.28] - Speaker 7**

Where does it say that less than two days was ever given? It says that. No, it doesn't. It doesn't.

**[01:53:10.24] - Speaker 2**

Come on.

**[01:53:11.08] - Speaker 8**

Gentlemen, we have new business, and not everyone wants-You can disagree with me, but twisting your words is ridiculous.

**[01:53:18.16] - Speaker 2**

You read my words. I read your words correctly.

**[01:53:21.29] - Speaker 7**

That's right, and they don't say what you claimed they said.

**[01:53:24.16] - Speaker 2**

They most certainly do. You're saying the opposite. Yes, Mr. Trump, the election was stolen no matter what you say. This is disgraceful.

**[01:53:36.27] - Speaker 8**

I'm going to make a motion to adjourn.

**[01:53:38.28] - Speaker 2**

Well, good for you. You can't even take a vote in letter B.

**[01:53:42.28] - Speaker 8**

John has a second.

**[01:53:43.21] - Speaker 2**

You have to try and make It would seem like I made him say.

**[01:53:45.19] - Speaker 8**

We're having a vote on the motion. It's first. Oh, a vote on the motion to adjourn. All in favor? We're not dealing with the discussion tonight. I cannot. If this is the way this is going to be. Just ask him. Yeah. Motion to adjourn. Mr. Muller, how do you vote on the- It's Dr. Muller.

**[01:54:06.11] - Speaker 8**

I'm sorry. Council member Muller, how do you vote on this? I apologize. On what? On the motion to adjour.

**[01:54:14.27] - Speaker 2**

I abstain.

**[01:54:15.26] - Speaker 8**

You abstain. Secretary, how do you vote on this, please?

**[01:54:23.07] - Speaker 5**

In favor.

**[01:54:24.02] - Speaker 8**

Okay. Do you have a record then? You've got it. One abstained and six in favor. Who abstained?

**[01:54:31.11] - Speaker 2**

I abstained because this is a disrespectful show for a fellow council member. You didn't have to do that. You really didn't.

**[01:54:47.16] - Speaker 5**

Everybody else was in favor.

**[01:54:49.05] - Speaker 2**

You could have just voted to make it seem like you were voting. You didn't have to vote.