

October 8, 2025, Town Council Meeting Summary

(held in person and by Zoom Video Conferencing)

- Approved the Town Meeting Minutes of September 10, 2025.
- Held a Presentation by the Maryland Department of Disabilities and the Maryland Developmental Disabilities Council with regard to the importance of inclusive playgrounds.
- Adopted **Ordinance No. O-05-2025** – An Ordinance of the Mayor and Council of the Town of Kensington Authorizing the Acquisition of certain property located at 10415 Montgomery Avenue, Kensington, Maryland, for a public purpose.
- Approved **Resolution No. R-19-2025** – A Resolution of the Mayor and Council of the Town of Kensington Authorizing the Town Manager to accept the proposal from Donohoe Construction for the Town Hall Offices Renovation project.
- Approved **Resolution No. R-20-2025** – A Resolution of the Mayor and Council of the Town of Kensington Authorizing a Contract with Shorb Landscaping for Landscape Maintenance Services at Clum Kennedy Park.

Town Council Meeting October 8, 2025, 7:00 pm, held in Person and by Zoom Video Conferencing

Mayor Furman; Council Members Crimmins, Engle, and Sparker; Town Attorney Ferguson (by Zoom Video Conferencing); Town Manager Hoffman; Assistant Town Manager Marini; and Clerk-Treasurer Engels were present. Council Member Lichter was necessarily absent. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited, and a moment of silence observed.

The Town Meeting Minutes from September 10, 2025, were reviewed and approved. See Council Actions.

From the Mayor and Town Council

Maryland Developmental Disabilities Council

Kirsten Bosakand and Chris Rogers, Maryland Developmental Disabilities Council, were present to provide information and answer questions on inclusive playgrounds in Maryland.

Comments and questions were received from Residents.

Charlotte “Charlie” Geiser read her school essay on the importance of inclusive playgrounds.

The Council discussed the current pour-in-place (PIP) surfacing at St. Paul Park and the cost of installing corkeen surfacing instead of the PIP for Phase II of St. Paul Park Playground.

The Council concurred to follow up with additional research and schedule a Work Session for further discussion before considering Resolution R-17-2025.

Please reference the Audio Recording of the meeting for the discussion, which may be found at the following link: <https://archive.org/details/2025-10-08-Town-Council-Meeting>

A Work Session was tentatively set for October 31, 2025, at 8:30 am to discuss the playground surfacing.

Delegate Jared Solomon discussed the recent pedestrian tragedies and safety initiatives that SHA has completed along with planned improvements; and there will be an upcoming public Town Hall meeting with SHA to share initiatives and receive feedback. The Town Hall has since been scheduled for December 17, 7:00 pm, at Newport Mill Middle School.

Public Appearances

Joe Campbell questioned whether additional safety features would be added to the new crosswalk at Kensington Parkway and Littledale Avenue and the status of street sweeping.

Town Manager Hoffman stated a permanent crosswalk with improved sightlines will be installed in conjunction with the storm drain work at Hadley and Washington Streets; and since leaf season has begun, street sweeping is not scheduled for this year.

Leslie Olson noted the importance of community input regarding changes to the walking path at St. Paul Park for additional inclusive playground equipment.

Mayor and Council Reports

Council Member Sparker reminded Residents of the ongoing Walktober event, which includes 22 signs with fun facts, a QR code to submit pictures and information, and a random drawing for two tickets to the June 2026 MD House & Garden Pilgrimage tour; the parking task force is working on a request for information and request for proposals (RFP) for an assessment on parking in Town.

Council Member Engle stated the Town is continuing to receive helpful feedback on the food waste collection program for improvements.

Council Member Crimmins stated he, Council Member Engle, and Mayor Furman had an administrative meeting with Park and Planning regarding the multi-year process to amend the Kensington Sector Plan; and the MCPS Boundary Study update has four new options, all of which have the Town with the same articulation pattern and staying in the current schools - a follow up letter will be sent to the Board of Education.

Mayor Furman stated the Town will be pledging \$1,000 to the James Anderson Memorial Foundation once it is established; prior to the Town Meeting the Mayor and Council Members met with Girl Scout Troop 34175 for a ribbon cutting for their Little Free Seed Library at Town Hall; Glen Kessler, Compass Art Center, suggested an arts and entertainment district for the Town; and two new history boards will be added in Town.

Ordinances, Resolutions, and Regulations

Ordinance No. O-05-2025 – An Ordinance of the Mayor and Council of the Town of Kensington Authorizing the Acquisition of certain property located at 10415 Montgomery Avenue, Kensington, Maryland, for a public purpose was presented for adoption. See Council Actions.

Town Attorney Ferguson stated that the contract has a covenant that M&T Bank requested in order to get optimum pricing for 10420 Montgomery Avenue, which restricts the Town's use of the lot for public parking and related uses for 10 years; for an additional 15 years the property will continue to be used for public parking unless this use is terminated by the Town for a compelling public purpose with a 180-day written notice to the current owner of property at 10420 Montgomery Avenue. This does not preclude the Town from charging for parking or using the lot for the Farmers' Market.

Town Manager Hoffman stated Phase I of the environmental study is in process and the property will be surveyed.

Resolution No. R-17-2025 – A Resolution of the Mayor and Council of the Town of Kensington Authorizing the Town Manager to accept the proposal from Playground Specialists, Inc., to install the PlaySpec Rainbow pour-in-place (PIP) surfacing at St. Paul Park was presented. No actions were taken. The surfacing will be discussed at an upcoming Work Session.

Resolution No. R-19-2025 – A Resolution of the Mayor and Council of the Town of Kensington Authorizing the Town Manager to accept the proposal from Donohoe Construction for the Town Hall Offices Renovation project was presented. See Council Actions.

Town Manager Hoffman stated that he, along with the Mayor, and Council Members Crimmins and Sparker, met with Donohoe Construction, and that the renovation was not formally bid; however, two proposals were received and Donohoe's proposal for \$332,000 was lower; the Resolution is to not exceed \$350,000 to cover any change orders; the Town is responsible for the permit and additional engineering, if needed; the estimated time to complete the project is 8 weeks and it will affect only the third floor of Town Hall.

Resolution No. R-20-2025 – A Resolution of the Mayor and Council of the Town of Kensington Authorizing a Contract with Shorb Landscaping for Landscape Maintenance Services at Clum-Kennedy Park was presented. See Council Actions.

Town Manager Hoffman stated this is a long-standing contract; however, since it's over \$10,000 Council approval is needed; it covers pruning, weeding, mulching, and tree and shrub care in the flower beds at Clum Kennedy Park; and the Resolution needs to be amended subject to review of the final contract by the Town Attorney.

Council Actions

Council Member Crimmins moved to approve the Town Meeting Minutes from September 10, 2025. The motion passed unanimously.

Council Member Sparker moved to adopt Ordinance No. O-05-2025 Authorizing the Acquisition of certain property located at 10415 Montgomery Avenue, Kensington, Maryland, for a public purpose. The motion passed unanimously.

Council Member Engle moved to approve Resolution No. R-19-2025 Authorizing the Town Manager to accept the proposal from Donohoe Construction for the Town Hall Office Renovation project not to exceed \$350,000. The motion passed unanimously.

Council Member Crimmins moved to approve Resolution No. R-20-2025 Authorizing a Contract with Shorb Landscaping for Landscape Maintenance Services at Clum Kennedy Park not to exceed \$10,550.50 subject to final review of the contract by the Town Attorney. The motion passed unanimously.

Council Member Engle moved to adjourn the meeting at 10:06 pm. The motion passed unanimously.