

April 15, 2026, Town Council Meeting Summary

(held by Zoom Video Conferencing)

- Approved the Town Meeting Minutes of March 18, 2026.
- Held a Public Hearing on **Ordinance No. O-01-2026** - An Ordinance of the Mayor and Council of the Town of Kensington to Appropriate and Adopt the Fiscal Year 2026 – 2027 (FY27) Budget and to Levy a Tax on Certain Real and Personal Property under the provisions of §6-203 of the Tax-Property Article of the Annotated Code of Maryland, as Amended.
 - *The Public Hearing will remain open until 4:00 pm on Friday, May 8, 2026.*
 - *The Budget Forum was held prior to the Public Hearing that provided an overview of the FY27 Operating Budget and Capital Improvement Plan.*
- Approved **Resolution No. R-06-2026** – A Resolution of the Mayor and Council of the Town of Kensington Authorizing a Contract with Mulheron Tree Experts, Inc., for Soil Care Fertilization and Tree Pest Management for certain trees within Town Parks and the Public Right-of-Way in an amount not to exceed \$18,750.00.
- Approved **Resolution No. R-07-2026** – 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 April 15, 2026, 7:08 pm, held by Zoom Video Conferencing

Mayor Furman; Council Members Crimmins, Engle, Lichter, and Sparker; Town Attorney Ferguson; Town Manager Hoffman; Assistant Town Manager Marini; and Clerk-Treasurer Engels were present. A moment of silence was observed.

The Town Meeting Minutes of March 18, 2026, were reviewed and approved. See Council Actions.

From the Mayor and Town Council

A Budget Forum was held by Zoom Video Conferencing at 6:00 pm. The presentation is available under the Town Budget tab on the Town website, or at the following link: <https://tok.md.gov/wp-content/uploads/2026/04/FY27-Budget-Forum-Power-Point.pdf>

Girl Scouts, Faye and Sarah, from Junior Troop 34174, presented information on their project for the Bronze Award, a Story Walk featuring the book “Rosie Revere Engineer,” which will be in front of Town Hall from April 12 through April 26, and encouraged families to read the book together and be inspired.

250th Anniversary Banners

Mayor Furman discussed installing 250th Anniversary Banners featuring parts of the Declaration of Independence along Connecticut Avenue and around the Parks; the locations will be discussed further at the next Town Meeting.

Mayor and Council Reports

Council Member Sparker reported that an initial meeting was held with Walker Consultants, who were awarded the contract for the parking analysis, and dates will be determined for meetings with stakeholders and the community; the Mobility and Traffic Committee and Pedestrian and Bicycling Access & Safety Working Group met on March 24, 2026; they discussed pedestrian safety and ADA compliance at Summit Avenue and Knowles Avenue, and the intersection of Plyers Mill Road, Concord Street, and Metropolitan Avenue; and will be studying sidewalk infrastructure in Town for pedestrian improvements.

Council Member Lichter reported the work is continuing at Ernest Memorial Park, the full installation will be delayed until after the Home and Garden Tour, a visual schematic will be available during the Tour; Jim Renza will be having a wreath laying on Memorial Day at the Park; and the fifth Annual Juneteenth celebration will be Saturday, June 13, at St. Paul Park.

Council Member Engle reported Sustainable Kensington representatives will be going door to door to survey Residents and encourage participation in the food waste program.

Council Member Crimmins reported the State finished their legislative session and the Starter and Silver Homes Act did not make it out of committee; District 18 identified a \$100,000 bond that can be repurposed for Town Hall Repairs in FY27; and noted proposed income and property tax increases in the County's budget.

Mayor Furman stated the Noyes Library groundbreaking will be held on Saturday, May 9, at 10 am; and appreciated Kate Stewart's office for their collaboration addressing some issues in Town.

Public Appearances

Leslie Olson stated she did not receive an automated response for her service requests through the website; she requested the gate latch at the dog park be repaired and the evaluation of a Town tree in front of her house.

Joe Campbell questioned why construction vehicles were blocking the ADA parking spaces in front of Town Hall; and why the Town was publicizing the "Day of the Beer" event when alcohol is involved.

From the Town Manager and Staff

Town Manager Hoffman reported that the St. Paul Street Storm Drain Project is almost complete, in which a new storm drain was installed along St. Paul Street between University Boulevard and McComas Avenue. The project also included increasing the size of the existing inlets at the base of both Madison Street and McComas Avenue, along with adding an additional inlet to Decatur Avenue. There were also intersection improvements made to help with sightlines for motorists and additional pedestrian safety improvements. The completion of the project exhausted the ARPA funds. The new street name sign installation project is almost complete, and the old street name signs will be available through a lottery for \$25 per sign, with the funds donated to the 20895 Hunger Ministry. In addition, WSSC will be replacing four miles of existing water main in Town,

which is currently in the survey phase. The engineering phase will take 18-24 months, with approximately two additional years for construction.

Ordinances, Resolutions, and Regulations

Ordinance No. O-01-2026 – A Public Hearing was held on Ordinance No. O-01-2026 to Approropriate and Adopt the Fiscal Year 2026 – 2027 (FY27) Budget and to Levy a Tax on Certain Real and Personal Property under the provisions of §6-203 of the Tax-Property Article of the Annotated Code of Maryland, as Amended. The Public Record will remain open until May 8, 2026, at 4 pm. See Council Actions.

Town Manager Hoffman noted that the Community Budget Forum was held prior to the Public Hearing, which provided an overview of the FY27 Operating Budget, and a Budget Letter with detail is available on the Town website.

Highlights include the following: no service changes; all real and personal property taxes remain the same for the 8th consecutive year; anticipated income tax receipts have been increased following the most recent trend; a part time administration position will be changed to a full time Assistant to the Town Manager position; reclassification of a retired public works position to a Public Works Level 1 or 2 position; an increase within municipal events of \$30,000 to fund the Day of the Book Festival, or similar event; professional services for the continued parking study and for the sector plan; and continue to fund the CIP for the public works building, storm drains, utility upgrades including ev chargers, public parking lot, adding sidewalks and funding future projects within the CIP.

Al Carr questioned the street lighting expense in FY27 being reduced from \$65,000 within FY26 to \$48,000 for FY27, and stated that this was due to Pepco cutting the Town a check and assigning streetlights on State roads to State Highway; he stated it was a mistake for the Town to give up responsibility for all the lights on State roads since SHA is not equipped to manage these lights; and Pepco has neglected the streetlights which are obsolete and have frequent maintenance, waste energy along with inaccuracies in their invoices and reporting maps.

Town Attorney Ferguson corrected Mr. Carr and stated that she represents six municipalities within the Rate Case filing, and that Pepco is not forcing any municipality to transfer lights to the State, nor does Pepco care who takes responsibility for streetlights located along the State's right-of-way.

Town Manager Hoffman stated no decision has been made on the streetlights and that the Town has not yet communicated with the State to discuss the transfer of approximately 100 streetlights located within the State's right-of-way. The reason the expected streetlight expenses were lowered from \$65,000 back to \$48,000 for FY27 was to accurately reflect the Town's actual cost.

Council Member Sparker questioned information on whether a part-time or full-time code enforcement officer was budgeted for; and whether there is any projection of the book festival's return on investment for the businesses.

Council Member Engle questioned the changes in Economic Development.

Town Manager Hoffman stated there is no request to fund another code enforcement officer position this year; however, there is a request to continue funding for a 4th secondary MCPS officer, if needed; the Town previously sponsored \$10,000 for the book festival tents, since Eli Sola-Sole's retirement from the book festival, the Town would need to hire another organizer, so it has been increased to \$30,000 and moved to municipal events, and more information needs to be obtained; economic development also decreased due to the Noyes Library donation being reduced to \$10,000, which would bring total funding to \$150,000 to the Noyes Children's Library Foundation.

Joe Campbell questioned the 12 percent increase in the government salary line item from last year; and whether there were any plans to increase traffic enforcement for the left turn restrictions at Frederick Avenue and Kent Street, Frederick Avenue and Wake Drive, and the south side of Kensington Parkway and Kent Street; and whether street sweeping will be completed this year.

Town Manager Hoffman stated salaries included a 2.7% COLA increase, a market rate correction for certain positions, and a part time vacant administrative position reclassified to a full time Assistant to the Town Manager position; traffic enforcement is through Montgomery County Police, there is funding for a 4th secondary enforcement officer and the officers can be moved around to those intersections if needed; and there will be a street sweeping this spring.

Al Carr suggested increasing Council compensation to keep up with inflation and attract Residents to consider serving.

Resolution No. R-06-2026 – A Resolution of the Mayor and Council of the Town of Kensington Authorizing a Contract with Mulheron Tree Experts, Inc., for Soil Care Fertilization and Tree Pest Management for certain trees within Town Parks and the Public Right-of-Way in an amount not to exceed \$18,750.00 was presented. This will require approval by an extra-majority vote of the Town Council (waiving advertising procedure). See Council Actions.

Town Manager Hoffman stated this is to continue to use Mulheron Tree Experts for fertilization, as they were used in the prior year because the previous contractor had significantly increased their prices.

Resolution No. R-07-2026 – 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. This will require approval by an extra-majority vote of the Town Council (waiving advertising procedure). See Council Actions.

Town Manager Hoffman stated the Contract will need to be reviewed by the Town Attorney.

Council Actions

Council Member Crimmins moved to approve the Town Meeting Minutes from March 18, 2026, Town Meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

Council Member Engle moved to hold the record open on Ordinance No. O-01-2026 to Appropriate and Adopt the Fiscal Year 2026 – 2027 (FY27) Budget and to Levy a Tax on Certain Real and Personal Property under the provisions of §6-203 of the Tax-Property Article of the Annotated Code of Maryland, as Amended until Friday, May 8, 2026, at 4 pm. The motion passed unanimously.

Council Member Crimmins moved to approve Resolution No. R-06-2026 Authorizing a Contract with Mulheron Tree Experts, Inc., for Soil Care Fertilization and Tree Pest Management for certain trees within Town Parks and the Public Right-of-Way in an amount not to exceed \$18,750.00. The motion passed unanimously.

Council Member Sparker moved to approve Resolution No. R-07-2026 Authorizing a Contract with Shorb Landscaping for Landscape Maintenance Services at Clum Kennedy Park subject to review by the Town Attorney. The motion passed unanimously.

Council Member Lichter moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:08 pm. The motion passed unanimously.