

# Town of Chesapeake City

## Town Council Meeting Minutes

*Monday, March 9, 2026*

Present: Mayor Rich Taylor, Sarah Ford-Ferrara, Frank Vari, Lee Adams, Brian Hunsberger (staff), Rob Bernstine (staff), Genevieve Macfarlane (attorney)

Absent: Tonya Lockwood (staff), Ed O'Hara,

Mayor Rich Taylor called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America.

### Approval of Minutes:

*February 9, 2026, Meeting*

**Motion:** Frank Vari made a motion, seconded by Sarah Ford-Ferrara to approve the minutes from the February 9, 2025, Meeting. All in favor, motion carried.

*February 23, 2026, No Workshop Held Due to Weather*

### Council Reports:

Lee Adams

Water and Sewer- There have been several issues at the South Pump Station along with a sewer main on the North Side. We did receive a violation last month and likely will again this month from MDE. We have submitted a reimbursement request to MDE for \$554,587.16. There will be a 1-year inspection on March 3 with USDA and Wickersham. The South Pump Station repairs were completed. We assisted with several clogged laterals on the North Side this month. Lee read the WWTP flows for last month from the County Report (distributed).

Planning Commission- The Planning Commission did not meet this month, however, a draft of the new Zoning Ordinance and Zoning Map was given to them for initial review. The Zoning Administrator, Rob Bernstine, approved 2 applications this month for a sign replacement and siding replacement, both on Bohemia Ave.

Public Safety- No report in Hunter's absence.

Sarah Ford-Ferrara

Historic District Commission- The Historic District Commission met on Tuesday, February 24, 2026, they reviewed and approved 2 applications for siding replacement and paint, and sign replacements. They also had discussions about updates to the Historic Guideline Booklet, regarding materials, and the Historic Section of the Zoning Code, regarding the expiration of permits.

Ed O'Hara – No report in Ed's absence.

Frank Vari

Public Works- As a reminder, Trash is picked up on Mondays, Yard Waste on Tuesday, and Recycling on Wednesday. If you need a special pick up, you should call the number listed on the can. April 19, 2026 is Hazardous Household Waste Day at the Cecil County Landfill, this is a free event for Cecil County Residents. Town Staff and LECCO did a great job plowing the streets, alleys, and parking lots during the second large storm of the season. The office steps at Town Hall have been repaired. Please let Town Hall know of any potholes that need repaired.

Parks and Rec- Minutes from the Parks and Rec Meeting were distributed. The next meeting will be held on March 19, 2026. The Easter Egg Hunt will be held on Saturday March 28, 2026, at Helen Titter Park, with a rain-date of Saturday, April 4, 2026, starting at 10 am. The committee continues to work on the beds and pots around town. They also would like to begin setting up the trimming of trees and doing a disease check on existing trees. They would like to start the process of rejoining the Tree City USA Program, for which the application process opens in September. Horseshoes will again be played on Thursdays in Pell Gardens this year. They would like to work with the Ferry to get North Side Residents involved and able to play without having to drive over.

Rob Bernstine, Town Manager

The Town Manager's Report was distributed to Council.

Brian Hunsberger, Treasurer

The Monthly Financial Reports were distributed and the account balances as of today were read.

Mayor Rich Taylor

Spoke with Tammy Smithers regarding fireworks, they have a Chamber meeting tomorrow night, and they want/need to get commitments from other businesses to help share the cost and the responsibility of putting on the event. He would like to see the event happen this year with the 250<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, but it is looking likely that eventually, whether this year or not, the event will end. The Chamber will also discuss the continuation of the Horse Parade and Christmas Market.

Action Items:

*Re-Appointment to the Board of Elections – Debbie Miller, Karyn Huddleston, Tammy Smithers, Robert Loller, and Sarah O'Hara*

**Motion:** Lee Adams made a motion, seconded by Sarah Ford-Ferrara to approve the re-appointment of Debbie Miller, Karyn Huddleston, Tammy Smithers, Robert Loller, and Sarah O'Hara to the Board of Elections. All in favor, motion carried.

*Re-Appointment to Historic District Commission – Karyn Huddleston, Lisa Still, and Carey Maloumian*

**Motion:** Lee Adams made a motion, seconded by Frank Vari to approve the re-appointment of Karyn Huddleston, Lisa Still, and Carey Maloumian to the Historic District Commission. All in favor, motion carried.

*Wastewater and Collections System Operation and Maintenance Agreement*

Annual contract renewal with Cecil County. We have been pleased with the relationship throughout this process and would be grateful to continue it. Genevieve would like to make a slight change to the agreement to add a mutual indemnification (Section 8.2). Additionally, she would recommend we specify the Scope of Work in a bit more detailed manner.

**Motion:** Lee Adams made a motion, seconded by Sarah Ford-Ferrara to approve the Wastewater and Collections System Operation and Maintenance Agreement with Cecil County, pending the changes to Section 8.2. All in favor, motion carried.

*Cecilton Bed Race*

Frank would like to send a donation for this event, as they always support our races. The proceeds go toward stocking their local food pantries.

**Motion:** Frank Vari made a motion, seconded by Sarah Ford-Ferrara to approve the donation of \$100.00 to the Cecilton Bed Race. All in favor, motion carried.

Discussion Items:

*Maintenance Agreement – Ben Cardin Trail*

The US Army Corp of Engineers has asked the Town to enter into a Lease Agreement to operate and maintain the Ben Cardin Trail. Apparently, this was supposed to happen back when the trail was created, however, it seems that it never did. A Resolution was created in 2013, stating that we would be responsible for the operation and maintenance of the trail. There is not a clear answer to why the agreement was never signed, but there may have been a misunderstanding with money set aside for maintenance that was not received by the Town. The project was run through the Corp, not the Town, so funding and agreements etc., went through them and were to be passed to the Town.

We should continue to investigate making it a State Park or something similar, for assistance with maintenance.

Rob will reach out to them asking for a copy of the Lease Agreement for us to review.

Public Comment: None at this time

Council Comments:

Frank & Co: Enjoy the St. Patrick's Day Festivities this Saturday!

Genevieve: Sale of property protocol: 20 days public notice done by Resolution or Ordinance.

Adjourn:

**Motion:** Frank Vari made a motion, seconded by Sarah Ford-Ferrara to adjourn the meeting at 7:35 pm. All in favor, motion carried.

*\*An audio recording of this meeting is available upon request.*

Respectfully Submitted,

Tonya Lockwood

Richard L. Taylor, III, Mayor