



**TOWN OF PORT DEPOSIT  
TOWN COUNCIL LEGISLATIVE MEETING  
February 3, 2026**

**MEETING MINUTES**

*The public was invited to call into the meeting via videoconferencing or audio by phone.*

**PRESENT:** Mayor Wayne Tome Jr., Deputy Mayor Kevin Brown, Councilman Daniel Berlin, Councilman Tom Knight, Councilwoman Randa Thiele, Town Administrator Vicky Rinkerman, Treasurer Patti Gray, Public Works and Code Administrator Dan Jamison.

**ABSENT:** None.

**CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Tome Jr. at 7:00 p.m.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

The legislative meeting minutes of January 6, 2026, were presented.

Motion was made by Councilman Berlin and seconded by Councilwoman Thiele to approve the minutes as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

The work session meeting minutes of January 20, 2026, were presented.

Motion was made by Councilwoman Thiele and seconded by Councilman Berlin to approve the minutes as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

**SHERIFF'S OFFICE UPDATE**

Corporal Tyler Price reported that all twenty-nine approved January shifts were filled and that deputies handled ten calls for service despite severe weather. He stated that traffic enforcement continued, with speeding and tractor-trailer violations remaining ongoing concerns. He noted that enforcement is complicated by the ongoing problem of truck-restriction signs being repeatedly taken down or missing, including a sign near the northeast side of Route 222 that has been down more than once. Council requested adding a tractor-trailer section to the Sheriff's monthly report to capture tractor-trailer stops and citations, and Cpl. Price confirmed it could be added to the reporting form.

**OLD BUSINESS**

Granite Avenue Bridge Update: Town Administrator Rinkerman reported that she reviewed the engineering report and consulted with RK&K and Cecil County's bridge inspection contact. She stated that the bridge will ultimately require full replacement, but that interim repairs may be made to keep it open while funding is pursued. Town Administrator Rinkerman noted the bridge is approximately 90 years old and discussed preliminary repair estimated of \$75,000 for engineering and \$175,000 for construction to be considered in

the 2027 budget cycle. Council discussed long-term replacement cost ranges and the possibility of working with Cecil County engineering staff to reduce expenses.

USDA Extension Request: Town Administrator Rinkerman provided an update on the Town's USDA extension request related to the Granite and Race Street project. She stated the extension request is intended to allow adequate time for project completion under the current schedule. The Town has submitted the RFP, which is now under review by USDA's national engineers, and a meeting will be scheduled once feedback is received to determine next steps. Town Administrator Rinkerman also noted that Mayor Tome Jr. contacted delegation offices to request their assistance in support of the extension request.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

2026 MML Legislative Support Request – HB 0099 – Municipalities – Annexed Land: Town Administrator Rinkerman reported that the Maryland Municipal League is putting forward House Bill 0099 on behalf of municipalities statewide and explained that the bill would remove the five-year waiting period tied to annexations when county zoning conflicts exist, allowing annexations consistent with adopted comprehensive plans and smart growth principles.

Motion was made by Councilwoman Thiele and seconded by Councilman Berlin in support of House Bill 0099. The motion passed unanimously.

### **REPORTS TO COUNCIL**

Public Works and Code Administrator Jamison reported that code enforcement letters were issued regarding individuals staying in a trailer/camper on South Main Street, and that the individuals followed up and requested additional time while seeking an RV park option. As for Public Works, due to recent significant snowfall and resulting icy conditions, priorities have shifted to snow removal. Public Works and Code Administrator Jamison reported that roads, as well as sidewalks and parking lots, have been cleared and salted. He further noted storm-related issues including damaged or missing traffic signs to be replaced when conditions allow and trash collection complications due to snowbanks, with bag pickup coordinated and updated procedures to be communicated.

Treasurer Gray reported that all accounts were reconciled for January, but that there were \$8,415.10 in outstanding checks in the general account. She noted that the money market had interest earnings of \$6.20 and stated that she will be exploring options to move \$250,000 into a higher-yield CD. She also provided a budget status update, reporting 81% income and 55% expenses year-to-date.

Town Administrator Rinkerman reported that the Planning Commission and the Historic Area Commission did not meet in January, and that she had no additional updates at this time.

### **COUNCIL REPORTS**

Council noted that the north-end welcome sign was damaged. As Town records do not provide information on the sign's material, Treasurer Gray will contact the vendor, and Public Works will evaluate repair or replacement.

### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

None.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Fire and Ice Festival, hosted by the Port Deposit Chamber of Commerce, will be held on Saturday, February 28, 2026, from 4:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. in downtown Port Deposit and is part of the Cecil County Tourism Winter Lights, Cecil Nights campaign. Additional details will follow.

**ADJOURNMENT TO EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Pursuant to the Annotated Code of Maryland, General Provisions Article, Title 3, Subtitle 3, Section 3-105 (1), the Town Council met in closed session to discuss a personnel matter over whom it has jurisdiction that affects one or more specific individuals.

Motion was made by Councilwoman Thiele and seconded by Deputy Mayor Brown to adjourn the public meeting and enter into closed session. The motion passed unanimously.

The public meeting was adjourned at 7:45 p.m. and the Council did not return to open session.

Respectfully Submitted,

  
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Mary Culver, Administrative Assistant

Approved:

  
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Wayne Tome Jr., Mayor