



TOWN OF PORT DEPOSIT
TOWN COUNCIL LEGISLATIVE MEETING
January 6, 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, Administrative Assistant Mary Culver.

ABSENT: Public Works and Code Administrator Dan Jamison

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 December 2, 2025, were presented.

Motion was made by Councilwoman Thiele and seconded by Deputy Mayor Brown to approve the minutes as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

SHERIFF'S OFFICE UPDATE

Corporal Tyler Price reported that all twenty-six approved December shifts were filled. He stated that calls for service and traffic citations increased, with radar enforcement conducted in multiple locations. Cpl. Price highlighted two notable calls for service that resulted in arrests: a vehicle collision involving property damage and a felony assault. He also stated that new signage appears to be helping reduce tractor trailer traffic near Powers Road but that speeding remains a concern.

Mayor Tome Jr. raised concerns regarding vehicles parking partially in the roadway along Granite Avenue at night, and Cpl. Price advised that deputies would increase evening patrol attention and address violations as needed.

RESOLUTION NO. 01-2026 – ADOPTION OF OFFICIAL TOWN REPTILE

The Council considered Resolution No. 01-2026 regarding designation of the Northern Map Turtle as the official town reptile. Councilman Berlin provided a brief summary of the significance of the endangered reptile to the Susquehanna River and town.

Motion was made by Councilman Berlin and seconded by Deputy Mayor Brown to adopt Resolution No. 01-2026. The motion passed unanimously.

RESOLUTION NO. 02-2026 – ADOPTION OF OFFICIAL TOWN FISH

The Council considered Resolution No. 02-2026 regarding designation of the Striped Bass and American Eel as the official town fish. Councilman Berlin provided a brief summary of the significance of these fish to the Susquehanna River and town.

Motion was made by Councilman Berlin and seconded by Councilwoman Thiele to adopt Resolution No. 02-2026. Following discussion regarding the ecological significance of the Striped Bass and American Eel and their relationship to the Susquehanna River, the motion passed unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS

Parking Regulation Overview: The Council discussed parking regulation concerns and research into how other towns regulate commercial vehicles. Legal Counsel Tom McCarron reviewed options with the Council, including examples from other towns' charters and ordinances and potential enforcement approaches.

The Council discussed the need for clear definitions and measurable standards, including various types of restrictions, such as gross vehicle weight, overall length, or number of axles, as well as restrictions based on location or town-wide. The need for clear signage and markings was also discussed, along with coordination with the Planning Commission as appropriate. Town Administrator Rinkerman will work with Legal Counsel McCarron on potential ordinance language and enforcement considerations and report back to the Council.

NEW BUSINESS

Memorandum of Understanding Towson University for Visitor Center: The Council considered a memorandum of understanding permitting Towson University faculty, staff, and/or students to open, operate, and close the Tome Visitor Center during the summer months of June through August when Town staff and/or volunteers are unavailable.

Motion was made by Councilwoman Thiele and seconded by Deputy Mayor Brown to approve the memorandum of understanding with Towson University. The motion passed unanimously.

Granite Avenue Bridge Update: Town Administrator Rinkerman provided an update on the Granite Avenue Bridge and reported that the bridge is beyond repair and will require replacement. The Council discussed the importance of completing the bridge work prior to paving and the possible need for a feasibility assessment to evaluate replacement options, as well as anticipated costs, grant timing, and the potential impact to residents if the bridge must be closed during construction.

Council concurred to move forward with having RK&K provide an estimate on the cost of a design – build bridge plan. Town Administrator Rinkerman will consult with Jamie Kendrick of Wood Valley Strategies regarding grant and funding options and report back to the Council.

REPORTS TO COUNCIL

Treasurer Gray reported that all accounts were reconciled for December, but that there were \$28,617.92 in outstanding checks in the general account. She reported interest earnings of \$6.82 in the money market account and \$2,771.42 on the APGFCU certificate of deposit. She provided a six-month budget status update, reporting 73% income and 50% expenses, which was noted to be close to plan.

Town Administrator Rinkerman reported that the Rock Run Embankment RFP has been advertised, with

submissions due February 17, 2026. A draft Tome Steps RFP will be sent to Legal Counsel McCarron for review and she suggested the proposal be shared with the qualified firms familiar with the Tome Steps. She reviewed the 43 S. Main Street stormwater project status, including coordination with SHA. For the Gas House project, the town is seeking an additional electrical estimate, and has reviewed archaeological support options, including a lower-cost option through Towson University. She updated the Council on the Conowingo Dam clean water license renewal and continued coordination with Cecil County regarding flooding and sediment concerns.

Town Administrator Rinkerman also reported that the Town is not eligible to apply for the CDBG façade grant this cycle due to two open CDBG grants totaling \$1.4 million. As part of the Town's Hopkins Quarry Master Plan efforts, the Town is applying for a \$90,000 DNR Green Space Equity Program grant for a predevelopment and feasibility study to address contamination and access issues. A letter of intent will be submitted for MHT grant funds for new street pole banners and a visitor counter at the park. There was also a brief discussion regarding ongoing efforts to address tractor trailer traffic, including exploration of potential height-based restrictions in coordination with Cecil County and state legislation.

COUNCIL REPORTS

Councilman Berlin raised concerns regarding a recent woods fire believed to have been caused by fireworks. Mayor Tome Jr., in his capacity as Fire Chief of the Water Witch Fire Company, Port Deposit, discussed existing legal restrictions and consistency with state law.

PUBLIC COMMENT

A Scout from the Webelos Den, Pack 92 attended the meeting as part of the requirements for the Citizenship in the Community merit badge, and Councilwoman Thiele offered her support.

Bill Baron, Chair of the Planning Commission, reminded the Council of an upcoming public informational meeting regarding proposed modifications to AquaCon's discharge permit. Details in announcements.

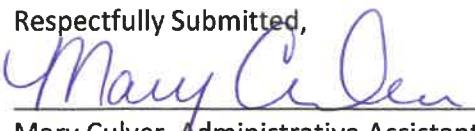
ANNOUNCEMENTS

A public informational meeting, hosted by the Maryland Department of the Environment, regarding AquaCon's proposed permit modifications will be held on Wednesday, January 7, 2026, from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. at the Perryville Meeting Room, Cecil County Public Library, Perryville, MD.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Mayor Tome Jr., adjourned the meeting at 8:03 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,


Mary Culver, Administrative Assistant

Approved:


Wayne Tome Jr., Mayor