



## **Town of Fairmount Heights**

6100 Jost Street | Fairmount Heights, MD 20743 | Phone: 301-925-8585 | Fax: 301-925-8977

September 9th, 2025

### **Town Work Session Minutes**

#### **Call to Order Opening**

Mayor Stewart calls the Fairmount Heights Mayor & Council Town Work Session to order at 7:30pm.

#### **Opening Ceremonies**

N/A

#### **Meeting Rules**

N/A

#### **Introduction of Guests**

N/A

#### **Roll Call**

Present: Mayor Akiaba Stewart, Vice Chairman St. John, Councilmember Oscar

Excused: N/A

Absent: Councilmember Downing, Councilmember Waiters

#### **Reading and Approval of Minutes**

N/A

#### **Amendments to Agenda**

Motion to approve agenda with the following amendments: Remove Agenda Item E. Hispanic Heritage Month, and add Police Retention.

Motion by Councilmember Waiters, second by Vice Chairman St John

Yes: Stewart, Oscar

No: N/A

Final Resolution: **Motion Passed**

#### **Presentation**

N/A

#### **Police Department Report**

Chief Washington provided an update on the stop sign program.

#### **Code Enforcement Report**

N/A

#### **Town Manager's Report**

N/A

**Public Works Report**

N/A

**Treasurer's Report**

N/A

**Unfinished Business**

**UMD Contract**

This item was postponed as Town Manager Sarumi was not present.

**Building Hall Agreement**

The Mayor and Council discussed the proposed updated hall rental agreement along with the change in rates/fees, and verbiage on the contract. Chief Washington also provided feedback on police attendance, alcohol consumption, and hours of operation. They requested for the Clerk to redraft the contract with the changes mentioned and they would revisit at the next month's work session.

**Harvest Festival**

Vice Chairman St John opened the discussion on solidifying the date, time, details for the upcoming Trunk or Treat event. It was decided it would be Friday October 31st 6-9pm.

**December activities coat/toy drive, tree lighting ceremony, staff xmas party**

Vice Chairman St John followed up with the council on setting the date for the tree lighting ceremony and staff xmas party. It was decided the tree lighting would be Dec 6th 4-6pm. The Clerk mentioned the Christmas trees were dead, and Mayor Stewart asked that she follow up with Ms. Sarumi on the status. Mayor Stewart stated Treasurer Walker normally handles the staff xmas party, so she will leave that to her, and she would reach out to former Vice Chair Mullen and Former Chief Moore for confirmation on the holiday drives.

**Back to school movie night**

Vice Chairman St John discussed setting the date for this event for October 17th. Mayor Stewart asked for the Clerk to look into the text notification service that was used during the back to school event in August.

**New Business**

**Set a date for 90th Anniversary May 2026**

Vice Chairman St John asked to postpone the discussion of this item since Ms. Sarumi and Ms. Walker were not present.

### **Fairmount Heights Grocery Store**

Mayor Stewart went over details from their meeting with Gooder representatives last week and the mini grocery store program. She stated they are currently searching for locations, and potentially trying to acquire daycare as an option. She stated she would have them come and present their program at an upcoming meeting to explain in detail how it works.

### **Police Retention**

Councilmember Oscar inquired what measures were being taken to combat the low retention rate for the police department and what incentives could potentially be offered to make up for the lower salary base offered in comparison to neighboring municipalities in the county. The Chief mentioned some avenues he is considering such as secondary employment, take home vehicle program, obtaining grants for recruitment and retention, and using revenue from speed camera and stop signs to try and bolster the lower income. He stated there are currently some applicants in the background process to bring their numbers back up to par, however he is not rushing as he wants to ensure we have quality candidates.

### **Mayor & Council Reports**

N/A

### **Public Comment**

N/A

### **Announcements**

Councilmember Waiters announced the upcoming Senior Resource Fair on October 11th 10 am at the Fairmount Heights Library and that she would share the flyer and additional details at the next meeting.

Vice Chairman St John announced she has created a Microsoft Teams group for the 90th anniversary planning committee.

### **Adjournment**

Motion to adjourn presented by Councilmember Waiters and seconded by Vice Chairman St John at 9:07pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Janiqua Russell  
Town Clerk/Council Clerk