

November 10, 2025 Burkittsville Town Council Meeting Minutes

Attendees

Michael Robinson (Mayor)	Matt Morris (Council)	Deb Burgoyne
Jad Drake (Council)	Nicole Beller (Clerk)	Shelby Beaver
Alex Byrd (Council)	Jamee Robinson	

Transcript: <https://otter.ai/u/HDznLOY2673DxEIn5idTvlMAQK4>

Meeting Commencement/Minutes & Treasurer's Report Review

- Mayor Robinson calls the meeting to order at 7:31PM, followed by the pledge.
- September Minutes reviewed. Councilman Morris motions to approve the minutes as presented, and the motion is seconded by Councilman Byrd and approved.
- Mayor presents the treasurer's reports for September and October, including a budget tracking spreadsheet.
 - Discussion on specific charges, such as the \$57 annual charge for the mayor or town office email storage.
 - Councilman Morris makes a motion to approve the September and October Treasurer's Reports, which is seconded by Councilman Byrd and approved.

Planning and Zoning Updates

- P& Z Chair Jamee Robinson announces Jim Hauver has resigned from the Planning and Zoning committee, leaving four members.
 - Discussion on the need to fill the vacancy and the bylaws regarding the number of members.
- Chair Robinson advises the septic ordinance, which has been in development for two years, will be presented at the December town meeting.
- Discussion on the comprehensive plan which will have minimal changes due to no planned growth.
- Chair Robinson Speaker 4 introduces the Maryland legislature's Auxiliary Dwelling Act of 2025, requiring municipalities to allow accessory dwelling units (ADUs).
 - Robinson explains the requirements of the Auxiliary Dwelling Act, including protections for historic properties.
 - Discussion on the potential impact of the act on existing properties and new construction.
 - Councilman Byrd inquires about the state's intersection with the ADU law, particularly regarding septic systems.

Website and Email Hosting Issues

- Mayor Robinson discusses the challenges with the town's current website host, including frequent downtime and cybersecurity issues.
- Nicole Beller shares her experience with CivicPlus, which charges \$3,295 per year plus a \$650 setup fee but does not offer email services.
- Discussion on the potential costs of switching to a new web host, including WordPress Pro at \$25,000 per year.
- Mayor Robinson mentions the need to consider the new hosting costs in the next fiscal year's budget.
- Mayor Robinson also discusses the challenges of selling town merchandise online and the need to set up a separate entity for this purpose.
- Further exploration of Web hosting services is needed and updates will be provided.

Holiday Decorations and Community Events

- Mayor Robinson inquires about timing of putting up the holiday decorations, including the tree and garland. Residents will get decorations up after Thanksgiving.
- Councilman Byrd suggests organizing a community picnic or potlucks to foster community engagement. Council discusses the need for a committee or informal group to plan and organize these events.

Road Repairs and EPA Grant Status

- Mayor Robinson announces the 2025 road repairs have been completed.
- E-mail inquiry from Mickie Beller regarding alley repairs at Ahalt Road. Mayor Robinson advises that these repairs may be able to be factored into the \$90,000 matching funds for the EPA grant. A meeting was set with Natural Resources to review next steps, but was canceled by the Federal government shutdown. Further meeting will be scheduled upon reopening.

Speed Signs and Safety Measures

- Mayor Robinson discusses the installation of speed signs and the need for state permits for placement along 17
- Council discusses the challenges of drilling holes for the signs due to rocky ground.
- Mayor Robinson mentions the need to move the signs to gather data and suggests getting written approval from property owners for placing speed signs on their property.

Meeting Adjournment

- Councilman Byrd makes a motion to adjourn the meeting, which is seconded and approved. The meeting is adjourned at 8:09 PM.

Next Town Meeting: Monday, December 8 at 7:30PM