

**OFFICE OF THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL
TANEYTOWN, MARYLAND
Mayor and Council Combined Meeting
November 19, 2025**

The Mayor and City Council combined meeting was held at 7:30 PM on Wednesday, November 19, 2025.

Present: Mayor Miller, Mayor Pro Tem Miller and Council members McCarron, Meade and Kalinock. **Also**

Present: City Manager Wieprecht and Clerk Kalman. Mayor Miller led the Pledge of Allegiance

Approval of Minutes: Approval of the minutes of the October 8, 2025 Combined meeting – motion to approve as presented by Kalinock, 2nd by Meade – carried 4 – 0.

Proclamation: Municipal Government Works Month – Mayor Miller read a proclamation declaring the month of November Municipal Government Works Month in conjunction with the Maryland Municipal League.

Mayor Miller stated council member Kalinock will be joining him at the Taneytown branch of the Carroll County public library on Saturday, November 22 from 12 PM – 2 PM to discuss parks and recreation and any other topic of interest to the attendees.

Council member statement regarding conflicts of interest on agenda items: None

Public Hearing: Ordinance 21 – 2025 – Amendment to Restricted Industrial District – The hearing was opened at 7:35 PM and closed at 8:36 PM with no comments from the public.

City Manager Wieprecht recommended a delay in passage to allow for discussion on battery energy storage systems and solar to determine if that language should be included. Mayor Miller advised this will cause the passage to exceed the 70 day window for adoption of ordinances as defined in §C – 209 of the City Charter and Code and the process will start from the beginning.

Public comment pertaining to non-agenda and agenda items:

- There were no comments from the public.

Consideration and Review:

- A memo from Attorney Jack Gullo was presented for Council review which outlined the Board of Zoning Appeals process. City Manager Wieprecht explained the Planning and Zoning Board was unhappy with the decision of the Board of Appeals to grant a variance to McDonald's and have discussed filing an appeal. Mayor Miller and City Manager Wieprecht explained the City would incur the cost of both attorneys and the decision would likely not be overturned. City Manager Wieprecht reviewed the details of the hearing and explained the concerns center around the number of parking spaces and if there is an agreement to allow parking at the shopping center. Council member Meade stated the variance was approved by the Planning and Zoning Board initially but the board wanted an amendment to make an agreement with the shopping center necessary. Additionally, the traffic study mentioned a reduction of drive through trips after the renovation so it was unclear why the renovation would be desired. The number of inconsistencies in the presentation led to the request for legal review.

Board Chairman Jim Parker concurred with the explanation by Council member Meade and reiterated the presentation by McDonald's representatives was not consistent. Mayor Miller stated he noticed a reluctance by McDonalds to approach Conwago for a parking agreement, but the difficulty is that the variance has already received approval. Chairman Parker stated the Planning and Zoning Board will decide at their November 24th meeting if the concept plan will be approved. Mayor Miller advised the plan cannot be denied based on the parking issue.

Item #5 under New Business was moved up on the agenda in consideration of Corey Groves from Morton Buildings who was present at the meeting – The recommendation of Parks and Recreation Director Vaccare is to approve the current contract for the building, which is in connection with the Memorial Park Expansion project, to avoid further cost increases. Motion to approve the contract by Kalinock, 2nd by Miller – carried 4 – 0.

Resolutions, Ordinances and Agreements:

Introduction:

Ordinance 22 – 2025 – Fences and Walls – City Manager Wieprecht explained the public hearing for the ordinance will need to be moved to the January meeting to satisfy the advertising requirements. Mayor Miller stated he has been contacted by residents who are concerned with the fence setbacks. The language in the ordinance will provide relief from the permitting process and will not bring the City into boundary disputes between residents. Responding to Council member Meade, City Manager Wieprecht advised the City will continue to enforce proper maintenance on future and existing fences. Mayor Miller stated the current permit fee does not adequately compensate the City for the amount of staff time expended. The item will be on the agenda for introduction at the December meeting. A stay of enforcement will be in place until passage of an ordinance.

Adoption:

Ordinance 21 – 2025 – Amendment to Restricted Industrial District – The Council discussed various revisions which should be incorporated to make the language clear. The item will be on the December agenda. City Manager Wieprecht explained that as the Council reviews the ordinance they should keep in mind the goal is to try to enable accessory uses in the industrial district which will allow the employees in that zone to have easy access from their workplace. There was no motion to approve. The approval process will start over as recommended.

City Manager Report:

- City Manager Wieprecht reviewed his monthly report and explained some of the changes to the Zoning and Site Plan Chapters of City code he has discussed with Director of Planning Gray. Wieprecht explained the County determined they would incorporate some of the State mandates into their solar ordinance and suggested it may be beneficial for the City to do the same. Mayor Miller explained the City cannot be more restrictive than the base restrictions of the State.

City Manager Wieprecht extended thanks to Victoria Clausen for the donation of an eighteen-foot Christmas tree to the City.

Mayor Miller stated he would like to exercise caution when amending the site plan approval process to ensure the public has plenty of opportunity to make comments. City Manager Wieprecht suggested an

additional posting on the website and perhaps public comment could be added to the Planning and Zoning agenda.

Department Reports:

- There were no questions about the monthly reports.

Old Business:

1. Revisions to General Specifications for Street and Stormwater Management Facilities Construction – no updates this month

Mayor Miller stated Director of Economic Development Jones held the first Main Street Ad Hoc advisory board meeting. The board is working to establish the framework.

New Business:

1. Monthly Financial Report – motion to approve by Meade, 2nd by Kalinock – carried 4 – 0.
2. Accounts Payables – motion to approve by Kalinock, 2nd by McCarron – carried 4 – 0.
3. Approval of Special Event Permit – Alyssa Richards Memorial Car Show – October 3, 2026 – motion to approve by Kalinock, 2nd by McCarron – carried 4 – 0.
4. Parking Meters – The Council discussed holiday parking. Meters will not be enforced from the day after Thanksgiving through January first. Responding to Council member Kalinock, Mayor Miller stated he was not in favor of permanently suspending parking meters without more notice to residents and business owners. Parking meters will be an item of discussion at the December 3 meeting. Executive Administrative Assistant Albin will research alternatives to parking meters which will be submitted to the Council before the end of the month. The Council approved by unanimous consensus a stay of enforcement through the January meeting.
5. 180 Day Update – discussion of items – Mayor Miller provided the following updates:
 - Welcome Sign – samples of various options were distributed to the Council for review. Mayor Miller advised Executive Administrative Assistant Albin will continue her research for possible options and encouraged the Council to consider the cost when determining the type of sign they prefer.
 - Newsletter – The final design will be sent to the printer by Friday. The newsletter will be released in hard copy format for three months that will allow residents to select if they want to continue the hard copy version before the change over to the electronic version.

Mayor Miller stated the Council should expect conversation at the December meeting about a leave buy out for City Manager Wieprecht and two police officers who were all unable to schedule time off.

- Speed cameras - not yet operational
- Attorney – the position has been reposted. Responding to Mayor Miller City Manager Wieprecht advised there is not a back up of high priority legal items.

6. Construction / oversized vehicles on residential roads – City Manager Wieprecht explained the policy for issuing tickets and some of the enforcement challenges, advising a stronger fine structure would be helpful. Mayor Miller explained the impound lot provides only limited space and suggested a tiered structure may be a consideration. Further discussion led to instructions to staff to prepare an updated fee schedule and create ordinances as necessary for the January meeting.

Mayor Miller stated he has received requests for an additional crossing guard but there should be discussion about compensation for the position because currently Taneytown is the only municipality in Carroll County that pays for a crossing guard.

Mayor Miller advised an informational meeting was held with the residents of Creekside. A dissertation will be prepared to inform the community of the types of projects the City can approve and the procedure that must be followed. The goal is to create an avenue in which residents can express their concerns in a more productive fashion.

Council member Reports

- Council members provided updates for their particular areas of focus.

City Manager Wieprecht advised another PFAS settlement payment has been received in the amount of \$60,944.00.

Adjournment – Motion to adjourn at 10:12 PM by Kalinock, 2nd by Meade – carried 4 – 0.

Respectfully Submitted by: Clara Kalman, City Clerk