

TOWN OF CHEVY CHASE
COUNCIL MEETING
MINUTES
January 13, 2021

Council & Staff (via videoconference)

Cecily Baskir, Mayor
Joel Rubin, Vice Mayor
Barney Rush, Treasurer
Ellen Cornelius Ericson, Secretary
Irene Lane, Community Liaison

Todd Hoffman, Town Manager
Ron Bolt, Town Attorney

Residents and Guests

Residents and guests attended by videoconference.

TRAFFIC STUDY PRESENTATION

At 6:00 p.m., the Council met to review and discuss a Town-wide traffic study. The Council agreed to schedule a resident forum and a Council work session on the study. This meeting ended at 7:15 p.m.

I. GENERAL BUSINESS

A. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 7:20 p.m.

B. Approval of Minutes

Councilmember Rush moved to approve meeting minutes. Councilmember Lane seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

C. Acceptance of Financial Report

The Council discussed and accepted the December 2020 financial report.

D. Town Manager's Report

Town Manager Todd Hoffman reported on the initiatives undertaken by staff over the past month.

E. Public Comments

The Council heard public comments.

II. VARIANCE HEARINGS

A. Watson/Navarro-Watson, 7418 Ridgewood Avenue, Rear Yard Setback, Side Yard Setback, Wall Plane Length

Town Manager Todd Hoffman reported that Simon Watson and Pamela Navarro-Watson, 7418 Ridgewood Avenue, were requesting variances for rear yard setback, side yard setback and wall plane length.

The applicants described the plan and the need for the variance. There were no public comments on the variance request. The Council discussed the request.

The Council approved the variances by unanimous consent.

III. PUBLIC HEARINGS

A. Public Hearing on an Ordinance to Activate an Emergency Plan for the 2021 Town Council Election

The Council held a public hearing on a proposed ordinance to activate an emergency plan for the 2021 Town Council election. There were no public comments on the proposed ordinance.

The Council discussed the proposed ordinance. Councilmember Rubin moved to approve the ordinance. Councilmember Lane seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Councilmember Ericson commented that the Council should consider codifying a universal vote-by-mail system for Town elections.

IV. COUNCIL DISCUSSIONS

A. Zimmerman Park Redevelopment

The Council discussed Zimmerman Park redevelopment. The Council asked the Land Use Committee to review cost estimates for the project and assist with organizing and conducting public engagement on the plan. The Council directed the consulting engineer to proceed with permit application for the stormwater management concept plan and asked the Town Manager to explore project management assistance.

B. ZTA 20-07/Thrive Montgomery 2050

The Council discussed issues and efforts related to the County's proposed Zoning Text Amendment (ZTA) 20-07. The Council agreed to oppose County consideration of the ZTA at

this time due to concerns about process and timing. The Council endorsed a series of questions and discussion points developed by a coalition of potentially affected communities. The Council agreed to continue outreach to other communities, the County Council, and the Planning Board while developing testimony for upcoming public hearings.

C. Noise Regulations and Rebate Program Publicity

The Council discussed publicity for new gas-powered blower regulations and the battery-powered blower/equipment rebate program. The Council asked the Climate and Environment Committee to assist with publicity.

V. OTHER BUSINESS

The Council discussed proposed signalized crosswalk improvements by the State Highway Administration (SHA) on East West Highway at Maple Avenue. The Council asked the Town Manager to explore a cost-sharing arrangement with the SHA to fund these improvements.

Councilmember Irene Lane briefed the Council on efforts of the Special Committee on Racial Justice. The Council agreed to fund a community educational event sponsored by the special committee.

The Council discussed other initiatives of the Special Committee on Racial Justice. Councilmember Rush moved to endorse and publicize Mayor Baskir's statement regarding events of January 6 at the U.S. Capitol. Councilmember Lane seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Ellen Cornelius Ericson, Secretary

Transcribed by Todd Hoffman, Town Manager

Audio recordings of Town Council meetings are available on the Town website (www.townofchevy Chase.org) approximately one week following each meeting.