

TOWN OF CHEVY CHASE  
COUNCIL MEETING  
MINUTES  
November 11, 2020

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  
Dave Walton, Permitting Manager  
Ron Bolt, Town Attorney

Residents and Guests

Residents and guests attended by videoconference.

COUNCIL WORK SESSION

At 5:30 p.m., the Town Council met to discuss Zimmerman Park redevelopment plans. The Council asked the Town's landscape architect to develop cost estimates for the proposed park amenities. The Council authorized the Town's consulting engineer to proceed with development of a stormwater management concept plan. The work session adjourned at 6:30 p.m.

I. GENERAL BUSINESS

A. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 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 October 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

There were no public comments.

## II. PRESENTATIONS & DISCUSSIONS

### A. Discussion and Possible Introduction of an Ordinance to Amend Town Building Regulations Related to Accessory Dwelling Units

The Council discussed proposed regulations of accessory dwelling units (ADUs) and a draft ordinance to implement said regulations. The Council discussed and agreed to several non-substantive changes to the ordinance language. Councilmember Rush moved to approve the ordinance, as amended, and to schedule a public hearing at the December 9 Council meeting. Councilmember Lane seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

### B. Gas-Powered Blower Regulations & Battery-Powered Equipment Subsidy Program

The Council discussed proposed regulations of gas-powered blowers, a draft ordinance to implement said regulations, and a proposed subsidy program for the purchase of battery-powered blowers and related equipment.

Councilmember Rubin moved to include in the proposed ordinance an expansion of quiet hours during which the use of gas-powered blowers is prohibited. Councilmember Rush seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Councilmember Rubin moved to include in the proposed ordinance a ban on the use of gas-powered blowers from January 1 through September 30, effective in 2022. Councilmember Rush moved to amend the motion to extend the ban through October 14. Councilmember Rubin accepted the amendment. Councilmember Lane seconded the amended motion, which passed unanimously.

Councilmember Ericson moved to omit from the proposed ordinance a total ban of gas-powered blowers. Councilmember Rush seconded the motion, which passed by a vote of 3-2, with Councilmembers Lane and Rubin opposed.

Councilmember Rush moved to include in the proposed ordinance an exemption for the use of gas-powered snow blowers and sprayers and asked the Climate and Environment Committee to study issues related to the regulation of gas-powered sprayers. Councilmember Rubin seconded the motion, which passed by a vote of 4-1, with Mayor Baskir opposed.

Councilmember Ericson moved to retain the enforcement provisions in the proposed ordinance and not to adopt special enforcement provisions for gas-powered blowers. Councilmember Rush seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

The Council discussed and agreed to several non-substantive changes to the ordinance language.

Mayor Baskir moved to introduce the ordinance, as amended. Councilmember Rush seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Councilmember Lane moved to schedule a work session on a proposed subsidy program. Mayor Baskir seconded the motion, which passed by a vote of 4-0-1, with Councilmember Rubin abstaining.

Councilmember Rubin moved to adopt the subsidy program as proposed. Without a second, the motion was not considered.

C. Election Board Report/Recommendations

The Council discussed the Town Election Board's report on the Town's 2020 election and recommendations for future Town elections. Mayor Baskir moved to support a universal vote-by-mail election in 2021. Councilmember Lane seconded the motion, which passed unanimously. The Council asked the Town Manager to address voter privacy issues identified during the 2020 election.

D. PEPCO Rate Case Filing/LED Streetlight Conversion

The Council discussed PEPCO's October 2020 rate case filing and plans for a system-wide conversion to LED streetlights. Councilmember Rush agreed to work with Town staff to determine options and costs related to LED conversion.

E. Thrive Montgomery 2050

The Council discussed issued and efforts related to the County's update of its general plan, Thrive Montgomery 2050, including a community coalition letter to be submitted to the Planning Board.

F. Subdivision Staging Policy

The Council discussed issues and efforts related to the County's update of the Subdivision Staging Policy.

III. OTHER BUSINESS

Councilmember Rush reported on efforts of the Community Relations Committee to plan virtual community events. Councilmember Rush also reported on the redevelopment status of the Farm Women's Market site.

#### IV. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:30 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](http://www.townofchevy Chase.org)) approximately one week following each meeting.