

TOWN OF CHEVY CHASE
COUNCIL WORK SESSION
MINUTES
January 6, 2016

Council and Staff

Al Lang, Mayor

Fred Cecere, Treasurer

Vicky Taplin, Secretary

Kathy Strom, Community Liaison

Todd Hoffman, Town Manager

Dave Walton, Permitting Manager

Ron Bolt, Town Attorney

Absent: John Bickerman, Vice Mayor

Residents and Guests

Deborah Vollmer, 7202 44th Street

Julia Craighill, 6911 Maple Avenue

Kirk Renaud, 3906 Woodbine Street

Sally Kelly, 7300 Oak Lane

Elizabeth MacDonald, 7113 Ridgewood Avenue

Craig Brooks, 7101 Beechwood Drive

Barney Rush, 6917 Maple Avenue

Paul Magnusson, 4228 Leland Street

Francis Kline, 4400 Ridge Street

Susan Blacklow, 6912 Oakridge Avenue

I. URBAN FOREST ORDINANCE

Council discussed proposed amendments to the Town's Urban Forest Ordinance.

Councilmember Cecere made a motion to:

1. Amend Sec. 29-6(a) of the proposed ordinance to allow the town manager to consult with a property owner when determining whether to authorize the issuance of a tree removal permit (to read "The town manager is authorized to issue a tree removal permit if, in consultation with the town arborist and/or a Town property owner, it is found that one (1) of the following conditions applies:....");
2. Strike Sec. 29-6(a)(3) of the proposed ordinance; and
3. Add a new subparagraph to Sec. 29-6(a) of the proposed ordinance to allow the town manager to impose conditions on a tree removal permit (to read "The town manager may impose conditions on a tree removal permit, including, but not limited to, requiring a one-for-one tree replacement or payment of an impact fee").

Mayor Lang seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

Councilmember Strom made a motion to amend Sec. 29-3 of the proposed ordinance to add additional tree species to the definition of canopy tree. The additional species are: American Linden, Hackberry, Green Ash, Bitternut Hickory, Mockernut Hickory, Pignut Hickory, Shagbark Hickory, Black Maple, Black Oak, Blackjack Oak, Chestnut Oak, Overcup Oak, Pin

Oak, Post Oak, American Sycamore, Black Walnut, Ginkgo, London Planetree, and European Beech. Mayor Lang seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

Mayor Lang made a motion to amend the proposed ordinance to require permits for the removal of all trees that measure at least twenty-four (24) inches in circumference at four and one-half (4 ½) feet above the ground. Councilmember Taplin seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

Mayor Lang made a motion to amend Sec. 29-12 of the proposed ordinance to require tree protection plans for all trees that measure twenty-four (24) inches in circumference at four and one-half (4 ½) feet above the ground on a subject property and for all trees at risk on adjoining properties and on the town right-of-way. Councilmember Taplin seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

Councilmember Cecere made a motion to amend Sec. 29-8(c) of the proposed ordinance to require a 15-day notification period for a public hearing on an appeal. Mayor Lang seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

Mayor Lang made a motion to amend Sec. 29-7 of the proposed ordinance to allow a property owner who is aggrieved by a decision of the town manager to appeal that decision to the Town Council. Councilmember Cecere seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

Council agreed to amend the Urban Forest Ordinance Standard Operating Procedures to include a provision that will encourage tree removal permit applicants to consult with the Town arborist prior to permit review.

II. BUILDINGS ORDINANCE

Council discussed proposed amendments to the Buildings Ordinance related to administrative variances and retaining walls.

Councilmember Strom made a motion to amend Sec. 4-60(c)(1)(b) of the proposed ordinance to add the words “on corner lots and on interior lots on East-West Highway, Connecticut Avenue and Bradley Lane, provided that such fence is a minimum of 30% open or transparent and not constructed of chain link.” Councilmember Cecere seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

Councilmember Taplin made a motion to amend Sec. 4-60(c)(1)(f) of the proposed ordinance to add the words “into front and rear yard setbacks.” Councilmember Strom seconded the motion, and it passed by a vote of 3-0-1, with Mayor Lang abstaining.

Mayor Lang made a motion to amend to amend Sec. 4-60(c)(1)(h) of the proposed ordinance to add the words “of an additional six feet or less for driveways other than shared driveways.” Councilmember Strom seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

Councilmember Strom made a motion to:

1. Amend Sec. 4-52(b) of the proposed ordinance to allow new front yard retaining walls under thirty (30) inches (instead of four (4) feet, as provided in the draft), to be constructed without a variance; and
2. Amend Sec. 4-52(b) of the proposed ordinance to require new front yard retaining walls to be set back two (2) feet from the sidewalk or, if there is no sidewalk, at least six (6) feet from the nearest public improvement.

Mayor Lang seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

Councilmember Cecere made a motion to amend the proposed ordinance to allow retaining walls under thirty (30) inches in the Town right-of-way to be approved by administrative variance. Mayor Lang seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

III. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Vicky Taplin
Secretary

Transcribed by Todd Hoffman, Town Manager