

TOWN OF CHEVY CHASE
COUNCIL MEETING
MINUTES
January 13, 2016

Council and Staff

Al Lang, Mayor
John Bickerman, Vice Mayor
Fred Cecere, Treasurer
Vicky Taplin, Secretary
Kathy Strom, Community Liaison

Todd Hoffman, Town Manager
Chris Quintyne, Management Assistant
Ron Bolt, Town Attorney

Residents and Guests

Mary Flynn, 4114 Blackthorn Street
Michael Coplan, 7003 Meadow Lane
Abby Schick, 7207 Maple Avenue
Deborah Vollmer, 7202 44th Street
Ann Ashbery & Russ Powell, 4404 Ridge Street
Kate Brown, 3915 Virgilia Street
Sally Kelly, 7300 Oak Lane
Don & Peg MacGlashan, 4114 Woodbine Street
Georgia Guhin, 4006 Rosemary Street
Dennis Carroll, 7007 Beechwood Drive
Bari Schwartz & Barry Hager, 4300 Willow Lane
Fran Pitlick, 4420 Stanford Street
Frank Pietrantonio, 7009 Hillcrest Place
Mona Sarfaty, 4501 Leland Street
Beth Barnett, 4315 Elm Street
Elizabeth MacDonald, 7113 Ridgewood Avenue
Elizabeth Mumford, 4301 Stanford Street
Eric Klein, 4411 Elm Street

Julie Trocchio, 4123 Leland Street
Gloria Tristani, 4219 Leland Street
Diane Dorfman, 4421 Walsh Street
Ernie Kelly, 7300 Oak Lane
Wicca Davidson, 7600 Connecticut Avenue
Craig Brooks, 7101 Beechwood Drive
Barbara Rose, 6909 Ridgewood Avenue
Dedun Ingram, 4411 Elm Street
Marjorie Wood, 7014 Beechwood Drive
Richard English, 7212 Maple Avenue
Stephan Lawton, 4120 Stanford Street
Bridget Hartman, 7214 Ridgewood Avenue
Steve Seidel, 4426 Stanford Street
Jeffrey Berger, 7109 Meadow Lane
Lennart Erickson, 7113 Ridgewood Avenue
Scott Fosler, 4104 Woodbine Street
Coralee Hoffman, 3917 Virgilia Street

I. GENERAL BUSINESS

A. Pledge of Allegiance

Mayor Lang led those in attendance in the Pledge of Allegiance.

B. Approval of Minutes of December 9, 2015 Council Meeting

Councilmember Bickerman made a motion to approve the minutes of the December 9, 2015 Council meeting. Councilmember Cecere seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

C. Approval of December 2015 Financial Report

Councilmember Cecere discussed the December 2015 financial report. Councilmember Bickerman made a motion to approve the December 2015 financial report. Mayor Lang seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

II. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Fran Pitlick, 4420 Stanford Street, commented on Bradley Lane traffic.

Dedun Ingram, 4411 Elm Street, commented on the Bethesda Sector Plan position paper and suggested that a new draft be submitted to the community for review. She also commented on the Town's police coverage.

III. VARIANCE HEARINGS

A. Variance Request, 7207 Maple Avenue, Front Yard Porch Roof Setback

Town Manager Todd Hoffman reported that David and Abby Schick, 7207 Maple Avenue, were requesting a variance to construct a new covered front porch onto their home.

The applicants described the plan and the need for the variance.

There were no comments from residents.

Council discussed the request.

Councilmember Cecere made a motion to approve the variance. Councilmember Taplin seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

IV. PUBLIC HEARINGS

A. Public Hearing on an Ordinance Granting a Non-Exclusive Franchise to Comcast of Potomac, LLC for the Operation of a Cable Communications System

Mayor Lang opened the public hearing on an ordinance granting a non-exclusive franchise to Comcast of Potomac, LLC for the operation of a cable communications system.

Councilmember Bickerman moved to approve by unanimous consent an ordinance granting a non-exclusive franchise to Comcast of Potomac, LLC for the operation of a cable communications system. No objection was raised, and the ordinance was adopted.

B. Public Hearing on Proposed Ordinances to Amend the Town's Ethics and Election Laws

Mayor Lang opened the public hearing on proposed ordinances to amend the Town's ethics and election laws.

The following residents made comments: Tina Coplan, 7003 Meadow Lane; Deborah Vollmer, 7202 44th Street; Richard Clay, 3917 Woodbine Street; Dedun Ingram, 4411 Elm Street; Bridget Harman, 7214 Ridgewood Avenue; Steve Seidel, 4476 Stanford Street; Sally

Kelly, 7300 Oak Lane; Diane Dorfman, 4421 Walsh Street; Ann Wild, 7104 Oakridge Avenue; and Scott Fosler, 4104 Woodbine Street.

Councilmember Strom moved to amend the ordinance requiring a write-in candidate to file a certificate of candidacy and financial disclosure statement no later than 7 days prior to a Town election, to add the following language, “Within 24 hours of receipt of a certificate of candidacy, the election board, in coordination with the town manager, shall inform town residents of the filing of the certificate of candidacy and the identity of such candidate.”

Councilmember Taplin moved to amend section 2-56(b)(3), to read as follows, “A candidate to be an elected official shall file the statement required under section 2-56(b)(1) or (2) of this division with the town manager or election board. Upon the receipt of a statement required under this section, the town manager or election board shall promptly forward the statement to the commission or the office designated by the commission.”

Councilmember Strom moved to adopt the ordinance, as amended, to amend the Town’s public ethics and election laws to require a write-in candidate to file a certificate of candidacy and financial disclosure statement no later than 7 days prior to a Town election. Mayor Lang seconded the motion, and it passed by a vote of 4-0-1, with Councilmember Cecere abstaining.

V. COUNCIL ACTIONS

A. Introduction of an Ordinance to Amend the Town’s Urban Forest Ordinance

Council agreed to continue review of proposed changes to the Town’s Urban Forest Ordinance and to schedule possible introduction of the ordinance at February Council meeting.

B. Introduction of an Ordinance to Amend the Town’s Buildings Ordinance Related to Administrative Variances and Retaining Walls

Councilman Bickerman moved to introduce an ordinance to amend the Town’s building ordinance related to administrative variances and retaining walls. Mayor Lang seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

Council agreed to send the ordinance to the County Council for review and to schedule a public hearing at the March Council meeting.

VI. COUNCIL DISCUSSIONS

A. FY16 Budget Amendments

Council discussed possible FY16 budget expenditure reductions and agreed to schedule a public hearing at the February Council meeting.

B. Purple Line – Purple Line Mitigation –Requests for Proposals

Council agreed to issue Requests for Proposals for legal and engineering assistance related to Town’s Purple Line mitigation efforts.

C. Bethesda Sector Plan

Council discussed the Bethesda Sector Plan and the Town's related position paper. Council agreed to incorporate Council comments into a position paper and redistribute for public review and comment.

D. Citizen Satisfactory Survey

Council discussed developing a new citizen satisfaction survey.

VII. NEW BUSINESS

Council discussed the proposed resubdivision of 3905 Blackthorn Street.

Councilmember Strom moved to request that the Planning Board defer a decision on the resubdivision request until the Town Council can review and submit comments. Councilmember Taplin seconded the motion, and it passed by a vote of 4-0-1, with Councilmember Bickerman abstaining.

VIII. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mary Flynn, 4114 Blackthorn Street, commented on the Bethesda Sector Plan position paper.

Deborah Vollmer, 7202 44th Street, commented on the Bethesda Sector Plan position paper.

Russ Powell, 4404 Ridge Street, commented on the Bethesda Sector Plan position paper.

Craig Brooks, 7101 Beechwood Drive, commented on the budget and state distribution error and suggested that the Town seek professional accounting help related to the matter.

Dedun Ingram, 4311 Elm Street, commented on the budget and questioned the preliminary numbers that the Town received from the state.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Vicky Taplin
Secretary

Transcribed by Christopher Quintyne, Management Assistant