

TOWN OF CHEVY CHASE
COUNCIL MEETING
MINUTES
May 13, 2015

Council and Staff

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

Todd Hoffman, Town Manager
Joel Happy, Town Clerk
Ron Bolt, Town Attorney

Residents and Guests

Keith Blizzard, 7103 44th Street
Dennis Carroll, 7007 Beechwood Drive
Wicca Davidson, 7600 Connecticut Avenue
Tatiana Sandler, 4303 Curtis Road
Linda Kinney, 7009 East Avenue
Beth Kevles, 4407 Elm Street
Robin Sherman, 4208 Leland Street
John Fitzgerald, 4502 Elm Street
William & Dana Jackson, 4329 Leland Street
Betsy Hague, 4507 Leland Street
Cathy Wolf, 7622 Lynn Drive
Sally Kelly, 7300 Oak Lane
Irving & Naomi Kaminski, 6903 Oakridge Avenue
Jane Loewenson, 7111 Oakridge Avenue
Margaret Clark, 7205 Oakridge Avenue
Bill Pritchard, 7211 Ridgewood Avenue
Bridget Hartman, 7214 Ridgewood Avenue
Ed Albert, 7221 Ridgewood Terrace
Joe Fontana, 4208 Rosemary Street
Andrew & Janet Freimuth, 4009 Underwood Street
Rose Miller, 7000 Valley Place
Jeb & Kate Brown, 3915 Virgilia Street
James Mich, 4400 Walsh Street
Martin Gold, 4520 Walsh Street
Don & Peggy MacGlashan, 4114 Woodbine Street
Rocio Gonzalez, guest

Deborah Vollmer, 7202 44th Street
Craig Brooks, 7008 Beechwood Drive
Boris Volkov, 4303 Curtis Road
Lisa Potetz, 4311 Curtis Road
Julie Stanish, 4307 Elm Street
Deborah Ingram, 4411 Elm Street
Christine Real De Azua, 4502 Elm Street
Sarah Brophy, 4226 Leland Street
Catherine Cecere, 4503 Leland Street
Ed Finn, 7500 Lynn Drive
Michael & Tina Coplan, 7003 Meadow Ln
Mike Lebowitz, 7102 Oakridge Avenue
Ann Wild, 7104 Oakridge Avenue
Peter & Anne Ladegaard, 7201 Oakridge Av
Russ Powell, 4404 Ridge Street
David Strom, 7212 Ridgewood Avenue
Tom Brault, 7215 Ridgewood Terrace
Lou Evangelista, 4111 Rosemary Street
Susan Lang, 4008 Underwood Street
John Fleder, 4309 Thornapple Street
Dan Hoffman, 3912 Virgilia Street
Coralee Hoffman, 3917 Virgilia Street
Susan Blake, 4420 Walsh Street
Kirk Renaud, 3906 Woodbine Street
Aaron Kraut, Bethesda Magazine
Ronald Blance, guest

I. GENERAL BUSINESS

A. Pledge of Allegiance

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

B. Swearing-In of Newly Elected Council Members

John Bickerman and Fred Cecere were sworn-in as newly elected Councilmembers.

C. Election of Officers & Committee Liaisons

Councilmember Bickerman made a motion to appoint Councilmember Lang as Mayor. Councilmember Cecere seconded the motion, and it passed by a vote of 3-1, with Councilmember Strom opposed and Councilmember Taplin abstaining.

Mayor Lang made a motion to appoint Councilmember Bickerman as Vice Mayor, Councilmember Cecere as Treasurer, Councilmember Taplin as Secretary, and Councilmember Strom as Community Liaison. Councilmember Cecere seconded the motion, and it passed by a vote of 3-1, with Councilmember Strom opposed and Councilmember Taplin abstaining.

Mayor Lang deferred the appointment of Council liaisons to Town committees and appointed Councilmember Cecere as interim liaison to the Long Range Planning Committee.

Each Councilmember made public statements.

D. Public Comments

Deborah Vollmer, 7202 44th Street, commented on the Town's election results and requested another Town election.

Don MacGlashan, 4114 Woodbine Street, commented on the interrelation of Town ordinances and on the Town's permit fees.

Ed Albert, 7221 Ridgewood Terrace, commented on the Town's election results.

John Fitzgerald, 4502 Elm Street, commented on the Town's election results and suggested having a special election.

Keith Blizzard, 7103 44th Street, suggested creating a special committee to review the Town's election results.

Beth Kevles, 4407 Elm Street, suggested eliminating the option to have write-in candidates in future Town elections.

Russ Powell, 4404 Ridge Street, commented on the Town's election results.

Tina Coplan, 7003 Meadow Lane, commented on the Town's election results.

Martin Gold, 4520 Walsh Street, suggested that residents move on from the recent election and address the issue for the next Town election.

Wica Davidson, 7600 Connecticut Avenue, commented on the Town's election results and recommended more involvement from neighbors and transparency from the Council.

Sally Kelly, 7300 Oak Lane, commented on the Town's election results.

Rose Miller, 7000 Valley Place, addressed various issues for Council consideration.

Deborah Ingram, 4411 Elm Street, commented on the Town's election results and the Town's water ordinance.

Sarah Brophy, 4226 Leland Street, commented on Council's transparency and inquired about the publication of public comments.

Julie Stanish, 4307 Elm Street, requested that the Council focus on issues other than the recent election.

II. PUBLIC HEARINGS

A. Variance Request, 7201 Oakridge Avenue, Driveway Width, Front Yard Setback and Garage Door Offset

Town Manager Todd Hoffman reported that Peter & Anne Ladegaard, 7201 Oakridge Avenue, were requesting variances to renovate and construct an addition to their home and expand their driveway.

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

Several residents made comments: Deborah Ingram, 4411 Elm Street; Craig Brooks, 7008 Beechwood Drive; and Jane Loewenson, 7111 Oakridge Avenue.

Council discussed the request.

Councilmember Strom made a motion to approve the variances. Councilmember Taplin seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

B. Variance Request, 4202 Maple Terrace, Driveway Width

Town Manager Todd Hoffman reported that Andrew Flesch and Caitlin Kasmer, 4202 Maple Terrace, were requesting a variance to construct a new driveway in the public right-of-way and in the front yard at their property.

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

Several residents made comments: Deborah Ingram, 4411 Elm Street; and Betsy Hague, 4507 Leland Street.

Council discussed the request.

Councilmember Bickerman made a motion to approve the variance with the condition that the applicants execute a license to use the public right-of-way. Councilmember Cecere seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

C. Variance Request, 3917 Virgilia Street, Front and Side Yard Setbacks

Town Manager Todd Hoffman reported that Dan and Coralee Hoffman, 3917 Virgilia Street, were requesting a variance to construct a replacement screened porch at their property.

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

Several residents made comments: Jane Loewenson, 7111 Oakridge Avenue; and Kate Brown, 3915 Virgilia Street.

Council discussed the request.

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

III. DISCUSSIONS & PRESENTATIONS

A. FY16 Budget

Council discussed the FY16 budget. Councilmember Bickerman made a motion to schedule a budget work session on May 28 and to ask Councilmembers to submit budget discussion items to Town staff by the end of the week. Mayor Lang seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

Council directed staff to notify the public of the work session and discussion items. Council directed the Town Manager to submit a report to the Council identifying possible additional savings in the FY16 budget. Council agreed to reschedule the June Council meeting to June 17 and to schedule a budget public hearing at that meeting.

B. Town Priorities for the Coming Year

Council discussed Town priorities for the coming year.

V. OTHER BUSINESS

A. Approval of Minutes of April 8, 2015 Council Meeting

Councilmember Bickerman made a motion to approve the minutes of the April 8, 2015 Council meeting. Mayor Lang seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

B. Approval of April 2015 Financial Report

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

D. Town Manager's Report

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

D. New Business

Councilmember Bickerman made a motion to request that the Ethics Commission and the Election Board work together to make recommendations to the Council, with all due haste, on how to better coordinate the Town's laws regarding elections, based on experience with the most recent election and with a special emphasis on write-in candidates. Mayor Lang seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

Councilmember Bickerman made a motion to request that the Mayor and the Town Manager negotiate contract terms with the Purple Line consulting firm and request the submission of a work proposal prior to the Council budget work session. Mayor Lang seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

Council discussed a Town report regarding the Bethesda Downtown Plan. Mayor Lang made a motion to direct staff to submit the report to the Planning Board staff. Councilmember Bickerman seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Vicky Taplin
Secretary

Transcribed by Joel Happy, Town Clerk