

TOWN OF CHEVY CHASE
COUNCIL WORK SESSION & MEETING
MINUTES
March 19, 2018

FY19 BUDGET WORK SESSION

At 5 p.m. in the Town Hall, the Town Council held a work session to review the proposed FY19 budget that the Town Manager and Treasurer prepared. The Town Council agreed to several modifications to the proposed budget.

Council and Staff

Mary Flynn, Mayor

Barney Rush, Vice Mayor

Cecily Baskir, Secretary

Scott Fosler, Treasurer

Joel Rubin, Community Liaison

Todd Hoffman, Town Manager

Dave Walton, Permitting Manager

Ron Bolt, Town Attorney

Residents and Guests

Dedun Ingram, 4411 Elm Street

Len Scensny, 4411 Elm Street

Diana Embrey, 7020 Beechwood Drive

Cindy Tewksbury, 7203 Oakridge Avenue

Lees Hartman, 7214 Ridgewood Avenue

Robert Carter, 7018 Beechwood Drive

I. GENERAL BUSINESS

A. Call to Order

B. Pledge of Allegiance

C. Approval of Minutes

Councilmember Fosler moved to approve the minutes of the February 7, 2018 Public Forum on Voting Eligibility and the February 12, 2018 Council meeting. Councilmember Rush seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

D. Acceptance of February 2018 Financial Report

Councilmember Fosler presented the January 2018 financial report. The Council accepted the report.

E. Town Manager's Report

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

F. Public Comments

There were no public comments.

II. PUBLIC COMMENTS ON FY19 BUDGET PRIORITIES

Dedun Ingram, 4411 Elm Street, commented on the need for an additional Town staff member who could assist with monitoring implementation of the Bethesda Downtown Plan.

III. VARIANCE HEARINGS

A. Tewksbury, 7203 Oakridge Avenue, Driveway Width, Curb Entrance Width & Non-Vegetative Front Yard Coverage

Permitting Manager Dave Walton reported that Cindy and David Tewksbury, 4403 Leland Street, were requesting variances for driveway width, curb entrance width and non-vegetative front yard coverage.

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

Dedun Ingram, 4411 Elm Street, asked questions and made comments regarding the variance requests.

Council discussed the requests.

Mayor Flynn moved to approve the variances with the condition that the Town engineer confirm that: (i) the proposed driveway expansion would be sufficient to park two cars side-by-side; and (ii) a lawful parking space would remain on the street immediately in front of the property, despite the widening of the apron. Councilmember Rush seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

B. Embrey, 7020 Beechwood Drive, Right-of-Way Fence and Trees

Permitting Manager Dave Walton reported that Diana Embrey and Todd Eardensohn, 7020 Beechwood Drive, were requesting variances for a right-of-way fence and trees.

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

Dedun Ingram, 4411 Elm Street, asked a question about the variance requests. Robert Carter, 7018 Beechwood Drive, commented in support of the variance requests.

Council discussed the requests.

Councilmember Fosler moved to approve the variances. Councilmember Rush seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

IV. PUBLIC HEARINGS

A. Public Hearing on an Ordinance to Amend the Town Ethics Law

Town Attorney Ron Bolt summarized the proposed changes to the Town Ethics Law. Mayor Flynn opened the public hearing. There were no public comments. Mayor Flynn closed the public hearing. Council discussed the proposed ordinance.

Councilmember Rush asked for clarification on a provision that restricts a former member of the Town Council from assisting or representing another party for compensation in a matter that is the subject of legislative action in the Town for one calendar year after the elected official leaves office. Town Attorney Ron Bolt advised the Council that the term “one calendar year” denotes “12 months.” Councilmember Rush moved to approve the ordinance with an amendment to replace the term “one calendar year” with “12 months.” Councilmember Baskir seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

B. Public Hearing on an Ordinance to Amend the Town Building Code

Permitting Manager Dave Walton summarized the proposed changes to the Town Building Code. Mayor Flynn opened the public hearing. There were no public comments. Mayor Flynn closed the public hearing. Council discussed the proposed ordinance. Councilmember Rush moved to approve the ordinance. Councilmember Baskir seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

IV. COUNCIL ACTIONS

A. Introduction of an Ordinance to Adopt the FY19 Budget and Tax Rates

Councilmember Baskir moved to introduce an ordinance to adopt the FY19 budget and tax rates. Councilmember Fosler seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

B. Approval of an Agreement to Participate in the Montgomery County Disability Benefits Plan (Long-Term Disability Benefit for Town Employees)

Town Manager Todd Hoffman briefed the Council on a long-term disability benefit available to Town employees through Montgomery County. Councilmember Fosler moved to approve the employee benefit, with the Town making the employer contribution and the employee making the employee contribution. Councilmember Rush seconded the motion.

Mayor Flynn moved to amend the motion to provide that the Town will make both the required employer and employee contributions. Councilmember Rubin seconded the amendment, which passed by a vote of 3-2, with Councilmember Fosler and Rush opposed.

The amended motion was called and passed unanimously.

IV. DISCUSSIONS & PRESENTATIONS

A. Purple Line Mitigation

The Council discussed issues and efforts related to Purple Line mitigation, including additional assistance in reviewing preliminary stormwater management plans. Councilmember Rush moved to authorize expenditures up to \$4,000 from the current budget for assistance with stormwater management review. Councilmember Fosler seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

A. Bethesda Downtown Plan Implementation

The Council discussed issues and efforts related to implementation of the Bethesda Downtown Plan.

V. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Cecily Baskir, Secretary

Transcribed by Todd Hoffman, Town Manager

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