

TOWN OF CHEVY CHASE  
COUNCIL MEETING  
MINUTES  
June 10, 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.

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 the minutes of the Council's May 13 regular meeting and June 2 work session. Councilmember Rubin seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

C. Acceptance of Financial Report

The Council discussed and accepted the May 2020 financial report.

D. Town Manager's Report

Town Manager Todd Hoffman reported on the initiatives undertaken by staff over the past month. Mr. Hoffman briefed the Council on the status of the Town-wide traffic study and the crosswalk signalization effort on East West Highway. Permitting Manager Dave Walton briefed the Council on the ongoing infrastructure repair work.

E. Public Comments

Deborah Vollmer, 7202 44<sup>th</sup> Street, commented on social justice issues and possible Town actions.

Community Relations Committee Chair Wicca Davidson, 7600 Connecticut Avenue, briefed the Council on planned Independence Day activities.

Elliott Wagner-Smith, B-CC High School student, commented on the “Fill the Fence” initiative at the school.

Tambra Leonard, 7610 Lynn Drive, asked when comments would be accepted regarding the proposed building code changes.

Following the public comments, each Councilmember made a statement regarding recent civil unrest and social justice issues. Councilmember Ericson moved to create a Special Committee to organize programs on social justice in consultation with the Community Relations Committee; consider other measures that the Town may want to pursue; and make recommendations to the Town Council. Councilmember Lane seconded the motion, which passed unanimously. Councilmembers Lane and Rubin agreed to serve as liaisons to the Special Committee.

## II. PUBLIC HEARINGS

### A. Public Hearing on an Ordinance to Clarify the Exemptions from the Required Side Setbacks for Certain Non-Conforming Buildings and to Amend the Exemption from Required Setbacks for Certain Roofs

The Council held a public hearing on the proposed ordinance. Tambra Leonard, 7610 Lynn Drive, commented. The Council discussed the ordinance. Councilmember Rush moved to approve the ordinance. Councilmember Ericson seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

## III. COUNCIL DISCUSSIONS

### A. Zimmerman Park Redevelopment

The Council discussed Zimmerman Park redevelopment plans. The Council agreed to visit the park with the landscape architect to discuss and consider the scope of proposed fencing. The Council reviewed initial cost estimates for proposed fencing and permeable pavement and discussed the progress of plan development over the next several months.

### B. Discussion and Possible Introduction of an Ordinance to Limit the Permissible Days of Operation of Gas-Powered Leaf Blowers

The Council discussed an ordinance to limit the permissible days of operation of gas-powered leaf blowers. Councilmember Rush moved to introduce the ordinance with an

amendment to provide that no fines will be imposed by the Town for violations of the new regulations prior to January 1, 2022. Councilmember Rubin seconded the motion, which passed by a vote of 4-1, with Councilmember Ericson opposed.

Councilmember Rubin agreed to discuss with the Climate and Environment Committee possible support for homeowners and businesses in transitioning to the new regulations.

The Council agreed to hold a public hearing on the amended ordinance at the July Council meeting and discussed plans to hold a special public comment period at the July meeting to solicit resident comments on a proposed total ban of gas-powered leaf blowers.

#### C. Elections Board Report on the 2020 Town Council Election

The Council acknowledged receipt of the Elections Board report on the 2020 Town Council election and thanked the Elections Board and Town staff for successfully managing the Town's first ever universal vote-by-mail election. The Council agreed to discuss the report's findings and recommendations at a subsequent Council meeting.

### III. OTHER BUSINESS

Mayor Baskir provided an update on Town engagement in forthcoming updates to the County's Growth Policy and General Plan.

### IV. ADJOURNMENT

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