

TOWN OF CHEVY CHASE
COUNCIL MEETING
July 21, 2022, 6:30 p.m.

*All Councilmembers were present.
The recording of this meeting is available on the Town website.*

I. GENERAL BUSINESS

- Discussed and accepted financial report.
- Heard and discussed Town Manager's report.

II. PUBLIC HEARINGS

- Held a public hearing on an additional appropriation of funds for the Farm Women's Market parks development project. *See Council Discussions for additional information on this item.*
- Held a public hearing on a proposed RainScapes Rebate and Technical Assistance Program. Voted unanimously to offer a supplemental rebate of up to 50% of the County RainScapes rebate amount, with the total combined rebate limited to 85% of the total cost of the project. Voted unanimously to approve a supplemental appropriation of \$100,000 for the program. These funds will be drawn from the Town's American Rescue Plan Act grant money.

III. Heard a presentation by Town representatives to the Chevy Chase Fire Department (Station 7). Discussed the department's responsibilities, capabilities, and performance.

IV. VARIANCE HEARINGS

- Voted unanimously to approve variances for side yard setback and front yard setback at 7208 Oakridge Avenue.
- Voted unanimously to approve variances for driveway width, front yard retaining wall, and front yard guardrail at 4137 Woodbine Street.

V. COUNCIL DISCUSSIONS

- Discussed the Farm Women's Market parks development project, including a revised draft Letter of Intent (LOI) from the County. The Council noted many improvements in this latest version that address concerns the Town had previously raised. Among other points, the new version provides for an increase in County funding from \$7.75 million to \$9.25 million, thereby eliminating a funding gap in the initial version of the LOI. Specific mention is now included of a public engagement process that will involve the Town and others in the planning of the parks and amenities. The Council also discussed remaining issues, including the need in the final documents to address the prospect of cost overruns. Mayor Rush noted that the County Executive will send the request for a budget amendment to the County Council upon execution of the LOI. The Council agreed on the importance of completing the LOI during August so that the amendment can be submitted in September and considered by the current County Council.
- The Council discussed a County request for the Town to consider increasing its financial commitment to the Farm Women's Market parks development project from \$4 million to \$4.5 million. (In November 2021, the Council voted

unanimously to appropriate up to \$4 million to this project, with conditions.). The Council voted unanimously to approve [a resolution to authorize, with conditions, an appropriation of \\$4.5 million for the project.](#)

- Discussed the redevelopment of 7100 Connecticut Avenue and the Town's request for additional information from the developers, including three-dimensional images of the height and massing of the proposed buildings, without vegetative cover. Mayor Rush noted that the 4-H Special Committee is drafting binding elements for the Council's review. The Town will propose binding elements as conditions for County approval of the rezoning application, and the binding elements may include restrictions on use and building type and specific development requirements. The Council also discussed Town resident engagement to be undertaken in September.
- Discussed plans for the redevelopment of Zimmerman Park. Agreed to the removal and relocation of several trees to improve drainage and public safety. Agreed to maintain the location of the sidewalk as previously approved.
- Discussed the Purple Line project and commitments made to the Town by the Maryland Transit Administration related to a higher noise wall and restricted use of an audible warning device along the alignment adjacent to the Town. Mayor Rush reported that the Town has exchanged correspondence with the MTA about these commitments and that he, Councilmember Lane, and Town Manager Todd Hoffman will meet with MTA officials on July 22 to discuss this matter.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

- The meeting was adjourned at 9:45 p.m.