

TOWN OF CHEVY CHASE
COUNCIL MEETING
MINUTES
September 17, 2018

OPEN SESSION TO VOTE TO ENTER CLOSED SESSION

At 6:30 p.m., in the Town Hall, Mayor Barney Rush moved to enter closed session pursuant to the Maryland Open Meetings Act, Maryland Code, General Provisions Article, Section 3-305(b)(7) to consult with counsel to obtain legal advice on the Town's variance procedures. Councilmember Renaud seconded the motion, which passed by a vote of 3-0, with Councilmembers Baskir and Rubin absent. Councilmembers Baskir and Rubin joined the closed session at 6:35 p.m. The Town attorney provided legal advice on the Town's variance procedures. The session was adjourned at 7 p.m.

Council & Staff

Barney Rush, Mayor
Cecily Baskir, Vice Mayor
Kirk Renaud, Secretary
Joel Rubin, Treasurer

Wicca Davidson, Community Liaison
Todd Hoffman, Town Manager
Ron Bolt, Town Attorney

Residents and Guests

Deborah Vollmer, 7202 44th Street
Irene Lane, 4106 Aspen Street
Dedun Ingram, 4411 Elm Street
Brodi Fontenot, 7201 46th Street

Christine Korkor, 4015 Blackthorn Street
Bob Smythe, guest

I. GENERAL BUSINESS

A. Call to Order

Mayor Rush called the meeting to order at 7 p.m.

B. Pledge of Allegiance

C. Approval of Minutes

Councilmember Baskir moved to approve the minutes of the July 11, 2018 Council Meeting. Councilmember Davidson seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

D. Acceptance of August 2018 Financial Report

Councilmember Rubin presented the August 2018 financial report. Councilmember Davidson moved to approve the report. Councilmember Rubin seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

E. Town Manager's Report

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

F. Public Comments

Deborah Vollmer, 7202 44th Street, commented on Bethesda development, specifically the proposed redevelopment of 7121 Wisconsin Avenue, the Farm Women's Market, and adjacent parking lots.

Brodi Fontenot, 7201 46th Street, commented on the traffic on Willow Lane and the need to slow vehicular speeds.

Bob Smythe, a resident of the Sachs neighborhood, commented on Bethesda development and the need for open space in downtown Bethesda.

II. COUNCIL DISCUSSIONS

A. Purple Line Mitigation/East West Highway Safety

The Council discussed issues and efforts related to Purple Line mitigation, including stormwater management, noise mitigation, and pedestrian safety improvements along East West Highway.

B. Bethesda Downtown Plan Implementation

The Council discussed issues and efforts related to implementation of the Bethesda Downtown Plan, including proposed redevelopment at 7121 Wisconsin Avenue. Mayor Rush stated his intention to draft a letter to the property developers and County officials regarding the proposed development and provide it to Councilmembers for review.

C. Publicity for Chevy Chase at Home

The Council discussed publicity for the Chevy Chase @ Home organization, including use of the Town's Forecast newsletter, the Town Crier email alert system, and the Town website.

The Council agreed to send a postcard to all Town residents advertising the services of the organization.

D. Zimmerman Park Projects

The Council discussed the status of considering proposed projects in Zimmerman Park, including a dog exercise area, a pedestrian pathway and staircase to East West Highway, and a sustainable garden.

E. Election Board Report

The Council discussed the Town Election Board's report regarding recommendations for future elections. Mayor Rush requested that the recommendations be amended to include videotaping the annual Candidates' Forum. Councilmember Baskir moved to implement the recommendations, as amended. Councilmember Rubin seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

F. Facility Use Policy During Power Outages

The Council discussed the Town's Facility Use Policy During Power Outages. The Council asked the Town Manager to draft changes to the policy to detail how Town facilities will be monitored and provisioned during power outages. The Council asked the Town's Public Services Committee to review the draft changes and report back to the Council at a subsequent meeting.

III. NEW BUSINESS

The Council discussed the idea of Councilmembers holding informal office hours to discuss Town issues with residents.

IV. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Kirk Renaud, 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.