

TOWN OF CHEVY CHASE  
COUNCIL MEETING  
January 14, 2026

*The recording of this meeting is available on the Town website.*

I. GENERAL BUSINESS

- Heard December 2025 financial report. Councilmember and Treasurer Colella reported that revenue and expenditures are on target for the first 6 months of the fiscal year.
- Heard Town Manager's report.

II. PUBLIC HEARINGS

- Held a public hearing on a request for speed humps in the 6700 and 6800 blocks of East Avenue. Voted unanimously to approve the speed humps.
- Held a public hearing on a proposed crosswalk across West Avenue at Ridge Street. Voted unanimously to approve the crosswalk.

III. COUNCIL DISCUSSIONS

- Discussed procurement of a speed camera for Bradley Lane. Town Manager Todd Hoffman reviewed major provisions of the vendor proposals submitted to the Town and recommended a preferred vendor. The Council directed the Town Manager to negotiate a contract with Elovate, the preferred vendor. A contract is expected to be executed within one month, with camera operation expected four months thereafter. Speed cameras require approval from the State Highway Administration, which may extend this timeline.
- Discussed WSSC's water main replacement and relocation project in and around Zimmerman Park. Staff briefed the Council on the project scope and anticipated timeline. The project will have minimal impact on the park and the recently completed improvements.
- Discussed Governor Moore's 2026 proposed housing bills.
  - Among other provisions, the Starter and Silver Homes Act of 2026 would significantly loosen local zoning controls by reducing building setbacks and eliminating lot coverage limits; allowing townhouse development by right in single-family zones; and restricting regulation of design and other standards that could indirectly limit such housing. It would also permit subdivision of existing lots into up to three 5,000 square foot lots, fundamentally expanding development potential in areas now governed by stricter county zoning rules. This Act would supersede both county and municipal regulations.
  - Discussed the need to organize a coalition of municipalities to respond with a collective position to the legislation.
  - Noted that the Town's Land Use Committee and Long-Range Planning Committee have been asked to review and provide comments on the proposed legislation.
- Discussed the Town's sidewalk snow removal program and how to encourage residents to clear their sidewalks when the Town does not activate the program. The Council discussed ideas. Mayor Rush agreed to work with staff to develop recommendations.

#### IV. OTHER BUSINESS/UPDATES

- Discussed possible effort by the Chevy Chase municipalities to host candidate forums this spring for County Executive, District 1 County Councilmembers, and At-Large County Councilmembers. Discussed forming a committee comprised of members from the municipalities to organize the forums. Councilmember Colella agreed to represent the Town on the committee.
- Discussed status of the Public Services Committee's consideration of Rosemary Street traffic and safety improvements. Vice Mayor Brancato provided an update, noting that the committee is exploring multiple improvements, engaging with Chevy Chase Elementary School, and scheduling the next resident engagement session at its February meeting.
- Discussed status of SHA's Bradley Lane safety study. Vice Mayor Brancato briefed the Council on a recent meeting with SHA to discuss the study's status and potential safety measures. In the near term, SHA has agreed to widen the edge line striping on the north side of Bradley Lane to increase the buffer between vehicles and pedestrians and to install additional truck restriction signage on Bradley Lane and intersecting roads. The SHA is not yet willing to commit to speed cushions on Bradley Lane because the devices are currently being evaluated in a pilot program. The SHA will not decide whether to approve speed cushions as a standard measure on state highways until that evaluation is complete. Vice Mayor Brancato also noted that the Town is separately pursuing a speed camera on Bradley Lane to reduce vehicle speeds.
- Discussed status of Bethesda Market Park project. The developers have engaged a consultant to assist in optimizing and planning the project space. Renewed work on the site plan will likely commence in April or May.

#### V. ADJOURNMENT

- The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 p.m.