

TOWN OF CHEVY CHASE  
COUNCIL MEETING  
MINUTES  
February 19, 2020

Council & Staff

Barney Rush, Mayor  
Cecily Baskir, Vice Mayor  
Kirk Renaud, Treasurer

Joel Rubin, Intergovernmental & Public  
Liaison  
David Walton, Permitting Manager

Absent

Wicca Davidson, Secretary

Residents and Guests

Mark Sundback, 7500 Connecticut Avenue  
Irene Lane, 4106 Aspen Street  
Louis Evangelista, 4402 Walsh Street  
Jane Axelrad, 4417 Ridge Street  
Lees Hartman, 7214 Ridgewood Avenue  
Dedun Ingram, 4312 Willow Lane  
Luis Ferman, Oneness-Family School

Len Scensny, 4312 Willow Lane  
Beth Barnett, 4315 Elm Street  
Joe Rubin, 4131 Leland Street  
Kevin Avery, 6912 Woodside Place  
Bryonie Byers, 6912 Woodside Place  
David Wittenstein, 4429 Bradley Lane  
Karen Berry, St. John's Episcopal Church

COUNCIL WORK SESSION

The Town Council held a work session with members of the Land Use Committee to discuss the regulation of accessory dwelling units in Town, to discuss changes to the Town's side yard setback regulations, and to discuss minor building code clean-up. The Council directed staff to work with the Land Use Committee and Town Attorney to prepare an ordinance for discussion and possible introduction at the March Council Meeting.

I. GENERAL BUSINESS

A. Call to Order

Mayor Rush called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

B. Approval of Minutes

Councilmember Baskir moved to approve the minutes of the January 8, 2020 Council Meeting and January 28, 2020 Council Work Session. Councilmember Renaud seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

C. Acceptance of Financial Report

The Council discussed and accepted the January 2020 financial report.

D. Town Manager's Report

Permitting Manager David Walton reported on the initiatives undertaken by staff over the past month.

E. Public Comments

There were no public comments.

II. VARIANCE HEARING

A. Avery/Byers, 6912 Woodside Place, Front Yard Fence

Town Permitting Manager David Walton reported that Kevin Avery and Bryonie Byers, 6912 Woodside Place, were requesting a variance to replace the front yard fence along Meadow Lane.

The applicants described the plan and the need for the variance. Two residents commented on the variance request: Lees Hartman, 7214 Ridgewood Avenue; and Dedun Ingram, 4312 Willow Lane. The Council discussed the request. Mayor Rush moved to approve the variance with the condition that the appearance of the fence be softened by a landscaping plan to be approved by the Town Manager. Councilmember Renaud seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

III. PUBLIC HEARING

A. Public Hearing on a Resolution to Implement a New Traffic and Parking Management Plan for West Avenue

The Council held a public hearing on a resolution to implement a new traffic and parking management plan for West Avenue. Two residents commented on the proposed plan: David Wittenstein, 4429 Bradley Lane; and Jane Alexrad, 4417 Ridge Street. Luis Ferman of the Oneness-Family School, and Karen Berry of St. John's Episcopal Church also commented on the proposed plan.

The Council directed the Town Staff to work with Councilmember Baskir and the Town's Traffic Engineer to evaluate suggestions from interested parties and work collaboratively with all stakeholders to modify the proposed plan for consideration at the March Council Meeting.

IV. COUNCIL DISCUSSIONS

A. Discussion and Possible Introduction of an Ordinance to Establish a Special School Zone Speed Limit on West Avenue

Councilmember Baskir presented a proposed ordinance to establish a special 15 mile-per-hour school zone speed limit on West Avenue between Bradley Lane and Ridge Street. Following a brief discussion, Councilmember Baskir moved to introduce the proposed ordinance. Councilmember Renaud seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

B. Discussion and Possible Introduction of an Ordinance to Amend Chapter 26 (Telecommunications) of the Town Code

Mayor Rush presented a proposed ordinance to Amend Chapter 26 (Telecommunications) of the Town Code. The proposed ordinance will require an applicant for a County telecommunications permit to file a permit with the Town within one week so that the Town can provide adequate notice to residents who may wish to participate in the County review process; and provide for a variance process that will allow the Town Council to conduct its own hearing if an applicant cannot meet the Town's design criteria for telecommunications facilities.

Following a brief discussion, Councilmember Baskir moved to introduce the proposed ordinance. Councilmember Renaud seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

C. Climate and Environment Committee Activities

Councilmember Renaud provided an update to the Council on Climate and Environment Committee initiatives, including the Lee Dennison Sustainable Garden, the Town's composting program, and evaluation of recycling services.

D. Parking Enforcement

Councilmember Baskir led a discussion about the Town's enforcement of parking and permit parking regulations. The Council discussed an anticipated desire to increase funding in FY21 for additional parking enforcement, as well as making sure the Town's off-duty Montgomery County Police Officers are given proper directives for the enforcement of parking and traffic violations.

V. OTHER BUSINESS

Councilmember Rubin updated the Council on efforts to secure funding in the County Capital Improvements Budget for an underground bike and pedestrian tunnel that would connect Elm Street Park to Bethesda. Funding of the tunnel was not included in the County

Executive's 6-year Capital Improvement Plan which will be considered by the County Council later this year.

Mayor Rush updated the Council on issues related to the construction of the Purple Line. The Town has received additional information about the noise levels the trains cars are expected to generate. Mayor Rush will continue to work with State elected officials and Maryland Transit Authority representatives to address concerns related to an audible warning device proposed to be installed at the entry to the Purple Line tunnel under Wisconsin Avenue. To date, the Town is not satisfied with the State's representations about the need for the proposed device to sound every time a train enters the tunnel.

## VI. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Barney Rush, Mayor

Transcribed by David Walton, Permitting Manager

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