

TOWN OF CHEVY CHASE
COUNCIL MEETING
MINUTES
April 14, 2021

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
Tolbert Feather, Town Arborist

Residents and Guests

Residents and guests attended by videoconference.

COUNCIL WORK SESSION

The Town Council held a work session with the Town’s Tree Canopy Working Group to review the working group’s recommendations related to the Town’s Urban Forest Ordinance and public/private tree programs and policies. The Council asked the working group to provide more information on several recommendations, including a Town-wide tree census and an expanded protected tree list in the Town’s Urban Forest Ordinance. The Council agreed to rename the Town’s “Native Canopy Tree Planting Program” to “Private Tree Planting Program,” to expand the list of trees available to be planted by the Town under the program; and to increase funding for the program. The Council discussed the working group’s recommendation to expand the list of trees to be planted by the Town in the public rights-of-way. The Council agreed to the expanded list. Councilmember Rush moved to include the Asian cherry tree on the list. Councilmember Rubin seconded the motion, which passed by a vote of 3-2, with Councilmembers Ericson and Lane opposed.

I. GENERAL BUSINESS

A. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m.

B. Arbor Day Proclamation

Councilmember Lane moved to approve a Town proclamation observing Arbor Day 2021. Councilmember Rubin seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

C. Approval of Minutes

Mayor Baskir moved to approve meeting minutes. Councilmember Lane seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

D. Acceptance of Financial Report

The Council discussed and accepted the March 2021 financial report.

E. Town Manager's Report

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

F. Public Comments

There were no public comments.

II. PUBLIC HEARINGS

A. Public Hearing on an Ordinance to Amend Chapter 15 of the Town Code (Motor Vehicles and Traffic) to Reduce the Town-Wide Speed Limit to 20 Miles Per Hour

The Council held a public hearing on the ordinance. There were no public comments. Councilmember Rush moved to approve the ordinance. Mayor Baskir seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

B. Public Hearing on Revised Speed Hump Policy and New Radar Speed Sign Policy

The Council held a public hearing on the ordinance. There were no public comments. Mayor Baskir moved to approve the ordinance. Councilmember Rush seconded the motion, which passed unanimously. The Council discussed publicity for the new policies.

C. Public Hearing on an Ordinance to Amend Chapter 26 (Telecommunications) of the Town Code to Clarify Language Related to Small Cell Applications

The Council held a public hearing on the ordinance. There were no public comments. Councilmember Ericson moved to approve the ordinance. Councilmember Lane seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

II. COUNCIL DISCUSSIONS

A. Discussion and Possible Introduction of an Ordinance to Adopt the FY22 Budget and Tax Rates

Mayor Baskir moved to introduce the ordinance. Councilmember Rush seconded the motion, which passed unanimously. A public hearing on the budget will be held during the annual meeting on May 4.

B. 4-H Center Sale

The Council discussed the prospective sale of the 4-H Center property and reviewed a proposed policy statement on the sale. Councilmember Ericson moved to approve the policy statement. Mayor Baskir seconded the motion, which passed unanimously. The Council expressed support to retain additional professional assistance in representing Town interests in the disposition and future use of the property.

C. Form-Based Design/Code

The Council discussed form-based code/design. The Council asked the Town's Land Use Committee and Long-Range Planning Committee to refine the proposal to hire a consultant with form-based design expertise.

D. Community/Special Events

The Council discussed the Community Relations Committee's ideas for celebrating July 4.

IV. OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business.

V. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:40 p.m.

OPEN SESSION TO VOTE TO ENTER CLOSED SESSION

At 9:40 p.m., the Council met in open session for the purpose of voting to enter a closed session. Mayor Baskir moved to enter a closed session pursuant to the Open Meetings Act, Maryland Code, General Provisions Article, Section 3-305(b)(1) to discuss a personnel matter that affects one or more specific individuals. Councilmember Rush seconded the motion, which passed unanimously. The Council discussed and decided upon bonuses for Town staff. There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:15 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) approximately one week following each meeting.