

TOWN OF CHEVY CHASE
COUNCIL MEETING
MINUTES
May 13, 2020

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

Residents and Guests

Residents and guests attended by videoconference.

I. GENERAL BUSINESS

A. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 5:00 p.m.

B. Swearing-In of Newly Elected Council Members

Newly elected Councilmembers Ellen Cornelius Ericson, Irene Lane, and Barney Rush read the oath of office.

C. Election of Council Officers and Committee Liaisons

Councilmember Rush moved to appoint Council officers, as follows: Cecily Baskir, Mayor; Joel Rubin, Vice Mayor; Barney Rush, Treasurer; Ellen Cornelius Ericson, Secretary; and Irene Lane, Community Liaison. Councilmember Baskir seconded the motion. The Council discussed the proposed slate of officers. The motion was called and passed by a vote of 3-2, with Councilmembers Ericson and Lane opposed.

Councilmember Ericson moved to appoint Council liaisons to standing committees, as follows: Joel Rubin, Climate and Environment; Barney Rush, Community Relations; Irene Lane, Land Use; Ellen Cornelius Ericson, Long Range Planning; and Cecily Baskir, Public Services. Councilmember Rush seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

D. Approval of Minutes

Councilmember Rush moved to approve the minutes of the Council's April 13 regular meeting, April 22 closed session, April 22 work session, and May 5 annual meeting.

Councilmember Rubin seconded the motion, which passed by a vote of 3-0-2, with Councilmembers Ericson and Lane abstaining.

E. Acceptance of Financial Report

The Council discussed and accepted the April 2020 financial report.

F. Appropriation for Sustainable Garden Project

The Council discussed a request to appropriate \$20,000 for additional costs related to the Lee Dennison Sustainable Garden. Councilmember Lane moved to approve the appropriation. Councilmember Rush seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

G. Town Manager's Report

Town Manager Todd Hoffman reported on the initiatives undertaken by staff over the past month. Mr. Hoffman briefed the Council on the status of the Town-wide traffic study, the Zimmerman Park redevelopment project, and the crosswalk signalization effort on East West Highway. Permitting Manager Dave Walton briefed the Council on the ongoing infrastructure repair work.

H. Public Comments

The Council heard public comments.

II. COUNCIL DISCUSSIONS

A. Consideration of a Proclamation for National Gun Violence Awareness Day

The Council discussed a proposed proclamation for National Gun Violence Awareness Day. Councilmember Rubin moved to approve the proclamation, as amended. Mayor Baskir seconded the motion, which passed unanimously. The Council agreed to provide Town residents with information about gun violence awareness and gun safety.

B. Zimmerman Park Redevelopment Concept Plans

The Council discussed Zimmerman Park redevelopment concept plans. The Council asked the consulting landscape architect to develop a final proposed concept plan, to engage the Town's consulting engineer to review the proposed grading and drainage plans, and to obtain initial cost estimates for the proposed improvements.

C. Gas-Powered Leaf Blower Phased-In Ban

The Council discussed the Climate and Environment Committee's proposal for a phased-in ban of gas-powered leaf blowers. The Council asked the Town attorney to draft an ordinance to prohibit the use of gas-powered leaf blowers on Sundays, effective September 1, 2020, and to prohibit the use of gas-powered leaf blowers on weekends and federal holidays, effective January 1, 2021. The Council agreed to consider introduction of the ordinance at the June Council meeting and to hold a public hearing at the July Council meeting. The Council agreed to hold a public forum in July to solicit community feedback on a proposed total ban of gas-powered leaf blowers in Town.

III. OTHER BUSINESS

Councilmember Rush provided an update on the Purple Line project.

Councilmember Rush briefed the Council on a resident request to hold a graduation car parade in Town for B-CC students. The Council discussed, and agreed to support, the request. Mayor Baskir mentioned a similar effort being planned in May for the graduating class of CCES.

Councilmember Rush briefed the Council on the work of Town resident Thornton Matheson in preparing a redevelopment plan for Rosemary Circle and Rosemary Triangle.

IV. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:30 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.