

TOWN OF CHEVY CHASE
COUNCIL MEETING
MINUTES
March 11, 2015

Council and Staff

Kathy Strom, Mayor
Pat Burda, Vice Mayor
Vicky Taplin, Treasurer
Al Lang, Secretary
John Bickerman, Community Liaison

Todd Hoffman, Town Manager
Joel Happy, Town Clerk
Ron Bolt, Town Attorney

Residents and Guests

Deborah Vollmer, 7202 44th Street
Deborah Ingram, 4411 Elm Street
Bridget Hartman, 7214 Ridgewood Avenue
Barry Hager, 4300 Willow Lane

Craig Brooks, 7008 Beechwood Drive
Louis Evangelista, 4111 Rosemary Street
Stephen & Arman Muse, 4105 Stanford St.

I. GENERAL BUSINESS

A. Pledge of Allegiance

Mayor Strom led those in attendance in the Pledge of Allegiance.

B. Public Comments

Bridget Hartman, 7214 Ridgewood Avenue, thanked the Town staff for their snow removal efforts and for their work on the “tot lot” at the Lawton Center playground.

Deborah Vollmer, 7202 44th Street, suggested that the Town revisit the water drainage ordinance. She also expressed her support for providing a living wage to the Town’s contractors.

C. Public Comments on FY16 Budget

There was no one present who wanted to comment on the FY16 budget.

II. VARIANCE HEARINGS

A. Muse Development, 4109 Rosemary Street, Front Yard Setback

Town Manager Todd Hoffman reported that Stephen and Arman Muse, 4105 Stanford Street, were requesting a variance to construct a two-story addition to the north side of their home.

The applicants described the plan and the need for the variance.

Several residents made comments: Louis Evangelista, 4111 Rosemary Street; and Craig Brooks, 7008 Beechwood Drive.

Council discussed the request.

Councilmember Lang made a motion to approve the variance with the condition that the applicant attend and participate in certain public meetings related to the project. Councilmember Bickerman seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

III. COUNCIL ACTIONS

A. Approval of Standard Operating Procedures for Private Tree Removals and Appeals and Public Tree Removals and Maintenance

Councilmember Taplin made a motion to approve standard operating procedures for private tree removals and appeals and public tree removals and maintenance. Councilmember Lang seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously. Council directed staff to post the procedures on the Town website and to publicize them in the April Forecast newsletter.

IV. DISCUSSIONS & PRESENTATIONS

A. Water Drainage Ordinance – Land Use Committee

Council discussed the Town's water drainage ordinance. Council directed Town staff and consultants to draft a revised ordinance based on state requirements.

B. Financial Advisory Services Proposal

Council discussed a financial advisory services proposal. Council agreed to reject the proposal and to research alternative options. Councilmember Lang offered to contact several local business schools to determine their ability to provide financial advisory services to the Town.

C. Lawton Center Traffic Study Proposals

Council discussed the Lawton Center traffic study proposals. Councilmember Lang made a motion to accept the proposal of A. Morton Thomas engineering firm. Councilmember Burda seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

D. New Street Light Requests

Council discussed new street light requests. Councilmember Lang made a motion to approve the installation of three street lights that received resident objection. Councilmember Burda seconded the motion, and it passed by a vote of 4-0, with Mayor Strom abstaining.

V. OTHER BUSINESS

A. Approval of Minutes of February 11, 2015 Council Meeting and Executive Session

Councilmember Burda made a motion to approve the minutes of the February 11, 2015 Council meeting and executive session, as amended. Councilmember Taplin seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

B. Approval of February 2015 Financial Report

Councilmember Lang made a motion to approve the February 2015 financial report. Councilmember Taplin seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

C. Town Manager's Report

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

D. New Business

Council directed staff to draft a letter to the Maryland Public Service Commission regarding the PEPCO-Exelon merger asking that Exelon be required to honor PEPCO's power reliability initiatives and support solar energy in a meaningful way.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Al Lang
Secretary

Transcribed by Joel Happy, Town Clerk