

TOWN OF CHEVY CHASE
COUNCIL MEETING
MINUTES
September 10, 2019

Council & Staff

Barney Rush, Mayor
Cecily Baskir, Vice Mayor
Wicca Davidson, Secretary
Kirk Renaud, Treasurer

Joel Rubin, Intergovernmental & Public Liaison
Todd Hoffman, Town Manager
Dave Walton, Permitting Manager
Ron Bolt, Town Attorney

Residents and Guests

Deborah Vollmer, 7202 44th Street
Meg Gwaltney, 3904 Blackthorn Street
Charles Simmons, 3904 Blackthorn Street
Joe Rubin, 4131 Leland Street
Rolf Sinclair, 7508 Tarrytown Road
Alice Horowitz, 4501 Walsh Street
Shana Jacobus, 7110 45th Street
Todd Jacobus, 7110 45th Street
Chris Hughes, 3902 Aspen Street
Libby Hughes, 3902 Aspen Street
Nick Merritt, 7702 Meadow Lane
Jeannie Merritt, 7702 Meadow Lane

Stuart Sessions, 7700 Meadow Lane
Hieu Tran, 4411 Elm Street
May Nguyen, 4411 Elm Street
Lees Hartman, 7214 Ridgewood Avenue
Bren Lizzio, 4218 Oakridge Lane
Regina Dwyer, Guest
Stephen Covington, Guest
John Krawczyk, Guest
Neil Cullen, Guest
Bill Maloney, Guest
Noah Blumberg, Guest
Rick Vitullo, Guest

I. GENERAL BUSINESS

A. Call to Order

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

B. Pledge of Allegiance

C. Approval of Minutes

Councilmember Baskir moved to approve the minutes of the July 16, 2019 Council Meeting. Councilmember Renaud seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

D. Acceptance of Financial Report

Councilmember Renaud presented the August 2019 financial report. The Council discussed and accepted the report.

E. Town Manager's Report

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

F. Public Comments

Bren Lizzio, 4218 Oakridge Lane, commented on a possible dog exercise area in Zimmerman Park.

II. VARIANCE HEARINGS

A. Jacobus, 7110 45th Street, Rear Yard Retaining Wall

Town Permitting Manager David Walton reported that Todd and Shana Jacobus, 7110 45th Street, were requesting a variance for a rear yard retaining wall.

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

No residents commented on the variance request.

The Council discussed the request.

Councilmember Rubin moved to approve the variance. Councilmember Davidson seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

B. Maloney, 7700 Connecticut Avenue, LLC, Front Yard Fence

Town Permitting Manager David Walton reported that Bill Maloney, representing 7700 Connecticut Avenue, LLC, was requesting a variance for a front yard fence.

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

Two residents commented on the variance request: Charles Simmons, 3904 Blackthorn Street; and Meg Gwaltney, 3904 Blackthorn Street.

The Council discussed the request.

Mayor Rush moved to approve the variance with the condition that the fence not exceed 6 feet in height along Connecticut Avenue and 4 feet in height along Blackthorn Street. Councilmember Baskir seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

C. Merritt, 7702 Meadow Lane, Rear and Side Yard Setbacks for Covered Porch

Town Permitting Manager David Walton reported that Hugh and Regina Merritt, 7702 Meadow Lane, were requesting variances for rear and side yard setbacks for a covered porch.

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

One resident commented on the variance request: Stuart Sessions, 7700 Meadow Lane.

The Council discussed the request.

Councilmember Baskir moved to approve the variances. Councilmember Renaud seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

III. TREE REMOVAL APPEAL HEARING

A. Tran, 4411 Elm Street, Sugar Maple Tree in Public Right-of-Way and Beech Tree in Rear Yard

Town Permitting Manager David Walton reported that Hieu Tran, 4411 Elm Street, was appealing denied tree removal permits for a Sugar Maple tree in the public right-of-way and a Beech tree in the rear yard of the subject property

The applicant described the need for the appeal to be approved.

Three residents commented on the appeal: Lees Hartman, 7214 Ridgewood Avenue; Rolf Sinclair, 7508 Tarrytown Road; and Deborah Vollmer, 7202 44th Street.

The Council discussed the appeal.

Mayor Rush moved to uphold the decision of the Town Manager not to permit the removal of the Sugar Maple tree in the public right-of-way. Councilmember Baskir seconded the motion, which passed unanimously. Councilmember Renaud moved to overturn the decision of the Town Manager not to permit the removal of the Beech tree in the rear yard of the subject property and to direct the Town Manager to issue a permit for the tree's removal. Councilmember Rubin seconded the motion, which passed by a vote of 4-1, with Councilmember Baskir opposed.

IV. COUNCIL DISCUSSIONS

A. Zimmerman Park Amenities & Improvements

The Council discussed Zimmerman Park amenities and improvements, including construction of the sustainable garden, development of concept master plans for the park, and ongoing design work for the staircase and pathway project. The Council agreed to hold a work session on October 23, prior to the Town Council meeting, to discuss the concept master plans.

B. Recycling Service

Town Manager Todd Hoffman briefed the Council on his research on recycling trends, including best practices for glass recycling. The Council agreed with the Town Manager's recommendation to establish a central collection point for glass at the Lawton Center and asked the Town Manager to monitor its use.

C. Bethesda Downtown Plan Implementation

The Council discussed Bethesda Downtown Plan implementation, including proposed development on and around the Farm Women's Market site. Mayor Rush announced an October 3 community meeting to review and discuss the latest development plans.

V. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Wicca Davidson, Secretary

Transcribed by Todd Hoffman, Town Manager

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