

TOWN OF CHEVY CHASE
TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
April 14, 2004

Present: Mier Wolf, Mayor; Bill Hudnut, Vice Mayor; Rob Enelow, Treasurer; Linna Barnes, Secretary; Martha Covell, Community Liaison; Todd Hoffman, Manager; Marty Hutt, Town Attorney; and Andi Silverstone, Town Clerk. Residents and guests: Please see attached sign-in sheet.

I. General Business

A. Call to order – 7:30 p.m.

Mayor Wolf called the meeting to order at 7:40 p.m.

B. Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag

Christopher Hudnut, 4206 Thornapple Street, led those in attendance in the pledge of allegiance. Christopher was at the Council meeting with his Boy Scout troop to learn about local government.

C. Comments, questions, suggestions from residents

John Fleder, 4309 Thornapple Street, came before the Council to ask Council to be careful when considering installing speed bumps on Leland Street. He had concerns about emergency vehicles response times since Leland Street is a main street. He described a personal experience, which happened years ago, where it had been important for an ambulance to get to the hospital from the Town in a timely way.

Cornelius Wood, 4229 Leland Street, suggested that the Town committees publish the agendas of their meetings beforehand in the newsletter so that residents could decide if they want to attend the meeting.

D. Acceptance of Financial Reports for February and March

Councilmember Hudnut made a motion to accept the financial reports for February and March. Councilmember Barnes seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

E. Approval of Minutes of February Council Meeting

(Note: There was no Council meeting in March. A public meeting of the Traffic Committee was held. The members of the committee presented their recommendations based on the traffic study commissioned by the Town.)

Councilmember Covell made a motion to approve the minutes of the February Council meeting. Councilmember Hudnut seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

II. Action

A. Adopt FY05 Budget and Recommend Tax Rate

According to the Town's charter, the Town Council adopts the budget and recommends the property tax rate for the upcoming fiscal year to Town residents at the Annual Meeting. Town Manager Todd Hoffman described the budget process for the Boy Scouts.

Councilmember Hudnut made a motion to adopt the FY05 budget as proposed and to recommend an FY05 property tax rate of .033. Councilmember Covell seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

III. Discussion

A. Request for New Sidewalk (4200 Block of Leland Street)

The Council received an application and petition from residents on the 4200 block of Leland Street requesting construction of a sidewalk on the north side of that block. The proposed sidewalk would be built in the current roadway to narrow Leland Street.

There are two primary reasons for the request: to improve pedestrian safety and to narrow the road to make it less of a perceived "speedway." The Town Manager noted that Leland Street is a secondary residential road. Per Montgomery County standards, the minimum width is 26 feet. Reducing that width with the installation of a sidewalk would not meet County standards.

Discussion followed about options for addressing the residents' application and petition. It was the sense of the Council to hire a traffic engineer and discuss a variety of options to get the sidewalk without taking too much land. As part of the traffic engineer's assessment, he would evaluate the impact of any sidewalk installation on the roads. A civil engineer would be used to design the plans, if a sidewalk is feasible.

B. Conservation Easement Resolution Introduction

The Council was presented with a conservation program resolution that would allow residents to offer land to the Town. Each request for a conservation donation would be evaluated on a case-by-case basis and the Town Council may adopt property eligibility criteria in evaluating such offers.

Councilmember Barnes made a motion to introduce the conservation program resolution. Councilmember Covell seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

C. Draft Traffic Plan Next Steps

The Traffic Committee presented the Council with its proposal for a Town-wide traffic plan, based on a study done by Street Traffic Studies, Ltd.

There was discussion about a recommendation to re-open Willow Lane. It was the sense of the Council not to consider that recommendation.

There was discussion about the process to follow in terms of making decisions about the different phases of the study. It was the sense of the Council to determine which recommendations of the committee should be included in a public hearing. Councilmembers will check their schedules and let the Town office know their availability for a May meeting. The two dates under consideration are May 11 and May 26. There will not be a public hearing scheduled on that date. The Council will discuss what traffic committee recommendations to accept, and therefore, include in a public hearing. The date for a public hearing will be set at the May Council meeting.

D. Agenda for Annual Meeting

It was the sense of the Council to have a short program and feature information booths for the Traffic and Construction Committees. There will be a display set up by the History Committee.

Councilmember Hudnut did not want the election results to be announced at the meeting. It was the sense of the Council to post the results on the Town's website and to send out a postcard the next day.

IV. Reports

A. Mayor: Mayor Wolf announced that there would be an event to honor Ike Leggett for his efforts in getting the Capital Crescent Trail. The event will be on the trail, near Parkway Cleaners, on Saturday, April 17 at 11:00 A.M.

The Mayor also thanked Town Manager Todd Hoffman for all the projects he has worked on and for all of his accomplishments during the fiscal year.

B. Town Manager: The Town Manager did not have a report. He reminded Councilmembers to check their calendars so that a May meeting could be scheduled as soon as possible.

C. Committee reports

Councilmember Covell asked if Councilmembers wanted to have Maryland Municipal Cable televise the annual meeting. She said she would contact the director and ask that they come.

History Committee: Councilmember Hudnut, liaison to the History Committee, reported that the committee is ready with a display for the Annual Meeting. They also are planning to start a time capsule for the July 4th celebration.

Construction Committee: Councilmember Barnes reported that the Construction Committee members are working on establishing building setback regulations. There will be a final report from Torti Gallas. The committee is now studying rear yards in the Town. They are also working on a recommendation about whether or not the Town Council should take a stand about re-subdivisions. They are waiting for a County Council work group to make a recommendation about height requirements for new construction.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Linna Barnes
Secretary

Transcribed by Andi Silverstone