

TOWN OF CHEVY CHASE
TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
May 14, 2008

Present: Kathy Strom, Mayor; Rob Enelow, Vice Mayor; David Lublin, Secretary; Linna Barnes, Treasurer; Al Lang, Community Liaison; Todd Hoffman, Town Manager; Andi Silverstone, Town Clerk; and David Podolsky, Town Attorney. Residents and guests: Rose Miller, 7000 Valley Place; Janet Freimuth, 4009 Underwood Street; Eric Hostetler, 4214 Thornapple Street; Deborah Vollmer, 7202 44th Street; Don and Peg MacGlashan, 4114 Woodbine Street; Willie and Susan Blacklow, 6912 Oakridge Avenue; Dedun Ingram, 4411 Elm Street; Diane Dorfman, 4421 Walsh Street; Steve Keeble, 4414 Walsh Street; Pat Burda, 4108 Woodbine Street; Joe Rubin, 4409 Ridge Street; David Salzman, 4407 Elm Street; Nick Anderson, 7101 Oakridge Avenue; Bill Pritchard, 7211 Ridgewood Avenue; John Coble, 7105 44th Street; Stephanie Flack, 7111 Oakridge Avenue; and Kirk Renaud, 3906 Woodbine Street.

I. General Business

A. Call to order

Mayor Linna Barnes called the meeting to order at 7:10 p.m.

B. Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag

Mayor Barnes led those in attendance in the pledge of allegiance to the flag.

C. Approval of March 2008 Council Meeting

Councilmember Enelow made a motion to approve the minutes of the March 2008 Council meeting. Councilmember Strom seconded the motion, and it passed with Councilmembers Barnes, Enelow and Strom in favor. Newly elected Councilmembers Lang and Lublin abstained.

D. Acceptance of Financial Report for April 2008

Councilmember Enelow made a motion to accept the financial report for April 2008. Councilmember Strom seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

E. Public Comments

Deborah Vollmer, 7202 44th Street, spoke of the need for a new moratorium on teardowns. She complained about private sales of properties, making it difficult to get information. She also mentioned noise, pollution, loss of trees, and rats as consequences of teardowns.

Rose Miller, 7000 Valley Place, distributed copies of comments she made about the regulation of traffic at Chevy Chase Elementary School. She made several

requests regarding process to deal with traffic issues at the school and offered recommendations to the Council.

Diane Dorfman, 4421 Walsh Street, reported fox sightings in the Town and asked the Council to look into ways to handle the problem.

Willie Blacklow, 6912 Oakridge Avenue, asked about the status of the left-turn arrow at the traffic light on Connecticut Avenue at Rosemary Street. He pointed out that the State Highway Administration had studied the intersection.

II. Swearing-in of Newly-Elected Councilmembers

Town Clerk Andi Silverstone swore in David Lublin and Al Lang as new Councilmembers and Kathy Strom for a second term.

III. Election of Officers

Councilmember Barnes made a motion to nominate Kathy Strom as Mayor, Rob Enelow as Vice Mayor, David Lublin as Secretary, Linna Barnes as Treasurer; and Al Lang as Community Liaison. Councilmember Enelow seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

Mayor Kathy Strom appointed the following liaisons to Town committees: David Lublin, Long Range Planning Committee; Linna Barnes, Land Use Committee; Kathy Strom, Community Relations; Rob Enelow, Environment; and Al Lang, Public Services.

IV. Recognition of Former Councilmembers

Councilmember Barnes spoke about the service of former Councilmembers Mier Wolf and Lance Hoffman. She mentioned that former Councilmember Wolf had served on the Town Council for 24 years and had done an incredible amount of work for the Town. Councilmember Barnes recommended naming a Town park after Mr. Wolf. It was the sense of the Council to ask residents, through the FORECAST, for ways to honor Mr. Wolf.

Each Councilmember spoke about Mr. Wolf and Mr. Hoffman and how they appreciated working with them.

It was the sense of the Council that the Town should keep Mr. Wolf engaged in Town affairs.

V. Public Hearings and Council Actions

A. Introduction of, and Council Action on, a Resolution to Approve the FY09 Tax Rate

Councilmember Strom made a motion to introduce a resolution to approve the FY09 tax rates. Councilmember Enelow seconded the motion. Mayor Strom made a motion to amend the resolution by adding the word “certain” before “personal property tax.” Councilmember Barnes seconded the motion to amend, and it passed

unanimously. Mayor Strom made a motion to approve the resolution as amended. Councilmember Lublin seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

B. Introduction of, and Council Action on, a Resolution to Approve the FY09 Budget

Mayor Strom made a motion to introduce the resolution to approve the FY09 budget. Councilmember Barnes seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously. Mayor Strom made a motion to approve the resolution to approve the FY09 Budget. Councilmember Barnes seconded the motion. Discussion followed about the Town's interest income earned from the Town's investment and the possibility of posting the detailed budget and narrative on the Town's website.

The motion was called, and it passed unanimously.

C. Introduction of, and Council Action on, a Resolution to Amend the Town's Permit Fee and Performance Bond Schedule

Town Manager Todd Hoffman stated the purpose of the resolution to amend the Town's permit fees and performance bond schedule. There is a need to consolidate in one document all of these fees and to modify several to reflect changes to Town regulations and actual costs to process permit applications.

It was the sense of the Council to publish the fees in the June FORECAST and on the Town's website before enacting the resolution. The Council scheduled a public hearing on the permit fees to be held at the June 11 Council meeting.

Councilmember Barnes made a motion to introduce the resolution to amend the permit fees and bond schedule. Mayor Strom seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

VI. Discussions

A. Oakridge/Thornapple Sidewalks

Town Manager Todd Hoffman provided background information about the status of the sidewalk installation projects for Oakridge Avenue and Thornapple Streets. He described the work that was done by former Councilmember Lance Hoffman and consulting engineers.

He presented Councilmembers with three design options developed to date.

Councilmembers discussed the various options. They discussed the need for relocating trees, installing the sidewalks before school starts, and considering drainage issues. Staff was directed to develop a 4th option for the Oakridge/Thornapple sidewalks, provide to affected residents for their review, and find out if 3.5' sidewalks meet ADA and other legal requirements. A public hearing will be scheduled on the Oakridge/Thornapple sidewalks for the June or July Council meeting. In order to install the sidewalks, three Town trees on Thornapple Street will be affected. Each affected

resident whose property abuts a tree on their property will be contacted to see if they want the tree planted on their property or somewhere else in Town.

It was the consensus among Councilmembers that there will be separate plans for the Thornapple Street and Oakridge Avenue sidewalks because each location has different issues.

A public hearing on the options will be scheduled for the June or July Council meeting, depending on how quickly option 4 can be developed.

B. Speed Hump Policy

Bill Pritchard, Chair of the Public Services Committee, presented the committee's recommended policy for speed hump installations in Town. The issues discussed by the Council included the number of residents needed to support the installation; a policy for the removal of a speed hump, if necessary; the need to involve the residents on the street where speed humps are proposed for installation or removal early in the process; and providing standards. There was discussion about the guidelines for the installation of speed humps being too rigid.

There was discussion about the part of the policy that dealt with thresholds for the installation of the speed hump. It was the sense of the Council that the thresholds be considered as a guide rather than a requirement. In addition, the Council asked that the condition that a majority of residents on affected blocks support the removal of a speed hump be deleted.

There was brief discussion about looking at other options to solve speeding problems in addition to speed humps.

The Council asked Mr. Pritchard to amend the speed hump policy as discussed and to present it for review and approval at the next Council meeting.

Staff was directed to resurface former Traffic Committee proposals and include them in future agendas.

C. Time Limits on Variance Approvals

Councilmembers discussed the need to set limits on approved variances, similar to the time limit established for building permits. Town Manager Todd Hoffman pointed out that without a time limit, the Town may have stricter zoning laws in the future, and any construction approved under a variance today would be exempt from those future laws.

Discussion followed about whether or not it would be necessary to incorporate the time limit in the Town Code as well as in the variance decision. It was the sense of the Council to codify the time limit. There would be a provision to extend the time limit if approved by the Council.

Town Attorney David Podolsky was asked to amend the ordinance for approved variances, as directed by the Council. The ordinance will be introduced at the June 11, 2008 Council meeting, and a public hearing will be held at the July 9, 2008 Council meeting.

D. Jane Lawton Memorial

Councilmember Barnes presented an update on the status of the efforts of the Montgomery Women organization's efforts to have the Town Hall named after Jane Lawton, former Town Councilmember, County employee, and State Delegate. County Executive Ike Leggett's office is responsible for the approval.

Councilmember Lublin made a motion to formally resolve to name the Town Hall after Jane Lawton. Councilmember Barnes seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

Councilmember Barnes will send an e-mail to Nancy Floreen, President of Montgomery Women, expressing the Town's support for naming the Town Hall after Mrs. Lawton.

VII. New Business

Mayor Strom reminded Councilmembers of the May 31st trail event, "Connect the Trail". She mentioned also the efforts of Kirk Renaud, 3906 Woodbine Street, and Ketch Ryan, 6904 Oakridge Avenue, with "Common Cents Solar" to work towards energy efficiency on an individual level.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:15 p.m., and the Council reconvened in Executive Session to discuss land acquisition, pending legal matters, and personnel matters.

Respectfully submitted.

David Lublin
Secretary

Transcribed by Andi Silverstone