

TOWN OF CHEVY CHASE  
COUNCIL MEETING  
December 8, 2010

Present: David Lublin, Mayor; Kathy Strom, Vice Mayor; Linna Barnes, Treasurer; Al Lang, Secretary; Patricia Burda, Community Liaison; Todd Hoffman, Town Manager; Andi Silverstone, Town Clerk; Alan Beal, Town zoning consultant; and Town Attorneys David Podolsky and Ron Bolt.

Residents and guests : Philip Giordano, 3712 Underwood Street; Sarah Brophy, 4226 Leland Street; Anne Stukes, 7612 Lynn Drive; Natalie Neumann, Patch.com; Sarah Gantz, The Gazette; Hope Pinkerton, 7005 Maple Avenue; Michael Guhin, 4006 Rosemary Street; Costas Toregas, 4325 Leland Street; Brenda Lizzio, 4218 Oakridge Avenue; and Joel Rubin, 6905 Maple Avenue.

I. General Business

A. Call to order

Mayor Lublin called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.

B. Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag

Mayor Lublin led those in attendance in the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag.

C. Approval of November 10 Council Meeting and Executive Session

Mayor Lublin made a motion to adopt the minutes of open session and the executive session. Councilmember Lang seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

D. Approval of November 2010 Financial Report

Council Treasurer Linna Barnes reported on the amount of the November distribution of income taxes. She noted that the November distribution is an indicator of what will be received for the remainder of the fiscal year. According to the amount received by the Town for November, it appears that the Town will have a shortfall of \$320,000 to \$400,000 in anticipated income tax revenues for FY11.

Council Treasurer Linna Barnes made a motion to approve the financial report for November. Councilmember Lang seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

E. Town Manager's Report

Town Manager Todd Hoffman gave a report about the previous month's staff activities. He described a new condition that was put on the fire access plan for 7206 Meadow Lane.

## F. Public Comments

There were no public comments.

## II. Variance Hearings

### A. Stukes, 7612 Lynn Drive, Garage Door Width

Town zoning consultant Alan Beal presented the variance request of Anne Stukes, 7612 Lynn Drive. Ms. Stukes has applied for a variance to install a new front-loading garage door that is 11 feet wide. Town building regulations limit the maximum width of a front-loading garage door to 9 feet; therefore a variance of 2 feet is required. This hearing was continued from the November 10 hearing in order for the applicant to provide more information to the Council. The Town office received a telephone call from Louisa Tarullo, 7611 Lynn Drive, supporting the variance request.

The applicant claimed that the property has an exceptional topographical condition and that the garage is below-grade, with a stone retaining wall bordering each side of the driveway. This creates the perception that one is driving into a tunnel. In addition, the applicant claims that her car has already suffered body damage from hitting the stone wall next to the driveway.

Councilmembers discussed the variance request. Councilmember Barnes, liaison to the Land Use Committee, noted that the committee recommended a 9' garage door width based on the standard size. Councilmember Strom noted that the applicant's situation with two high walls makes it difficult to conform to the standard. Councilmember Burda noted that the door could be moved away from the wall. Ms. Stukes asked if the Council would consider a 10' width, which is also standard.

Councilmember Strom made a motion to approve the variance request for a 10' wide garage door. Councilmember Lang seconded the motion, and it passed with a vote of three to two with Councilmembers Barnes and Burda opposed.

## II. Discussions and Presentations

### A. Election Board Report

Former Election Board Chair Hope Pinkerton and out-going Election Board Chair Costis Toregas reported on the activities of the Board and made recommendations to increase voting flexibility in the Town in future elections.

The new Chair of the election Board will be Brenda Lizzio.

### B. Contribution Request for Rosemary Hills School

Sarah Brophy, 4226 Leland Street, came before the Council to request a donation to purchase a portable Promethean Activboard for Rosemary Hills Elementary School. The cost would be \$6,400. Ms. Brophy noted that she had also contacted Sections 3 and 5 and plans to ask Chevy Chase Village for a contribution as well.

Due to a pending discussion of potential budget cuts, the Council deferred the donation request.

### C. CCES Traffic Evaluation

Joel Rubin, Chair of the Public Services Committee, reported on recommendations made by a consultant for improvements to pedestrian and traffic safety around Chevy Chase Elementary School.

Councilmembers discussed each recommendation made by the consultant and directed staff to implement the signage and patrol training recommendations and to defer the sidewalk and crosswalk recommendations until next spring.

### D. Committee Goals for FY10-11

Councilmembers reviewed the Committee Goals for FY10-11. Mayor Lublin made a motion to adopt the Committee Goals. Councilmember Strom seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

### E. FY11 Revenue Projections/Budget Cuts

Council Treasurer Barnes provided an update on the status of the projected income tax revenues. She suggested that the Council should cut \$350,000 from expenditures to offset the anticipated shortfall in income tax revenues.

Councilmembers discussed recommendations made by staff to cut expenditures. It was the sense of the Council to present the list of potential cuts to Town residents and hold a public hearing at the January Council meeting.

Staff was directed to prepare an insert for the next FORECAST showing the recommended cuts, the rationale and potential savings.

### F. 7300 Pearl Street Update

Councilmember Burda reported on a Planning Board hearing, at which she testified, concerning development at 7300 Pearl Street. She reported to the Council on the Town's concerns about several aspects of the development and how the developer worked to ameliorate those concerns. She also outlined some of the specifics regarding the off-site amenity provisions for Elm Street Park's playground development. Council also discussed the provision calling for a ramp to be installed between the Capital Crescent Trail and Pearl Street. Because this ramp was also promised as an amenity with the Hilton Hotel project, a letter will be sent to the County Council urging them to see that this ramp is installed quickly.

### G. Council/Resident Dialogue Sessions

Councilmember Lang presented his idea about how Council/resident dialogue sessions would work. He suggested that residents could choose a topic for a "question and answer" dialogue between Councilmembers and residents at Council meetings.

It was the sense of the rest of the Council that agendas for monthly Council meeting are already full. Councilmembers suggested having quarterly meetings or holding forums.

It was the sense of the Council to refer the concept to the Community Relations Committee for consideration.

#### H. Land Use Handbook

Councilmember Barnes reported that the draft of the Land Use Handbook is close to completion.

She noted that the cost of preparing the handbook exceeded the amount that the consultant, Vic Tervalo, had proposed. Mr. Tervalo has asked for reconsideration of his compensation. It was the sense of the Council to wait to see the final product and defer a decision until that time.

#### IV. New Business

Councilmember Burda reported on the formation of a Connecticut Avenue Corridor Committee, which will bring together the communities along Connecticut Avenue on issues related to the Chevy Chase Lake Sector Plan and the Purple Line. It will include 20 communities.

#### V. Adjournment

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

Respectfully submitted,

Al Lang, Secretary

Transcribed by Andi Silverstone