

TOWN OF CHEVY CHASE
COUNCIL MEETING
February 8, 2023, 6:30 p.m.

*Attending: Mayor Barney Rush and Councilmembers Rich Brancato, Irene Lane, and Joy White.
Councilmember Joel Rubin was absent due to illness
The recording of this meeting is available on the Town website.*

WORK SESSION

The Town Council reviewed and discussed construction and landscape plans for Zimmerman Park improvements. The Council approved the final design, with minor amendments, and agreed to solicit resident comments on the plans this month, prior to proceeding with final construction drawings and obtaining permits and bids/cost estimates for the project.

REGULAR SESSION

I. GENERAL BUSINESS

- Discussed and accepted financial report. Noted unexpected large income tax payment in January, which will boost estimated annual revenue by \$570,000
- Heard and discussed Town Manager's report.

II. VARIANCE HEARING

- Voted unanimously to approve a variance for a rear yard retaining wall setback at 4004 Underwood Street

III. COUNCIL DISCUSSIONS

- Discussed the final rezoning application for 7100 Connecticut Avenue (Corso Chevy Chase).
 - Reviewed the schedule for consideration of the zoning application by regulatory agencies. The Town's comments on the final application are due by February 17. The Planning staff will then post its report on February 27. The Planning Board public hearing is scheduled for March 9; and the Hearing Examiner's public hearing is scheduled for March 24. The County Council will then consider the application and render a final decision.
 - Discussed Town comments to be submitted to the Planning staff on the final rezoning application. Agreed that the Town's comments should:
 - Support the developer's rezoning application, as a result of the developer reducing the outside height of the perimeter buildings.
 - Note that the Town will be carefully monitoring a number of key issues during the site plan process, including traffic, parking, lighting, stormwater management, and forest protection.
 - Cite developers' commitment to enter into agreements with the Town about construction management and to submit to the Town's tree removal variance process.
- Discussed the Farm Women's Market parks development project.
 - Noted that the project partners continue to work to prepare bilateral agreements.
 - Discussed anticipated cost overruns for the undergrounding of utilities and options being developed to reduce the scope of work and associated cost. Also noted that state aid will be requested for this work.

- Discussed cost for undergrounding utilities on 47th Street as a separate project related to the construction of the Capital Crescent Surface Trail.
- Discussed the Town's outreach to Delegate Solomon for assistance with obtaining the Town's state capital grant for the project.
- Noted headway in planning the public charette process that will be held by the Parks Department in the Town on March 15 and at B/CC High School on March 16. There will be a 30-day period after those meetings to collect online public comments. Agreed to provide ample notice of these meetings to residents and encourage participation.
- Discussed the status of the Purple Line project.
 - Discussed the recent Community Advisory Team meeting for the Bethesda/Chevy Chase area. Asked staff to obtain and publicize the presentation from that meeting.
 - Agreed to contact Purple Line officials to request a bike gutter along the staircase at the Sleaford underpass.
- Discussed the status of the Capital Crescent Trail Tunnel.
 - Noted lack of funding for the CCT Tunnel in the County Executive's proposed six-year capital budget.
 - Agreed to send a letter of support for the County's federal grant request for the CCT Tunnel.
- Discussed proposed Radar Speed Board/LED Stop Sign Policy.
 - The policy establishes a procedure for requesting and considering requests for these traffic control devices.
 - Unanimously approved policy.
- Discussed proposed Antisemitism statement.
 - Postponed discussion due to Councilmember Rubin's absence.
 - Reviewed general content of statement.
- Discussed Delegate Kaufman's request for a letter of support for House Bill 459, Municipal Street Lighting Investment Act.
 - The Act would streamline the process for municipal governments who are considering assuming ownership of utility-owned streetlights.
 - Unanimously approved sending the letter.
- Discussed several matters brought to the Council by the Long-Range Planning Committee.
 - Support for Capital Crescent Trail Tunnel: Agreed to support the County's federal grant application.
 - Oppose Little Falls Parkway linear park: Agreed not to engage since the Parks Department is hosting meetings about this matter.
 - Engage in selection of new Planning Board members: Declined to engage in the selection process for new Planning Board members. Considered separate communication to express support for geographic diversity of Planning Board members and for appropriate compensation in recognition of the significant work they perform.

IV. ADJOURNMENT

- The meeting was adjourned at 8:55 p.m.