

TOWN OF CHEVY CHASE
COUNCIL MEETING
March 20, 2024

*All Councilmembers were in attendance.
The recording of this meeting is available on the Town website.*

OPEN SESSION TO VOTE TO ENTER CLOSED SESSION

At 6 p.m., the Town Council met in open session for the purpose of voting to enter a closed session pursuant to the Open Meetings Act, Maryland Code, General Provisions Article, Section 3-305(b)(7) to consult with counsel to obtain legal advice on the applicability of County laws in the Town. Councilmember Martz moved to enter closed session. Councilmember Rush seconded the motion, which passed unanimously. The Town Council convened in closed session to consult with counsel on the applicability of County laws in the Town. The closed session was adjourned at 6:30 p.m.

DISCUSSION WITH CHEVY CHASE AT HOME (OPEN SESSION)

At 6:30 p.m., the Town Council will meet with representatives from Chevy Chase at Home to discuss the organization's mission, membership trends, strategic planning, and needs for the coming year.

I. GENERAL BUSINESS

- Heard February 2024 financial report.
- Heard Town Manager's report.
- Heard public comments on FY25 Town budget.

II. COUNCIL DISCUSSIONS

- Discussed an ordinance to amend Chapter 1 (General Provisions) of the Town Code to clarify language and revise the list of County laws that apply in the Town. Voted unanimously to introduce the ordinance and to schedule a public hearing for the April 10 Council meeting. More information on the ordinance will be included in the April Forecast newsletter.
- Discussed Zimmerman Park improvements and several issues that impact proceeding with full scale redevelopment, including a recent land subsidence within the park as well as the age and condition of the utilities under the park. Engaged in a discussion with the Town staff and the Town's consulting engineer about these issues and options for proceeding with the project. Agreed to proceed with an initial phase of improvements to include all amenities on the south side of the park (between the Lee Dennison Garden and Blackthorn Street). The Council will consider amenities on the north side of the park (between Blackthorn Street and East West Highway) once the first phase of improvements is completed.

III. OTHER BUSINESS/UPDATES

- Discussed the Montgomery Planning Department's Attainable Housing Strategies Initiative and testimony to be delivered by Mayor Lane at the March 21 Planning Board meeting. Noted support for creating more housing options in the Town but questioned implementation strategies. Agreed to retain a consultant to assess the impact of the initiative on the Town.

- Discussed the Bethesda Market Park project. Councilmember Rush noted that the County Parks Department is developing a plan that includes core amenities, which are within the established budget for the project, and supplemental amenities, including the cost of each. For the supplemental amenities, the Town can consider possible additional funding from the Town and other public and private sources. The Council agreed to consider the prospect of additional funding for qualitative improvements to the park and will further discuss this matter at the April meeting. The Council agreed that a final vote on any additional funding will only be taken following a presentation of updated park designs to the community, along with updated cost estimates.
- Discussed modifications that the Town has requested to the fencing and barriers along the Purple Line alignment adjacent to the Town to enhance residents' privacy and safety. Mayor Lane and Councilmember Rush met with a representative of the Montgomery County Department of Transportation (MCDOT), which is responsible for the fence and barriers along this portion of the alignment. MCDOT and Purple Line officials are currently considering these improvements and their cost.
- Mayor Lane and Councilmember White reviewed legislation of interest to the Town in the Maryland General Assembly's 2024 legislative session.
- Discussed the need to retain a legislative aide/consultant to assist the Town in tracking and analyzing County and State legislation. Agreed to engage Town attorney Ron Bolt and Town staff member John Loyd to assist in this effort initially.

IV. ADJOURNMENT

- The meeting was adjourned at 9:30 p.m.