

TOWN OF CHEVY CHASE
COUNCIL MEETING
April 19, 2023

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

OPEN SESSION TO VOTE TO ENTER CLOSED SESSION

At 6:30 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)(1) to discuss the appointment, employment, assignment, promotion, discipline, demotion, compensation, removal, resignation, or performance evaluation of appointees, employees, or officials over whom this public body has jurisdiction. Mayor Rush moved to enter closed session. Councilmember Brancato seconded the motion, which passed unanimously. The Council convened in closed session and discussed performance bonuses for Town staff. The closed session was adjourned at 7 p.m.

I. GENERAL BUSINESS

- Discussed financial report.
- Heard and discussed Town Manager's report.
- Heard public comments.

II. COUNCIL DISCUSSIONS

- Discussed communication from Town residents regarding the Climate and Environment Committee's proposal for Rosemary Triangle improvements.
 - Noted the strong views expressed by many residents that any changes to the park should be minimal.
 - Noted that the Council has not made any decisions regarding improvements to Rosemary Triangle. At its January meeting, the Council asked staff to obtain a survey of the park to determine the location of underground utilities that might conflict with any possible improvements. Once the survey is obtained, the Council will discuss whether and how to consider the proposal, including obtaining resident input.
- Discussed Corso Chevy Chase's rezoning application.
 - Discussed a Letter of Agreement and Declaration of Covenants between Corso and the Town. The Declaration of Covenants will memorialize commitments related to perpetual use of the land and improvements that are enforceable by the Town. The Letter of Agreement will obligate Corso to execute the Declaration and includes short-term requirements that the Town wants the developer to commit to but that do not need to be conditions in perpetuity. These short-term requirements include providing the Town with temporary garage space during construction; completing traffic and parking studies prior to submission of the preliminary plan; including the Town forester in development of the final forest conservation plan; and executing a construction management agreement with the Town prior to issuance of building permits.
 - Agreed to finalize the documents and submit to Corso for ratification.
 - Discussed next steps for the Corso redevelopment, including preparation of a site plan and completion of traffic and parking studies.

- Discussed the Bethesda Market Park development project.
 - Noted progress in developing the project funding agreement with the County for construction of the underground garage and continued engagement with the Parks Department to develop a project funding agreement for construction of the park.
 - Noted that the Maryland General Assembly authorized an additional \$500,000 in FY24 for undergrounding utilities as part of the project and that the Town will be the recipient of these funds. The total state grant to the Town for FY24 is \$1 million, which is in addition to the \$500,000 grant the Town received in FY23.
 - Discussed the results of the Town's survey on park amenities. Agreed to send residents' comments, with names and addresses redacted, to the Parks Department.
- Discussed naming the new Zimmerman Park pathway for Scott Fosler.
 - Voted unanimously to name the new pathway for Scott Fosler to honor his service to the Town and County and to recognize his contribution to County environmental stewardship.
- Discussed Town residents' concerns about the lack of water flow in Coquelin Run.
 - Discussed what the Town has learned and done about this matter.
 - Agreed to host a meeting among concerned residents and County and State officials, including those managing Purple Line construction and state waterways, to discuss this matter, with a focus on what mitigation can be undertaken to restore flow to the stream.
- Discussed the Town's Gas-Powered Leaf Blower Regulations
 - Discussed a proposal from the Town's Climate and Environment Committee to ban gas-powered leaf blowers in Town year-round. Agreed to continue the discussion in May.
- Discussed Antisemitism Awareness Resolution by Montgomery County municipalities.
 - Noted that 11 municipalities have signed the resolution.
 - Agreed that a renewed effort should be undertaken to encourage other municipalities to sign the resolution. Town officials will reach out to those municipalities.
 - Discussed next steps with organizing an event related to antisemitism awareness.

III. ADJOURNMENT

- The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 p.m.