

TOWN OF CHEVY CHASE  
COUNCIL MEETING  
May 15, 2024

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

DISCUSSION WITH MONTGOMERY COUNTY POLICE DEPARTMENT

At 6:30 p.m., the Council met with Commander Amy Daum from the Montgomery County Police Department, 2<sup>nd</sup> District to discuss the Department's Drone as First Responder (DFR) Program for Bethesda. The Council agreed to send a letter to the County Council in support of funding for the program.

REGULAR MEETING

I. GENERAL BUSINESS

- Newly elected Councilmembers Rich Brancato, Irene Lane, and Barney Rush read the oath of office.
- Voted unanimously to appoint Council officers, as follows:
  - Irene Lane, Mayor
  - Barney Rush, Vice Mayor
  - Rich Brancato, Treasurer
  - Stephanie Martz, Secretary
  - Joy White, Community Liaison
- Voted unanimously to appoint Council liaisons to Town committees, as follows:
  - Climate and Environment: Irene Lane
  - Community Relations: Stephanie Martz
  - Land Use: Rich Brancato
  - Long Range Planning: Joy White
  - Public Services: Barney Rush
- Heard April 2024 financial report.
- Heard Town Manager's report.
- Unanimously approved National Gun Violence Awareness Proclamation.

II. PUBLIC HEARINGS

- Held a public hearing on an ordinance to require a Real Property Sale Disclosure regarding Town regulations. Voted unanimously to adopt the ordinance.

III. COUNCIL DISCUSSIONS

- Discussed the Bethesda Market Park project. Vice Mayor Rush provided an update on the status of the development and funding agreements and progress on a revised park design. He announced that the updated park design, including a shade/stage structure, a water feature, dog runs, and a multigenerational play area, will be presented to the public at a virtual meeting on Tuesday, June 18 at 7 p.m. He restated the Council's position that the Council will not vote on any additional Town funding for the project until residents have had an opportunity to comment on the updated design following the public presentation. Vice Mayor Rush expressed concerns about the pace of negotiations between the developers and the County, and the prospect that this could affect the timing of the project design work required for

submission of a Site Plan to the Planning Department. The Council discussed the developers' intent to complete the count of current levels of traffic around the perimeter of the project by June 1. This is a necessary part of the overall traffic study that the developers are required to prepare.

- Discussed a request from Wonders Early Learning for a financial contribution of \$10,000 for FY25. Voted unanimously to hold a public hearing on the funding request at the June 12 meeting.

#### IV. OTHER BUSINESS/UPDATES

- Discussed the Montgomery Planning Department's Attainable Housing Strategies Initiative (AHSI). Mayor Lane reported on a meeting among Town officials and Planning staff about the impact of recently adopted state legislation on the County initiative. The Council discussed the need to seek clarity in both state law and the Planning Department's recommendations to prevent unintended consequences in the application of state and county laws related to attainable housing.

#### V. ADJOURNMENT

- The meeting was adjourned at 7:50 p.m.