

TOWN OF CHEVY CHASE
COUNCIL MEETING
June 12, 2024

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

I. GENERAL BUSINESS

- Heard May 2024 financial report.
- Heard Town Manager's report.
- Heard public comments.
 - Unanimously approved a resolution recognizing Town resident Tara Prakash for her appointment as the inaugural statewide Youth Poet Laureate.
 - Unanimously approved a resolution recognizing Town resident John Beale for his service as a Town representative on the Chevy Chase Fire Department Board of Directors.

II. PUBLIC HEARINGS

- Held a public hearing on a request from Wonders Early Learning for a financial contribution of \$10,000 for capital improvements to its facility at the Lawton Center. Voted unanimously to approve the contribution.
- Held a public hearing on a tree removal appeal at 4427 Ridge Street. Voted 3-2, with Mayor Lane and Councilmember Martz opposed, to approve the appeal subject to standard Town conditions for tree removal and replacement and with the requirement that the applicant plant two replacement canopy trees as approved by the Town arborist.

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 said that residents will be encouraged to comment on these plans following the virtual meeting. This would permit the Council to potentially vote on the proposed additional funding for the park at the July 10 Council meeting. Vice Mayor Rush also noted a prospective change to the circulation plan for truck loading for the project that could affect pedestrian flow between the market and park areas. Town officials will continue to engage on this issue.
- 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. The Town is still awaiting a revised estimate from Purple Line officials and will schedule a discussion of this issue when the Town receives the estimate.
- Discussed overgrown vegetation regulations and policies. Approved staff's recommendations and proposed procedures to achieve clearance of sidewalks to the Americans with Disabilities (ADA) standard. Asked staff to propose changes to Town regulations and policies to implement this new standard.

- Discussed Leland Street/East Avenue intersection improvements. Expressed support for the improvements and agreed to hold a public hearing in July.

IV. OTHER BUSINESS/UPDATES

- Discussed Montgomery Planning Department's Attainable Housing Strategies Initiative (AHSI). Mayor Lane announced the Town's public forum on AHSI on June 13 to discuss the Planning Department's recommendations on incorporating multifamily housing in single-family neighborhoods. She discussed the schedule for consideration of these recommendations, which will culminate in proposed zoning changes in the fall. The Council agreed to organize affected municipalities to provide comments on the recommendations to the County Council.
- Discussed a technical amendment to state law to clarify municipal building authority. Mayor Lane reported that Town officials met with the District 18 delegation and municipal leaders to review the proposed amendment, which would allow municipalities to regulate multifamily residences within their communities. She asked the Council to review a draft letter to the State delegation from affected municipalities for the amendment to be considered during the 2025 General Assembly session.
- Discussed the County's Growth and Infrastructure Policy, which ensures that the County's essential public facilities, especially schools and transportation systems, keep pace with development. She noted that changes to the GIP's metrics will be deliberated by the County Council this fall.
- Discussed the Bethesda Minor Master Plan Amendment. Mayor Lane noted that the Planning Department will deliberate this summer on whether the development cap in downtown Bethesda should be eliminated or increased.

V. ADJOURNMENT

- The meeting was adjourned at 9:25 p.m.