

TOWN OF CHEVY CHASE
COUNCIL MEETING
July 9, 2025

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

COUNCIL WORK SESSION

At 6 p.m., the Town Council met to discuss the County's proposed Workforce Housing legislation. The Town will continue to monitor this legislation and related administrative regulations as they are considered by the County Council. The work session adjourned at 7 p.m.

COUNCIL REGULAR SESSION

I. GENERAL BUSINESS

- Heard June 2025 financial report.
- Heard Town Manager's report.
 - Asked the Town Manager to provide an update on overgrown vegetation enforcement.
 - Mayor Rush noted that the Town has not yet received a response from Pepco regarding the communication and system failures experienced by the Town during the recent power outage.
 - The Town Manager reported on an issue related to Bradley Lane safety. The Town communicated with the Chevy Chase Club to request lowering the height of the Club's retaining wall at the intersection of Bradley Lane and Connecticut Avenue to improve pedestrian and vehicular sight lines at the crosswalk at that location. The Club is not willing to consider this option and instead supports moving the crosswalk to a safer location. The Town has communicated with the State Highway Administration (SHA), asking the agency to add this matter to its review of other traffic calming measures being considered for Bradley Lane.
 - The Town Manager noted that the SHA has appointed a new Assistant District Engineer for District 3 (Montgomery County). The Town Manager will ask for a meeting with the appointee to make introductions and discuss progress on the ongoing Bradley Lane safety study.
- Heard public comments. Residents remarked on proposed Ridge Street and West Avenue improvements as well as the Town's affiliation with the private Town Neighbors listserv.

II. PUBLIC HEARINGS

- Held a public hearing on and discussed a variance for driveway width at 7211 Oakridge Avenue. Voted unanimously to approve the variance.
- Held a public hearing on and discussed a \$5,765 contribution request from Wonders Early Learning at the Lawton Center for playground improvements and interior renovations. Voted unanimously to approve the contribution and asked Wonders to make every effort to allow public use of the playground when not in use by the daycare.

III. COUNCIL DISCUSSIONS

- Discussed proposed improvements to Ridge Street and West Avenue, including a sidewalk extension on Ridge Street and the widening of West Avenue.
 - Staff member Dave Walton provided an overview of the proposed Ridge Street sidewalk project, reviewed resident outreach to date, and outlined next steps. Mayor Rush reported on outreach to Ridge Street residents who could not attend the June 23 on-site meeting. The Council discussed the consideration process moving forward, including further plan development, engineer and arborist assessments, and additional outreach to affected residents. The plan will focus on the option of placing a sidewalk adjacent to the existing curb without narrowing the street. Staff expects that plans for this option, if viable, will be prepared over the summer.
 - Staff member Dave Walton reviewed the West Avenue project to allow for the safe passage of traffic during drop off and dismissal at the Oneness School. Options include widening a portion of West Avenue and implementing additional parking restrictions. The project also could involve new traffic calming measures that have been discussed with residents, including a stop sign at West Avenue and Ridge Street as well as speed humps on West Avenue. The Council discussed additional data gathering and plan development. A resident commented on the additional parking restrictions along West Avenue under consideration. Staff, working with the Town's traffic consultant, will review these options further and report to the Council. The Council agreed that, after receiving additional information from staff, the Town should meet with officials from St. John's Church and the Oneness School to discuss the options and solicit their ideas for improved traffic management, including the possibility that the school make use of the parking lot adjacent to the church for drop off and dismissal.
- Discussed speed cameras on Bradley Lane. Town Manager Todd Hoffman reported on a meeting with Montgomery County Police Department (MCPD) officials to discuss speed cameras along this corridor. Specifically, the Town has asked the MCPD to meet with the Town during the summer to determine if it is prepared to install a camera to monitor westbound speeds on Bradley Lane. The Council agreed to consider a Town-operated speed camera program if the County does not intend to install additional speed cameras on Bradley Lane. Staff will continue to review a Town-operated speed camera program and report to the Council at the September meeting. The Council also agreed to consider a Town policy related to speed camera use.
- Discussed the Capital Crescent Surface Trail Phase 2 project along 47th Street and Willow Lane. Town Manager Todd Hoffman reported on a recent meeting with the County Transportation Department and Montgomery Parks to discuss the project. A new plan is under consideration that would not require the relocation of the utility poles to the west side of 47th Street and the consequent removal of street trees. The Council also discussed the configuration of pathways through Elm Street Park. Mayor Rush reported that the Town asked Montgomery Parks to consider a more direct pathway from Willow Lane to the proposed refurbished playground as part of the project but noted the Parks Department's concern that such a route may disrupt roots of canopy trees near the promenade area of the park.
- Discussed the County's proposed short-term exemption of landscape contractors from the County's gas-powered leaf blower ban. A county exemption, if approved by the County Council, would not affect the Town's ban. Councilmember Leonard

reported that the Town's Climate and Environment Committee would like the Town to testify against the proposed exemption at the County's July 15 hearing. The Council discussed the matter, as well as the content of any proposed testimony, and agreed that there is not sufficient time to develop testimony before July 15. The Council encouraged members of the committee to testify on their own behalf at the hearing. The Council also discussed a limited exemption for the Town's leaf collection contractor from the Town's ban, which could only be considered if the County were to modify its current complete ban. The Council agreed to discuss this in September and asked staff to request two bids from the Town's contractor: one that would require only battery-powered leaf blowers and one that would not.

IV. ADJOURNMENT

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