

TOWN OF CHEVY CHASE
COUNCIL MEETING
MINUTES
December 8, 2021

Council & Staff (via videoconference)

Barney Rush, Mayor

Todd Hoffman, Town Manager

Irene Lane, Vice Mayor

Ron Bolt, Town Attorney

Joy White, Treasurer

Joel Rubin, Secretary

Ellen Cornelius Ericson, Community Liaison

Residents and Guests

Residents and guests attended by videoconference.

PUBLIC FORUM ON VOTING ELIGIBILITY (5:30 p.m.)

The Town Council held a public forum to discuss and receive feedback from residents about a proposal to lower the voting age to sixteen (16) for Town residents who wish to participate in Town elections.

REGULAR MEETING (7 p.m.)

I. GENERAL BUSINESS

A. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 7 p.m.

B. Approval of Minutes

Councilmember Lane moved to approve meeting minutes. Councilmember White seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

C. Acceptance of Financial Report

The Council discussed and accepted the November 2021 financial report.

D. Approval of a Supplemental Appropriation for Staff Salaries and Benefits

The Council discussed a supplemental appropriation of \$79,000 for staff salaries and benefits for the remainder of FY22. This amount will cover the salary and benefits of the new Assistant Town Manager, who is expected to begin employment on January 3, 2022. The FY23 budget will reflect a full year's cost for this new position. Councilmember Ericson

moved to approve the supplemental appropriation. Councilmember Lane seconded the notion, which passed unanimously.

E. Town Manager's Report

Town Manager Todd Hoffman reported on staff initiatives over the past month.

F. Public Comments

The Council heard public comments.

II. VARIANCE HEARINGS

A. Bellande, 7505 Tarrytown Road, Front, Rear, and Side Yard Setbacks

Town staff reported that the applicants were requesting variances for front, rear, and side yard setbacks. The applicants described the plan and the need for the variances. There were no public comments.

The Council discussed the request. Councilmember Lane moved to approve the variances. Councilmember White seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

B. Hackett, 7507 Tarrytown Road, Non-Vegetative Front Yard Coverage

Town staff reported that the applicants were requesting a variance for non-vegetative front yard coverage. The applicants described the plan and the need for the variance. There were no public comments.

The Council discussed the request. Councilmember Ericson moved to approve the variance. Councilmember Rubin seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

III. PUBLIC HEARINGS

A. Public Hearing on Proposed Speed Hump on Maple Avenue Between Aspen Street and Blackthorn Street

The Council held a public hearing on installation of a speed hump on Maple Avenue between Aspen Street and Blackthorn Street. There were no public comments.

Councilmember Lane moved to approve installation of the speed hump. Councilmember Ericson seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

IV. COUNCIL DISCUSSIONS

A. Zimmerman Park Redevelopment

The Council discussed plans for the redevelopment of Zimmerman Park. The Council agreed to advance plans for certain improvements and amenities, including additional vegetative screening along East West Highway; grading and drainage improvements; an occasional off-leash dog exercise area; preservation of green space; and elimination of the bocce court. The Council agreed to hold a work session on December 15 to discuss additional amenities, including walkways, fencing (amount and temporary vs. permanent), seating, and play equipment.

B. Maple Avenue Traffic Management/Calming

The Council discussed traffic calming and management on Maple Avenue. Councilmember Lane moved to schedule a public hearing at the January Council meeting on removing the entry restriction on Maple Avenue at Aspen Street. Councilmember Rubin seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

C. East West Highway Crosswalk

The Council discussed the new pedestrian crosswalk on East West Highway at Maple Avenue. The Council agreed to solicit resident input on safety and usability of the crosswalk, and then determine next steps.

D. Discussion and Possible Introduction of a Resolution to Amend Article IV, Section 401 of the Town Charter to Lower the Town Voting Age to Sixteen

The Council discussed a resolution to lower the Town voting age to sixteen. Councilmember Ericson moved to introduce the resolution and to schedule a public hearing at the January Council meeting. Councilmember Rubin seconded the motion, which passed by a vote of 4-1, with Mayor Rush opposed. Mayor Rush stated his preference to permit voting by residents who turn 18 by the November election date used for state and federal elections.

E. ARPA Grant Administration

The Council discussed programmatic allocation of the Town's first tranche of American Rescue Plan Act funds. The Council agreed to guidance to allocate one-third of the funds to social programs implemented on behalf of Town residents by nonprofit organizations, and two-thirds of the funds to infrastructure programs.

F. Thrive Montgomery 2050/Attainable Housing Strategies Initiative

The Council discussed positions to be taken in further response to the County's general plan update (Thrive Montgomery 2050) and the Planning Board's Attainable Housing Strategies Initiative. Key points include the need for chapters on economic development and environmental resilience and emphasizing the importance of executing zoning changes through the sector and master plan processes.

V. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Joel Rubin, Secretary

Transcribed by Todd Hoffman, Town Manager

Audio recordings of Town Council meetings are available on the Town website (www.townofchevy Chase.org) approximately one week following each meeting.