

TOWN OF CHEVY CHASE  
COUNCIL MEETING  
MINUTES  
December 9, 2019

Council & Staff

Barney Rush, Mayor

Cecily Baskir, Vice Mayor

Wicca Davidson, Secretary

Kirk Renaud, Treasurer

Joel Rubin, Intergovernmental & Public Liaison

Todd Hoffman, Town Manager

Ron Bolt, Town Attorney

Residents and Guests

Lees Hartman, 7214 Ridgewood Avenue

Lou Evangelista, 4402 Walsh Street

Beth Barnett, 4315 Elm Street

Dedun Ingram, 4312 Willow Lane

Len Scensny, 4312 Willow Lane

Paul Kiyonaga, 7502 Meadow Lane

COUNCIL WORK SESSION

At 6:15 p.m. in the Town Hall, the Town Council held a work session to discuss Zimmerman Park amenities and improvements. The Council asked the Town Manager to retain a landscape architect to develop conceptual plans for a multi-use, shared park space to include stormwater management improvements; a children's play area; walkways, benches and tables; and vegetative screening along East West Highway. The conceptual plans also will include a three-sided fenced area at the north end of the park, with the intent that a temporary fence could be put in place on the fourth side to create an enclosed area for off-leash dogs on an occasional basis. The Council asked the Land Use Committee to solicit community feedback about these conceptual plans. The Council deferred discussion of a trial dog exercise area. The work session adjourned at 7:00 p.m.

I. GENERAL BUSINESS

A. Call to Order

Mayor Rush called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

B. Approval of Minutes

Councilmember Baskir moved to approve the minutes of the November 13, 2019 Council Meeting. Councilmember Renaud seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

C. Acceptance of Financial Report

The Council discussed and accepted the November 2019 financial report. Councilmember and Treasurer Renaud informed the Council that the amount of November's local income tax distribution was almost \$600,000 higher than last November's distribution and that the State's Board of Revenue Estimates urged caution when reacting to this distribution since it is treating some aspects of tax year 2018's growth as one-time revenue.

D. Approval of Supplemental Appropriations for Executive Recruitment and Traffic Study

The Council voted unanimously to approve supplemental appropriations of \$8,877 for past executive recruitment costs and of \$40,000 for a Town-wide traffic study.

E. Town Manager's Report

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

F. Public Comments

Paul Kiyonaga, Town resident at 7502 Meadow Lane and Gonzaga College High School student, asked the Town Council to consider recognizing historic American Indian settlement in the Town. Councilmember Davidson offered the assistance of the Community Relations Committee to explore the idea of a plaque, sculpture, or other form of recognition.

II. COUNCIL DISCUSSIONS

A. County Code Applicability

The Council discussed the applicability of Montgomery County laws within the Town. Specifically, the Council discussed several recent County laws regarding a ban on pesticide use; tree canopy conservation and protection; short-term rental licensing; and new home builder licensing and warranties. The Council agreed to solicit feedback from the Town's Climate and Environment Committee about the pesticide and tree laws and from the Town's Land Use and Long-Range Planning committees about the licensing laws and whether these laws should apply within Town. The Council asked the Long-Range Planning Committee to undertake a comprehensive review of the County code to identify other laws that the Town Council may wish to make applicable within Town.

The Council expressed a preference to retain a general exemption to County laws but agreed to discuss this issue further once the comprehensive review is completed. The Council also expressed the need for a system to identify new County laws and address their applicability within Town in a timely way.

B. ZTA 19-07, Telecommunications Towers – Limited Use

The Council discussed County Zoning Text Amendment (ZTA) 19-07 regarding the location of telecommunications towers in residential areas. Councilmember Rubin and Mayor Rush agreed to review the ZTA with Town staff and the Town attorney and brief the Council at the January meeting on recommended engagement on this issue.

C. Accessory Dwelling Units

The Council discussed Montgomery County laws related to accessory dwelling units (ADUs) and whether the Town should require detached ADUs to adhere to the established set back requirements for principal dwellings. The Council agreed to schedule a work session prior to the February Council meeting to discuss this matter and to consider introduction of a corresponding Town ordinance at the February meeting.

D. Municipal Tax Duplication Reimbursement

The Council deferred discussion of this agenda item.

E. Utility Work Update

The Council discussed the status of utility and infrastructure repairs in Town. The Town Manager noted that most of the Washington Gas work in the northeast quadrant of the Town should be completed by summer of 2020, with the expectation that associated street repaving can be completed in the same time frame

F. Bethesda Downtown Plan Implementation

The Council discussed Bethesda Downtown Plan implementation, including proposed development on and around the Farm Women’s Market site, at 7000 Wisconsin Avenue, at 7340 Wisconsin Avenue, and in the Battery Lane District. The Council agreed to send a letter to the Planning Board regarding the need for the proposed redevelopment in the Battery Lane District to conform to design guidelines.

G. State Legislative and Community Priorities

The Council discussed State legislative and community priorities and agreed to a number of discussion topics for an upcoming meeting with the State’s District 18 delegation.

#### H. Committee Operating Procedures and Roles & Responsibilities

The Council discussed committee operating procedures and roles and responsibilities. Councilmember Davidson moved to approve several revisions to the guidance document. Councilmember Rubin seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

#### III. OTHER BUSINESS

The Council congratulated Town resident Dedun Ingram to her appointment to the Bethesda Downtown Plan Implementation Advisory Committee.

Mayor Rush announced that the Town had sent a letter to the Montgomery County Planning Department in support of appointing Town resident Chris Bruch to the Pedestrian Master Plan Advisory Group.

Mayor Rush announced new appointments to the Town's Election Board.

#### IV. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Wicca Davidson, Secretary

Transcribed by Todd Hoffman, Town Manager

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