

TOWN OF CHEVY CHASE
COUNCIL MEETING
December 14, 2022, 7 p.m.

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

I. GENERAL BUSINESS

- Discussed and accepted financial report. In November, the Town received its major reconciliation payment for the prior calendar year, plus the first estimated payment for the current year. We can therefore project the remaining payments that the Town will receive this fiscal year, and the Town is confident that its income tax revenue will at least match the projection in our budget.
- Heard and discussed Town Manager's report.
 - Received updates on several Town projects, including Zimmerman Park renovations and Coquelin Run stabilization. Both projects should be completed in spring or summer 2023.
 - Discussed community messaging regarding sidewalk snow removal, reminding residents of their responsibility to clear public sidewalks if the amount of snowfall does not warrant the Town engaging contractors to shovel and deice, and also highlighting that resources for residents who are looking for help are available on the Town website or by calling the Town Office.
 - Mayor Rush reported on his conversation with the Chair of the Board of the Bethesda Fire Department regarding advance notice to the Town of future visits by fire engines and Santa during the holiday season.
- Heard public comments.

II. VARIANCE HEARING

- Voted unanimously to approve a variance for a front yard fence at 4400 Stanford Street.

III. COUNCIL DISCUSSIONS

- Discussed the rezoning and redevelopment of 7100 Connecticut Avenue (Corso Chevy Chase).
 - Discussed Corso's amended application to rezone 7100 Connecticut Avenue. Noted that the developers continue to seek to construct five story buildings around the three sides of the property adjacent to Town residences and have not accommodated the Town's position that these buildings be reduced to four stories. The developers have only reduced the height of the proposed buildings along Connecticut Avenue.
 - Reviewed points to be covered in Town's letter to the Planning Department.
 - Discussed a meeting between Town officials and Planning staff regarding the issue of building heights.
 - Noted that the Planning staff will submit comments on the amended application, along with the Town's comments, to the developer on December 16. The developers will submit a final version of the application on December 23, and the Town will distribute the final application documents to residents by Town Crier and post on the Town website.
 - Following the developers' submission of a final application, Planning staff will draft a report with recommendations, which will be available on January 30.

Town officials and residents will then be able to testify at the public hearing on February 9, both about the application and the Planning staff's recommendations.

- Discussed the Farm Women's Market parks development project.
 - Noted that the project partners are now working together to prepare bilateral agreements and a master project agreement. Discussed the Town's desired funding structure for the agreements with both the County and the Parks Department.
 - Discussed the state's capital grant to the Town for this project and potential difficulties in administering this grant. Noted that Town officials have discussed these difficulties with State Delegate Solomon and his staff, who have agreed to assist in clarifying or simplifying the grant process or finding alternative means of providing the grant to either the Town or the Parks Department.
 - Discussed presentation by developers' site design consultant. Noted a change in the location of the entrance to the underground garage along Willow Lane to prevent conflicts with the proposed surface trail. Discussed traffic circulation patterns and ideas to reduce traffic on the proposed pedestrian plaza.
- Discussed the Town's policy for the use of ARPA funds.
 - Agreed that the Town's prior policy for the use of the Town's ARPA allocation has been nullified by the Treasury's promulgation of the final rule.
 - To ease the administration and use of the ARPA funds, agreed to a schedule for the expenditure of Town ARPA funds for the provision of government services.
 - Noted that amounts equivalent to the funds received from ARPA will be available to support future special projects, including social, infrastructure, and environmental programs, as well as the new parks adjacent to the Farm Women's Market, which were contemplated to be funded with the grant monies.
- Discussed support to East Bethesda to enlarge Veteran's Park in the triangle district of Bethesda. Agreed to send a letter of support for this effort and to address process issues in the letter.
- Discussed a statement on antisemitism and hate speech. The Council voiced support for Councilmember Rubin to coordinate this statement.
- Discussed MTA's Purple Line Horn and Bell Policy.
 - Following up on the announcement at the November Council meeting that the Maryland Transit Authority is currently unwilling to commit to adjust use of the audible wayside alert system on the tracks adjacent to the Town, Mayor Rush stated that the Town has engaged state legislators on this matter, but that it will take some time to resolve.
- Discussed East West Highway crosswalk safety.
 - Noted that the Town has engaged the assistance of Delegate Solomon in this effort and that the SHA has indicated support for improving the signalization at the crosswalk. The Town will continue to request a meeting with state legislators and SHA officials on this matter.

IV. ADJOURNMENT

- The meeting was adjourned at 9:10 p.m.