Village of North Chevy Chase
Council Meeting Minutes February 17, 2026

Meeting called to order at 7:30 p.m. by Maury Mechanick (Vice Chair), conducted in person and through electronic means; also in attendance were Geetika Sripathi (Treasurer); Jon Macy (Member); and Adrian Andreassi (Chair); Dana Peterson (Village Manager); and other residents of VoNCC (list attached).

Agenda

Approval of January Meeting Minutes (Secretary): Minutes approval was deferred to March meeting in order for further revision to correct errors arising from minutes draft prepared utilizing Zoom AI support.

January Treasurer Report: The Treasurer reported that year-to-date (July 2025-January 2026) income totaled $316,413, with year-to-date operating expenses at $252,675. Expenses from the significant snow storm at the end of January will be reflected in the February report. Village assets as of January 31 totaled $3.12 million with total liability of $31,443. A CD with UBS totaling $245,000 matured on January 26, 2026 and funds were transferred to a new CD with First Horizon at 3.7% interest. The Treasurer noted that the balance sheet and expense v actual reports have new formats developed with accounting/auditing firm LSWG to enhance transparency with expenses and Village investments, including CDs. The Treasurer noted an upcoming maturity of a CD with Atlantic Union and the opportunity to look at diversifying the Village's investments. The Council accepted the January Treasurer reports.

Nominating Committee for May 5 Elections: The Village Manager highlighted that per the Village Charter, the Village is looking for three residents to volunteer for the Nominating Committee by the March 1 deadline. The three Council positions up for election are currently held by Adrian Andreassi, Maury Mechanick and Geetika Sripathi, each of whom has indicated an intent to stand for re-election. In addition to identifying any potential candidates, the Nominating Committee would help with voting on election night and absentee ballots.

Village-Wide Survey: The Manager provided additional information on a possible survey based on follow up with the prospective consultant. The Village can edit the

draft questions to meet its own needs, as there are no required questions. The consultant recommended the survey stay open for 2 weeks. It would be sent electronically via Survey Monkey and distributed to residents in hard copy who request one and mailed back to the consultant directly. The estimated time between providing the consultant with the completed questionnaire/launch and receiving a final report would be approximately 6 weeks. The Village Manager noted that Martin's Additions had a 38% response rate which is considered good among surveys. The Council requested that the Village Manager follow up on some additional questions relating to cost, timing, and identification of respondents by address or status (owner versus renter).

Landscape solicitation: The Village Manager provided an overview of the proposed services and locations in the landscape solicitation, which included, among other things, mowing at various locations, clearing sidewalk overgrowth at certain locations, maintaining native gardens adjacent to diverters, planting and maintenance of native plants at specified locations, and clearing specified storm drains of debris. The bid invitation would be posted on the sites of Maryland Municipal League (MML) and Maryland Marketplace and sent to vendors who service surrounding communities by Friday, Feb. 20, with a closing date of Wednesday, March 11. A recommendation for contract award will be presented to the Council at the March 17 meeting.

ArborDay Event: The Treasurer proposed May 2 as the date for the Village to host a combined Arbor Day and Earth Day celebration at the Church grounds (including booking the Church Community room in case of inclement weather and for vendors to set up booths) from 10 AM - 1PM. Initial ideas for the event included a tree planting ceremony, a walking tour of Village trees by Village arborist Richard Jones, and presentations by Nature Forward and Compost Crew, and plant sales offered by Nature by Design. Activities for kids are also envisioned, including crafts and a scavenger hunt. The Council acknowledged the strong interest by residents in participating in Village events such as this and that the Village should try to find more opportunities for such gatherings, recognizing that resident volunteers are critical for organizing such events.

The Village Manager also indicated that, in addition to supporting the Arbor Day/Earth Day event, the Environment Committee members would be available to assist, as appropriate on matters such as updating the Village's tree ordinance/tree policy to strengthen the overall Village tree canopy and to offer suggestions for tree planting locations and species for spring and fall tree plantings.

Village Tree Maintenance Update: The Village Manager reiterated the planned tree removals (eight in total) and prunings. The Council requested that the arborist flag the tree removals with ribbon and paint marks to ensure residents are aware. Residents will

have an opportunity to weigh in on the replacement tree species. The VIllage Manager noted that the list of tree removals and prunings would be sent to the three tree service firms with whom the Village has contracts to conduct a “mini competition” and will select the lowest estimate for the work.

Intersection Safety Study Update: The Village Manager indicated that traffic engineering firm, Brudis & Associates, was still completing edits to the final intersection safety study report along with an executive summary and that it was anticipated to be completed by the March 17 meeting, at which point it will be presented at the meeting, shared with residents via Constant Contact, uploaded to the Village website, and distributed to key stakeholders, including neighboring municipalities and the PTAs of nearby schools, in addition to key government officials at the State and County level.

Montgomery Municipal Cable Request: The Village Manager noted that the Board of Directors of Montgomery Municipal Cable (MMC) had requested that the Village - and other member municipalities - contribute its portion of cable fees to MMC. The Village used to do that although more recently it had discontinued this practice. The Council acknowledged that MMC had been very helpful in providing equipment and technical support for the hybrid Council meetings. The Council decided to donate $2,000 from the FY26 budget (the approximate amount in fees received to date) and to further address this practice going forward during the FY27 budget discussion.

State Housing Legislation Update: The Vice Chair explained that the proposed State legislation (Starter and Silver Homes Act) would significantly reduce zoning and permitting authority at the County and municipal levels and noted that the legislation has shifted from focusing on “affordable housing” to “increasing housing stock”. The Village is working with 11 neighboring municipalities to collectively highlight significant concerns with the legislation, which has already proven to be quite controversial, and will continue to monitor developments.

Annexation: The VIllage Manager indicated that a resident on McGregor, which is the block adjacent to/east of the 8900 block of Clifford Ave (eastern boundary of the Village), reached out expressing an interest in exploring annexation for the cul-de-sac. He was hoping to determine the Council’s receptivity to that before initiating formal discussions and actions with his neighbors. The Council indicated that it would be open to consideration of annexation if there was a clear desire on the part of the residents on that sul-de-sac in favor of annexation. Recognizing that such an effort might create interest at certain other locations in possible annexation as well, and that addressing annexations on a piecemeal basis made no sense, the Council expressed willingness to more broadly consider possible annexations at this time, again contingent on strong interest being expressed by residents at particular locations in annexation. The Council

noted that annexation would have financial implications for new residents (additional property tax) and for the Village (expanded service areas).

The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 PM.

Attendees:
Kevin Fornal; Flanagans; David Asai, Ilona Pruchas, Alison Merikangas, Seamus McCloskey, Sandy Tennies, Marcel Borde, Helen Santiago Fink, Anne Cantrel, Louis Simchowitz