

**Town of Glen Echo
Town Council Budget Hearing
And Meeting Minutes
May 29, 2007**

ATTENDANCE: Debbie Beers, Mayor
Nancy Long, Councilmember
Eve Arber, Councilmember
Steve Matney, Councilmember
Robin Kogelnik, Councilmember
Cathie Polak, Clerk-Treasurer

VISITOR: Reginald Rhein, Echo Reporter

Prior to beginning the FY 2007-08 budget hearing, Mayor Beers swore in new council member Robin Kogelnik. The budget hearing was called to order at 7:35 p.m.

BUDGET HEARING

Income

Mayor Beers first summarized the estimated income for the proposed budget. She then reviewed the recommended tax rate for the proposed FY 2007-2008 budget, explaining that it is based on the 2007 Constant Yield Tax Rate Certification provided annually by the State of Maryland, Department of Assessments and Taxation. Mayor Beers explained how she arrived at the income budget from the constant yield tax rate certification and has proposed that the real property tax rate remain the same, \$.12 per \$100.

The Town does not receive a personal property constant yield tax rate. Mayor Beers explained that the corporate, personal property tax, Income line item 02.1, is mainly from PEPCO and from a small number of licensed, Town-based, businesses. Mayor Beers noted that there are some businesses in Town that do not report their income to the State of Maryland. No change is proposed for the personal property tax rate, currently set at \$.80 per \$100.

The Mayor then reviewed the Town's Income categories highlighting that the State Highway Administration, Maryland Department of Transportation, notifies Glen Echo what line item 04., Highway income, will be. The Town is asked to document that it is using these funds for road repairs. Mayor Beers again noted that Council is not spending the budgeted Highway funds.

Expenses

Mayor Beers then reviewed the projected expenses for FY 2007-08. The following items were highlighted, some resulting in changes in the proposed budget:

- Line item 01. Administration proposed amount is \$12,000, an increase of \$2000 from the previous year, to continue hiring Montgomery County police to help with the increased traffic on Oxford Road (due to increased visitor traffic to the Park) as well as temporary office help if needed;

- Line item 04.1 Fixed Operating Expenses, Electrical is increased from \$2000 to \$6000. There was discussion about the substantial under spending in the 2006-07 budget. C/T Polak offered to recheck coding to insure that electrical expenses were not debited from another line item. NOTE: FY 2006-07 reports are attached showing correct coding.
- Line item 07.3, Maintenance/Public, Snow Plowing is increased to \$5000 from \$3500.
- Line item 08.2, Capital Improvements, Street Paving is increased by \$50,000 to \$200,000 to cover the anticipated street repair project.
- Line item 8.3, Capital Improvements, Sidewalks has \$5000 budgeted to replace deteriorated blocks.
- Line item 8.4, Capital Improvements, Town Hall has \$7000 to cover the costs of the new sign.
- Line item 8.6, Capital Improvements, Entrance remains at \$20,000. Mayor Beers reported that Diana Hudson-Taylor told her that she does not want the new entry until the street project is complete. When Councilmember Kogelnik asked for a clarification of the item, Councilmember Long mentioned that this was originally a centennial project and Mayor Beers explained that placement is an issue that needs to be coordinated with Montgomery County and the Army Corps of Engineers since both have jurisdiction of the area.
- Line item 09. Surveys has \$15,000 budgeted for the street project.

Mayor Beers proposes no change to the personal property tax rate, noting that the street project will substantially decrease the surplus. Mayor Beers asked for additional comments or questions.

Councilmember Arber mentioned possible grant monies available from the Maryland Municipal League (MML) for the town parks landscaping project through the "Community Parks & Playground Program." Applications are due by July 16. She will look into the requirements for the Town.

The hearing was adjourned at 8:15.

TOWN COUNCIL BUDGET MEETING

Mayor Beers called the special budget meeting to order at 8:15.

Motion 2007-10: To maintain the Real Property Tax rate at \$.12 per \$100 of assessed value and the Personal Property Tax rate at \$.80 per \$100 of the assessed value for FY2007-2008. Motion passed unanimously.

Motion 2007-11: To adopt the FY 2007-2008 budget as amended:

- Line item 04.1 Fixed Operating Expenses, Electrical is increased from \$2000 to \$6000;

- Line item 07.3, Maintenance/Public, Snow Plowing is increased to \$5000 from \$3000;
- Line item 08.2, Capital Improvements, Street Paving is increased by \$50,000 to \$200,000 to cover the anticipated street repair project;

The total expenses for the FY2007-08 Budget are \$467,820.

Motion passed unanimously.

There were no further comments; the amended budget was accepted. A copy of the approved budget is attached.

TOWN PICNIC

Council selected Saturday, July 21, 2007, 5 to 7 p.m., as the date for the annual picnic.

TOWN HALL SIGN

Councilmember Arber gave an overview of the different materials and styles available for a new town hall sign; the material samples were on site for review. There was discussion about durability and maintenance for different materials. Council agreed to that the new sign should resemble the previous sign as closely as possible, with upgraded low-maintenance materials. Councilmember Arber will return the samples and order the agreed upon sign: white, matte finish, Komatex background with black, thin raised plastic letters.

Motion 2007-12 to approve up to \$5000 for the purchase of a new town hall sign from Sterico Signs. Motion passed unanimously.

ADDITION TO AGENDA

Councilmember Kogelnik asked if there is a master calendar for long-range planning and events; C/T Polak offered to show her where the information is available.

Councilmember Kogelnik asked if there are specific projects or duties she should begin to work on. Mayor Beers thanked her for offering and asked Councilmember Kogelnik to work on the storm water management issue and the MacArthur Boulevard crosswalk and crossing light requests. Mayor Beers will forward copies of all correspondence with Montgomery County.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 p.m.