

The Town of
GLEN ECHO

Chartered 1904

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TOWN COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

April 11, 2022

Held Virtually Via Zoom

CALL TO ORDER: MAYOR DIA COSTELLO. 7:02 PM

PRESENT

Mayor: Dia Costello.

Councilmembers: (CM) Mona Kishore, Dan Spealman, and Julia Wilson (Absent: Matt Stiglitz).

Town Manager: (TM) Beth Stickler.

Residents: Emily Parsons (The Echo).

OPPORTUNITY FOR COUNCIL TO HEAR RESIDENTS' COMMENTS:

Mayor Costello offered an opportunity to take comments from the residents. There were no comments.

COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES: ACTION ON MARCH 7, 2022 COUNCIL WORK SESSION

Minutes of the March 7, 2022 Council work session were approved.

Motion to Approve Minutes: CM Kishore; 2nd CM Wilson. Approved 3-0.

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COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES: ACTION ON MARCH 14, 2022 MEETING

Minutes of the March 14, 2022 Council meeting were approved.

Motion to Approve Minutes: CM Wilson; 2nd CM Kishore. Approved 3-0.

BUDGET HEARING - TOWN ORDINANCE 22-03 – TO ADOPT A BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR JULY 1, 2022 – JUNE 30, 2023 (FY 23)

Mayor Costello opened the hearing with a request for residents to comment. There were no comments at the hearing or via email to Town Hall. The Council modified the budget to increase the street name sign budget from \$17,000 to \$20,000 based on quotes the Town has received so far. There are also funds (\$3000) for starting to digitize old issues of The Echo and putting them on the website. In future fiscal years the project could extend to digitizing council meeting minutes.

The Council will vote on the budget and unchanged tax rates at the May 9 Council Meeting.

INTRODUCE ORDINANCE 22-05 REGARDING TREE REMOVALS

CM Kishore recommended updating Article 3 and 5 tree caliper measurements to “greater than 10 inches at 4.5 feet above the ground or that is more than 10 feet in height.” In Article 5 she suggested removing 60 days’

notice for topping as pruning is sometimes encouraged for flowering. The Council agreed with the changes and a hearing on Ordinance 22-05 will be held May 9 at the Council Meeting.

Motion to Introduce Ordinance 22-05: CM Spealman; 2nd CM Wilson. Approved 3-0.

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PLANS – PRIORITIES; AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN UPDATE ON POSSIBLE USES

The Council continued to discuss the use of the ARPA funds and the capital improvement needs.

Street name signs – The Town has two quotes on new street name signs. TM Stickler will get more quotes and a comparison of the materials used in the signs.

Paving streets – the Council discussed whether the streets need to be repaved in the next few years. Joe Toomey had prepared a report in 2020 which graded the pavement. The streets ranged in their need for repaving. TM Stickler will ask the current Town Engineering firm to assess how soon the streets will need to be repaved. The streets were paved in 2009 and again around 2014 after Washington Gas installed gas lines in Town.

Stormwater – Holly Shimizu, Chair of the Environmental Committee, had asked for \$70,000 to install green stormwater remedies. The Town will wait until the results of the grant application to the Chesapeake Bay Trust are known in mid June. Currently the budget is \$10,000.

The Council will continue its consideration of ARPA funds at the May 9 Council Meeting. The first report of the use of the ARPA funds is due April 30, 2022 and will be submitted by TM Stickler. The Council agreed to the option of taking the standard allowance of the ARPA Funds, totaling \$266,020.20. This allows the funds to be used for any government service. CM Spealman suggested using the funds sooner rather than waiting (they can be used through 2026) as he was concerned that the government may take them back using rescission.

Motion to Approve Taking the Standard Allowance of the ARPA Funds: CM Spealman; 2nd CM Wilson Approved 3-0.

FINANCIAL REPORT FOR THE MONTH OF MARCH (copy attached). TM Stickler

The month of March was an average month in terms of revenue and expenses.

Revenue:

The Town received:

Public Utility \$19,850 now at 110% of budget.

Income tax \$3,294 now at 80% of budget.

Highway User \$2,796 now at 53% of budget.


OPPORTUNITY FOR COUNCIL TO HEAR RESIDENTS' COMMENTS:

Mayor Costello announced a closing opportunity for comments by the residents. No residents made comments. The May 9 council meeting will be held via Zoom.

ADJOURNMENT:

Motion to adjourn: CM Kishore 2nd CM Wilson. All in favor. Meeting Adjourned 8:03 pm

Minutes Prepared by: Beth Stickler, Town Manager

Approved: 
Mayor, Dia Costello

Date: 5-10-2022