

The Town of
GLEN ECHO

Chartered 1904

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TOWN COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

May 9, 2022

Held Virtually Via Zoom

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

PRESENT

Mayor: Dia Costello.

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

Town Manager: (TM) Beth Stickler.

Residents: Emily Parsons (The Echo), Mary Parsons (Bryn Mawr Ave).

Guests: Ha-Yeon Jean (Del. Korman representative).

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 APRIL 11, 2022 MEETING

Minutes of the April 11, 2022 Council meeting were approved.

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

HEARING AND VOTE ON ORDINANCE 22-05 REGARDING TREE REMOVALS

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 ordinance updates Articles 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." Article 5 removes the 60 days' requirement notice for topping as pruning is sometimes encouraged for flowering.

Motion to Adopt Ordinance 22-05: CM Stiglitz; 2nd CM Kishore. Approved 4-0.

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

The Council made no changes to the budget presented at the meeting. The mayor noted that the budget process went well and thanked the Council.

Motion to Adopt Ordinance 22-03: CM Wilson; 2nd CM Kishore. Approved 4-0.

VOTE ON TOWN RESOLUTION 22-04 – TO APPROVE LEVYING A TAX ON CERTAIN REAL AND PERSONAL PROPERTY FOR FY 2023

Tax rates remain unchanged from the prior fiscal year.

Motion to Adopt Resolution 22-04: CM Stiglitz; 2nd CM Kishore. Approved 4-0.

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.

Paving streets – the Council discussed whether the streets need to be repaved in the next few years. Some Council Members do not believe there is a need. Joe Toomey had prepared a report in 2020 which graded the pavement. The streets ranged in their need for repaving. The current town engineering firm, OIPA, assessed how soon the streets will need to be repaved. As the report had been received on the day of the Council Meeting, the Mayor did not present their assessment. The streets were paved in 2009 and again around 2014 after Washington Gas installed gas lines in Town. The Town will ask paving company A.B. Veirs to evaluate whether the streets need repaving as well. Council members questioned the need for road replacement as visually they did not see the reason as there are no signs of potholes, major cracking, etc.

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 to decide if ARPA Funds should be used. Currently the budget is \$10,000.

Street signs – The Town has received some estimates for replacing street name signs. The FY23 budget is \$20,000. The street signs will be replaced and may use ARPA funds.

HVAC Replacement – The FY 23 budget includes \$23,000 for new units. An RFP will be developed.

CM Spealman has not heard any news that the government may take the funds back using rescission.

STREET SIGN DESIGN DISCUSSION: Costello

The Council discussed the design options for new street name signs. They decided:

A scroll above the sign.

A cap or an acorn finial on top of the post. The Council preferred a cap.

The suggested font was Neutraface. TM Stickler will look into what options the sign companies have for fonts.

The county-installed signs along MacArthur Blvd will not be replaced.

The Echo will publish the proposed image and ask for feedback from residents.

The Town will not replace the current No Parking signs, which are not enforceable as they do not meet the state code and the County will not write tickets or enforce no parking. The Town does not write parking violation tickets, and has not in the recent past. The Town can stripe with yellow paint the areas of no parking.

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

Revenue:

The Town received:

Property Tax: \$1,039; at 99% of expected.

Public Utility: \$510; at 113% of expected.

Tax Duplication: \$18,995; at 157% of expected. This was a one time payment to reimburse Town for prior years' tax duplication shortfalls.

Post Office rent for January – April 2022 was received after this report was submitted and will be reflected in May's financial report. Final Highway User Revenues are usually received late in the fiscal year or even after the fiscal year ends.

Expenses:

Bolt Legal expense was \$372 for March broken out by categories as follows: 75% tree ordinance amendments; 8% on Irish Inn Lease; 16% on contract with Key Sanitation.

Motion to Approve the Financial Report: CM Kishore; 2nd CM Wilson. Approved 4-0.

OPERATIONS REPORT: Infrastructure; Administrative; Social: TM Stickler

Social:

Summer Party Dates and food: The Council discussed whether to hire California Tortilla as the caterer or have a potluck/grill out. They decided to hold the picnic Sunday July 24 and to hire California Tortilla again. The Town will provide compostable Tupperware for residents to take the leftover food. Residents will be invited to enter the 3rd Annual Pie Baking Contest.

Student Service Learning training: TM Stickler will complete required SSL training on May 25 online through the Montgomery County Volunteer Center.

Infrastructure:

Pepco vegetation Town walkthrough April 25: CM Wilson and TM Stickler walked with the Pepco contractor to identify trees that may need to come down or be pruned. Pepco will notify any residents with a door hanger, as well as send a map of affected trees to Town Hall .Pepco is only planning to take down a tree at the corner of University Ave and Oxford and one on Princeton Ave. They will be notifying the residents and offering replacement trees for the location. Residents that want trees trimmed on the connecting lines to their house can let Town Hall know and that information will be relayed to Pepco.

CBT Grant: The Town received the final report from Greening Urban. The Chesapeake Bay Trust required a final report by May 1 which TM Stickler worked on with Town resident Robin Kogelnik. The final report from Greening Urban will be presented to the Council at the meeting in June.

Fence at Town Hall: Key Sanitation fixed the fence April 28 – 29.

Gas line installed: 6105 Bryn Mawr 4.12.22

Street Assessment: OIPA, the Town's engineering consulting firm, provided a draft assessment of the streets May 9th. TM Stickler and Mayor Costello are reviewing the draft and will update the Council in June.

Administrative:

Park police meeting May 5: TM Stickler met with Capt. Jonathan D. Hofflinger Commander, West District (GWMP Station, Rock Creek Station) and Lt. John Matula, the first line manager for the Clara Barton Pkwy. Discussion topic was the speeding along Clara Barton Parkway which led to a fatal automobile accident on March 20. The representatives noted that there are staffing shortages and that due to Covid, police are less likely to pull over and interact with speeders. There are also no places along that stretch of parkway for police cruisers to park or to pull over speeders. They agreed to ask NPS for a speed sign to place along the stretch of the parkway that borders Glen Echo. They are willing to attend a future Council meeting.

ICMA High Performance Leadership Academy: TM Stickler enrolled in this 12 week academy. The Town will benefit as the manager will learn skills on managing a positive mindset for leading and making decisions; organizing, planning and managing effective change; building strong relationships for enhanced collaboration; simplifying complexity through communicating and presenting data; and executing consistently to deliver high levels of team and organizational value.

Completed report to ARPA on April 12, 2022: TM Stickler submitted the required reporting to ARPA. This report indicated that the Town will take the standard allowance of the full amount of funding which can be used for government services. The Town has not allocated any funds or spent any funds as of the reporting date. The next report is due April 30, 2023.

Highway User Revenue: As reported by MML April 25, 2022, new state legislation has passed which restores the state's highway user revenues (HURs) to Maryland's municipalities. Municipalities' portion of the gas tax fees will be increased so cities and towns can rely upon them for critical road repairs and infrastructure projects. The new legislation ensures municipalities, counties, and Baltimore City will receive 20% of the transportation funding, instead of the prior 10%. Maryland established the Gasoline and Motor Vehicle Revenue Account (GMVRA, also known as Highway User Revenues, or HURs), within the Transportation Trust Fund (TTF) in 1968. The account supports transportation needs throughout the state. In 2009, funding was cut by more than 96% and Maryland's municipalities suffered \$280 million in lost funding. MML has been lobbying to restore the funding for several years. Annual Highway User Revenue to Glen Echo will increase from currently \$15,000 to \$29,794 by FY27.

Sustainable Maryland Funding: SB14 Sustainable Maryland Program Fund - Establishment passed 4.11.22. This bill was introduced in the 2022 Maryland legislative session, will provide the Sustainable Maryland program with the crucial support it needs to continue to properly assist Maryland's municipalities in reaching their individual, and the State's, ambitious sustainability, climate and equity goals. SB14, which passed the Maryland's house and senate April 11, will provide \$500,000 annually to UMD's Environmental Finance Center (EFC), which administers Sustainable Maryland, to expand the no-cost program's impact and reach across the state. Mayor Costello testified in support of the bill. The Town is certified with Sustainable Maryland.

6101 Harvard Status: Yale sidewalk fix will be scheduled by McFarland Woods, the residents' contractor. The work is mostly finished.


OPPORTUNITY FOR COUNCIL TO HEAR RESIDENTS' COMMENTS:

Mayor Costello announced a closing opportunity for comments by the residents. No residents made comments. The June 13 council meeting will be held starting at 8pm and may be in person upstairs in Town Hall or via Zoom.

ADJOURNMENT:

Motion to adjourn: CM Spealman 2nd CM Stiglitz. All in favor. Meeting Adjourned 8:20 pm

Minutes Prepared by: Beth Stickler, Town Manager

Approved:  Date: 6-22-2022
Mayor, Dia Costello