

The Town of
GLEN ECHO

Chartered 1904

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TOWN COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
October 10, 2022

CALL TO ORDER: MAYOR DIA COSTELLO. 7:30 PM

Mayor Dia Costello, CM Mona Kishore, CM Matt Stiglitz, CM Julia Wilson, CM Dan Spealman (on zoom), TM Beth Stickler was absent.

Residents: Emily Parsons The Echo.

Guests: Eva Webb, Auditor, LSWG. Zach Poe, Del. Korman representative.

Julia Wilson was asked to take minutes as Town Manager was out ill. Mayor Costello recorded the minutes electronically as well.

Mayor Costello read land acknowledgement in regards to Columbus Day/indigenous peoples day.

Glen Echo Land Acknowledgement Statement

It is with deference to the past and the original people of the land on which Glen Echo resides, we respectfully acknowledge this land firstly belonged to the Piscataway Conoy tribe and the Susquehanna people.

We recognize these people were disposed of their land by settler colonists unethically, inhumanely, and unjustly.

In making these acknowledgements, we make steps in respecting and honoring this land's true history.

What is a Land Acknowledgement Statement?

It is a statement to acknowledge the original inhabitants of our land as a sincere effort by Glen Echo to combat racism and inequity by highlighting historical truths and providing accurate education.

AUDITOR REPORT FY22

Eva Webb from LSWG (auditors) gave a summary of the audit report.

Total net position \$1.73 million, which is in "good shape," according to Ms. Webb.

Total expenses last year \$288,000

Total general revenues last year were about \$420,000

Town had a positive net position of \$288,000

CM Kishore asked about investing in CDs. Ms. Webb said now would be a good time to get into CDs because there is a good interest rate now. She said the Town Manager has an investment policy that says in what and for how long the town is allowed to invest.

As of June 30, cash balance is \$1,083,992.

ARPA funds need to be committed by Dec. 2024 and spent by Dec. 2026

The Town budgets conservatively for income tax revenues – Ms. Webb recommends doing that.

This is the first year that the Town has had a segregation of duties, since the one employee (Town Manager) does not also sign checks any longer.

Regarding the check approval process, Mayor Costello asked Ms. Webb about moving the Town's process to electronic approval and payment. Ms. Webb recommended bill.com, which allows an official to approve invoices before the check is written, then two people do not need to sign the check.

CM Stiglitz moved, CM Kishore seconded, unanimous vote to approve audit report.

COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES: ACTION ON SEPTEMBER 12, 2022 MEETING

CM Stiglitz --- on p. 7 the sentence about Monsanto class action suit makes it look like discussion of notice of class action suit. No discussion occurred and the minutes should be edited to reflect that.

CM Stiglitz moved to approve as amended, CM Kishore seconded, all in favor, CM Wilson abstained because she had been absent for the meeting.

HANDICAPPED SPOT IN THE TOWN HALL PARKING LOT

Mayor Costello said the handicapped space in Town Hall parking lot is right up against the storm drain inlet and she would like to move it to make it more accessible.

The lot would lose 1 regular spot if the handicapped spot is relocated.

AB Veirs will do the work for about \$1,000.

CM Stiglitz – don't need a motion for approval as long as it is budgeted for. The council only need to vote approval if it has to be bid out, which is \$5,000 or more.

LIVABLE TOWN COMMITTEE REPORT

Minnehaha Creek clean up is Sat. Oct. 15, raindate is Oct. 16. SSL hours are available.

The committee would like to have a service day on Martin Luther King Day (1/18/2023) in which the town collects items needed for the Greentree Family Shelter. Discussion about specific needs of the shelter will be held with the Livable Town Committee, Mayor and Town Manager as they had met with the manager of the shelter previously.

Winterlude has been scheduled for the evening of Friday, February 10, with a raindate of Feb. 11. The committee will collect contributions for luminaries. The money will be used to buy items for the Greentree Family Shelter or Montgomery County Coalition for the Homeless.

CM Kishore said the Compost Crew will have an Oct. 25 presentation at 7 pm in Town Hall to educate and encourage residents to compost.

Tree Montgomery has recommended planning 3 trees near the Nancy Long garden, Holly Shmizu of the Environmental Committee will assess positioning of the trees before we agree to the planting. Tree Montgomery will plant mature trees and Glen Echo will water for 6 weeks.

Mayor Costello asked if there is any possibility of having a tree planted in front of the Town Hall. The Council discussed this with no clear answer.

CM Kishore would like to have agreement signed in next 2 weeks.

POLICE REPORT

CM Stiglitz reported there is a new captain at the precinct, whose name is Captain Daum.

There were 4 safety incidents in the Park with same man, who was verbally aggressive and agitated, maybe homeless. The description did not fit any Town resident.

CM Stiglitz said the last couple of interactions with the Park Police have been less than successful and he requested someone from the Park Police come to a council meeting soon. He will discuss this possibility as he is the liaison.

CM Kishore said GEPPAC will continue to fund security at the Park from 11 pm to 3 am and is looking into security cameras.

BUDGET AMENDMENT FOR ELEVATOR MAINTENANCE

Budget Amendment Expenses:

Category 22.94 Elevator Maintenance: \$5,864 spent of \$2,000 budgeted. The elevator needed repairs and new parts to pass the mandatory state inspection. The Council is asked to approve \$3,864 to cover the expense.

CM Spealman question whether the town should we think about getting a new elevator.

Mayor Costello said the last estimate she got for a new elevator \$250,000 and it is used only a few times a year with no reported problems. The Council agreed that this would not be the best use of the Town's money as it continues to work.

CM Kishore moved to approve the expenditure, CM Wilson seconded , it passed unanimously.

HOLIDAY PARTY

The holiday party will be Dec. 10, 10-11:30.

After some discussion, the council decided to reach out to Mr. Omelette, the catering company used in previous years, to see if we can get a lower price. They originally quoted \$2,470 for 1.5 hours.

Canned food will again be collected for Manna. Council members said they can help bring donated food to the Manna Gaithersburg drop off location.

CM Kishore made a motion to approve, CM Stiglitz seconded, it passed unanimously.

FINANCIAL REPORT FOR THE MONTHS OF SEPTEMBER

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

Revenue:

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County Tax Duplication: The Town received \$38,992, the full amount of the tax duplication payment from the county for FY23. This is an increase from previous years.

Property Taxes: The Town received \$7,662; currently at 6% of budget.

CM Kishore moved to approve the expenditure, CM Stiglitz seconded , it passed unanimously.

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Expenses:

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Bolt Legal Expense was \$62 for August: 50% agreement with former Wild Bird Center and 50% contract matter.

Maple Hill Lawn and Landscaping Expense was \$3,849 for mowing, vegetation cut back and clearing off drains.

OPERATIONS REPORT: Social; Infrastructure; Administrative

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Social:

Halloween: Scheduled for October 31 from 5-6pm. Will have Ledo pizza deliver. Volunteers needed for set up and clean up.

Town Wide Yard Sale: Councilmembers said they heard good reports from residents about the yard sale held October 8. There were more vendors, including some from out of town, and blocking off University Ave. was popular.

Flu Clinic: Was held September 17 at Town Hall by CVS for ages 3 and up. Approximately 40 people attended.

Infrastructure:

Update On MacArthur Blvd Traffic Signal near Oberlin: Del. Korman let Town Hall know that, as expected, they declined to change the light to flashing on off hours but are making other adjustments:

From Del. Korman:

“ MCDOT is updating the existing traffic signal sensors with new, improved sensors to make the signal more responsive. We hope to have the sensors installed within the next week, improving the signal operation and reducing traffic delays. In addition, our Traffic Management Center staff monitors traffic signals in the County and makes necessary signal timing adjustments.”

Irish Inn: TM Stickler met with Christy Hughes, the owner of the Inn, along with his manager, representatives from NPS/GW Parkway, and Katey Boerner, executive director of GEPPAC. The discussion was about parking issues. The Town was asked to post a sign “No Glen Echo Park Parking.” TM Stickler is getting a quote from Shannon Baum for the sign, post, and installation.

Street Sign Status: TM Stickler spoke to Shannon Baum and let them know we want Neutra Text Bold font in all capitals. She will send the Town proofs of signs to check spelling. They would do the old sign removal at the same time; if the Town removes the signs first then we need to mark where the new sign is supposed to go. About a month to install – mid November.

RFP For Columbia Ave Repairs: Posted to website 9.26.22 due 10.25.22 at noon. Posted to MML classifieds and sent to 5 asphalt/concrete companies. The Town hopes this work can be accomplished before the weather is too cold as it would affect the asphalt.

Raya's Garden: The group funded by Raya's estate is still working on a bench design.

Administrative:

Safety Inspections: Town Hall sprinklers, fire extinguishers, smoke alarms, and exit lights were inspected. One exit light needs to be replaced.

Elevator: passed reinspection September 16 and is now good to go; it needed the lights fixed, alarm fixed, and a new board.

AC Units: The Town is installing a swivel that can be used for safety on the roof in lieu of a fence. Mannix (HVAC Company) will install the swivel and will attend the inspection by MC DPS.

November 14 Meeting; packet distribution: The November meeting will be held virtually next month because both Councilmembers Spealman and Kishore will be unavailable to come to Town Hall.

Councilmembers Kishore, Spealman, Wilson prefer to get their materials emailed; CM Stiglitz and Mayor Costello would like their materials printed.


OPPORTUNITY FOR COUNCIL TO HEAR RESIDENTS' COMMENTS:

Mayor Costello announced a closing opportunity for comments by the residents. No residents made comments.

ADJOURNMENT:

Motion to adjourn was made by CM Stiglitz, seconded by CM Wilson, and passed unanimously at 9:35 pm.

Minutes Prepared by: Julia Wilson, Council Member

Approved: 
Date: 11-30-2022
Mayor, Dia Costello