

The Town of
GLEN ECHO

Chartered 1904

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TOWN COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

January 9, 2023
Held Virtually Via Zoom

CALL TO ORDER: MAYOR DIA COSTELLO. 8:01 PM

PRESENT

Mayor: Dia Costello.

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

Town Manager: (TM) Beth Stickler.

Residents: Aaron Hirsch (University), Steve Matney (Wellesley), Emily Parsons (The Echo).

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

OPPORTUNITY FOR COUNCIL TO HEAR RESIDENTS' COMMENTS:

Mayor Costello offered an opportunity to take comments from the residents. Residents Steve Matney and Aaron Hirsch raised the issue of the pedestrian crosswalk at the light at MacArthur/Oberlin/entrance to the Clara Barton Parkway. The signal is only 30 seconds and cars turning onto the Parkway do not look. It is also a lengthy crosswalk and there is concern that 30 seconds is not long enough time for pedestrians or bikers to cross. Steve Matney will write up concerns and develop proposed solutions and report at the next Council meeting. After reviewing, Mayor Costello can bring the proposal to the state Department of Transportation.

MLK DAY PLANS: Wilson

The Livable Town Committee plans a service project for Martin Luther King Jr Day. They will prepare 200 lunches for a men's shelter in Gaithersburg. A flier was passed out to residents for donations and volunteers. They collected over \$600.

The Livable Town Committee's annual Winterlude is now scheduled for March 4. Contributions will be turned into donations for Greentree Shelter. This year the Committee will use LED Votives rather than candles previously used.

TOWN HALL UPGRADES: Costello

Mayor Costello suggested using American Rescue Plan Act funds to upgrade Town Hall and asked the Council for input. Upgrades could include: removing pegboard; painting; new counters; tile; stair risers; picture rails; light fixtures. She will get an initial quote for the next Council meeting before going out to bid. The Council agreed with investigating the cost. Aaron Hirsch suggested installing new windows for better efficiency, Mayor Costello said the energy bills are not too high so this is not a priority. The elevator would cost \$250,000 to replace and is only used a few times a year so is not a priority. The upgrades could happen in August.

WMATA TRESTLE BRIDGE DEMOLITION: Costello

Mayor Costello will talk to NPS about the status of their trestle bridge demolition review. Steve Matney thought that the demolition was not going to happen anymore, and says residents are still opposed to the demolition. Mayor Costello emails WMATA monthly about the status.

APPROVAL OF DRAIN BOX CLEAN OUT EXPENSE: Costello

The Town got quotes to clean out the drain boxes. The Council agreed to have Rolling Acres Landscaping clean them out for \$2,875. Maple Hill Landscaping quoted \$4,600.

Motion to Approve the Drain Box Clean Out by Rolling Acres: CM Wilson; 2nd CM Kishore. Approved 4-0.

BUDGET AMENDMENT

Budget Amendment Expenses:

20.1 Salary: increase by \$1,600 to cover the salary increase for the remainder of FY23 (January through June).

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

BUDGET WORK SESSION – SCHEDULE: Costello

The Mayor will send the Council the proposed FY24 budget by February 24. The work session will take place March 6 at 7:30pm. This is a separate meeting. Residents are welcome to attend but at a work session, are not invited to comment. Resident input will be taken at the budget hearing.

Budget Schedule:

- Budget Development Work Session 7:30 PM on Monday March 6th
- FY 2024 Budget Ordinance and Tax Resolution Introduction and Council Meeting: Monday March 13, 2023, 8 PM

FY 2024 Budget Hearing and Council Meeting: Monday April 10, 2023, 8 PM (Residents provide input).

FY 2024 Action on Budget Ordinance and Tax Resolution and Council Meeting: Monday May 8, 2023, 8 PM (note election is May 1)

ICE ON WELLESLEY CIRCLE:

A pipe drains onto Wellesley Circle and causes icing when it is cold. There is a salt bin that residents can use to spread salt over the ice. Mayor Costello will speak to the resident that owns the pipe.

FINANCIAL REPORT FOR THE MONTH OF DECEMBER: TM Stickler

The month of December was a quiet month in terms of revenue and expenses.

Revenue:

The Town received \$1,268 in property taxes, currently at 60% of budget.

Expenses:

Bolt Legal Expense was \$806 for November: 11% for shed setback and 88% small cell including attending Council Meeting.

Maple Hill: \$10,793 for mowing and leaf removal.

Rolling Acres: \$1,095 for filling salt buckets and salting 12/23/22.

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

OPERATIONS REPORT: Social; Infrastructure; Administrative: TM Stickler

Infrastructure:

Street Signs: Depending on the weather Shannon Baum will install signs starting at the end of January/beginning of February.

Raya's Garden: The bench will arrive Thursday January 12. It was paid for by Raya's estate.

Columbia Ave: The concrete curb installation at Yale and Columbia was completed in December. The asphalt at Harvard and Columbia will be scheduled in the spring when asphalt plants are open and it is warm enough.

Crosswalk at Bannockburn and MacArthur Blvd: Montgomery County Department of Transportation has received the Town's request for a review of lighting and striping at this crosswalk. The Town should hear their report by February. Town Manager Stickler will reach out in early February.

Administrative:

New Covid Rapid Tests will arrive this week from the County.

This year's election for two Council Members will be on May 1.

Chesapeake Bay Trust Progress Report: The Town will submit its second progress report to the Trust by February 1. The next steps will be to develop an RFP for installing the rain garden and bioswale then putting together the grant application to the Trust due March 8. The Town will need to apply for a permit from County DPS for using the County storm drain at the bioswale site. Coastal Resources Inc. may be able to help with the RFP. TM Stickler will ask for a quote.

Landscaping: The Town will develop and post RFPs for landscaping this month. There will be multiple RFPs as the Town will hire separate contractors for its various landscaping needs. The Town is looking into hiring a separate gardening firm for the Nancy Long Garden (perhaps parks and Town Hall and eventually the rain garden and swale). We would not need the gardener every month, only a few times during spring through fall.

Investment Update: The Council agreed at the December 12, 2022 Council Meeting to transfer 50% of the funds from the PNC Money Market Account to the MLGIP for better rates. TM Stickler transferred \$489,810 on 12/30/22 from PNC Money Market to MLGIP. The MLGIP Rate is currently 4.21% (January 4, 2023). The Council authorized TM Stickler to move as much funds to the MLGIP as long as there is enough in the checking and money market to cover expenses. TM Stickler will check how many transfers can be made to/from the MLGIP each month.

Clara Barton House: The Town submitted comments to NPS January 9. It was sent to all the consulting parties and NPS. The comments will also go to county, state and federal representatives. Lance and Peter (Town Engineers) reviewed the plans and gave input.

41 Wellesley BOA Variance Decision: the resident's requested shed location was approved by County Board of Appeals. Once she gets a County Permit, she will need to apply with the Town.

COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES: ACTION ON DECEMBER 12, 2022 MEETING

Minutes of the December 12, 2022 Council meeting were approved as amended.

Motion to Approve Minutes: CM Spealman; 2nd CM Wilson. Approved 4-0.

PLANNING FOR FEBRUARY 13 MEETING: Costello

The Council discussed the February 13, 2023 Meeting. It will start at 8:00 PM and be held upstairs in Town Hall. The Council will continue to meet upstairs in Town Hall for the first few months of 2023.

OPPORTUNITY FOR COUNCIL TO HEAR RESIDENTS' COMMENTS:

Mayor Costello announced a closing opportunity for comments by the residents. There were no comments.

ADJOURNMENT:

Motion to adjourn: CM Stiglitz; 2nd CM Wilson. All in favor. Meeting Adjourned 9:23 pm

Minutes Prepared by: Beth Stickler, Town Manager

Approved:  Date: 2-21-2023

Mayor, Dia Costello