

TOWN COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

June 9, 2025 – 7:30pm

CALL TO ORDER: Mayor Dia Costello

Attendees:

- **Mayor:** Dia Costello
 - **Councilmembers (CM):** Dan Spealman, Matt Stiglitz, Dawn Tanner, Julia Wilson
 - **Town Manager (TM):** Susan Theis
 - **Town Attorney:** Ron Bolt
 - **Residents Present:** Gloria Levin, Emily Parsons
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RESIDENTS' COMMENTS

Kate Stiglitz requested the Council consider amending the Town's noise ordinance to delay construction start time to 8am on weekdays. Currently, the Town adheres to Montgomery County codes, which permit construction to begin at 7am on weekdays and 9am on weekends.

Town Attorney Ron Bolt noted that the Town of Chevy Chase amended its ordinance to start construction 30 minutes later than the County code. He also noted that if the Town amends the ordinance, it must consider who would enforce it.

Mayor Costello and TM Theis will be meeting with Sandy Spring Builders to discuss the construction schedule for 6103 Princeton Avenue, including the possibility of later weekday start times.

The Council agreed to solicit resident feedback via a public hearing at the July Council meeting. If there is significant support, Attorney Bolt will be asked to draft an ordinance for introduction in September.

COUNCIL COMMENTS

CM Wilson:

- Reported a downed wire on Yale Avenue. Mayor Costello has contacted Verizon, and a service ticket has been issued.
- Suggested the Town revisit its recycling policy for improved efficiency and cost-effectiveness and explore a pilot composting program. CM Wilson will collaborate with TM Theis to present options at the July 14 meeting.
- As part of the Event Squad, reported that residents Corrina Spealman and Angela Hirsch will organize the July 4th celebration, including a bike parade, popsicles, the National

Anthem, and a reading of an abbreviated Declaration of Independence. Mayor Costello requested coordination with TM Theis for a Constant Contact announcement.

- Noted a weekend power outage caused by a blown transformer on Oxford Road. Mayor Costello encouraged residents to notify the Town of outages and restorations in addition to contacting PEPCO.

CM Tanner:

- Raised concerns about the uneven quality of recent paving along University Avenue. Mayor Costello and TM Theis will follow up with Chamberlain Contractors.
- Asked about curb painting. While not included in the recent paving contract, the Council wants curbs repainted yellow. CM Stiglitz volunteered to paint if supplies are provided. CM Spealman proposed involving local teens under supervision. Mayor Costello supported offering \$20/hour with adult oversight and training.
- Raised concerns about illegal parking on Wellesley Circle. TM Theis will issue a reminder via Constant Contact. CM Wilson suggested neighbors address issues directly, when possible.

CM Stiglitz:

- Inquired about curb cuts and paving on the 6100 block of Princeton Avenue. WSSC is scheduled to repave the block on June 10. TM Theis will follow up regarding curb replacement.
- Pointed out the unsealed water main access at University & Princeton and warned of future water issues. Chamberlain Contractors will be asked to address it.

MAYOR UPDATES

Mayor Costello:

- Acknowledged the passing of longtime resident Phyllis Dean.
- Shared safety concerns about suspicious activity in the Glen Echo Park parking lot behind the Clara Barton House. Residents are encouraged to report activity to U.S. Park Police Dispatch at (202) 610-7500 or call 911. A Constant Contact notice will be sent by TM Theis.
- Mentioned upcoming renovations to the Clara Barton House this fall and will request use of the lot as a construction staging area to deter further activity.
- Announced a stakeholder meeting on June 16 at 2pm regarding the Clara Barton Parkway Cantilever project. CM Spealman would also like to attend. TM Theis will share the Teams link once received.

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES – May 12, 2025

Motion made by CM Wilson Second CM Tanner Vote ALL.

CM Spealman and CM Wilson submitted typo corrections. CM Tanner questioned the Town's agreement to pay half the cost of a tree replacement at 7370 MacArthur Blvd. The Council clarified the agreement to be worded: *"The Town Council approved cost-sharing between the Town and the property owners to split the cost for replacement of the tree only."*

FINANCIAL REPORT – May 2025

Motion made by __CM Spealman__ Second __CM Wilson__ Vote __ALL__.

- CM Spealman requested clarification on:
 - Misc. Revenue (Code 11): \$2,614 expense. TM Theis will review QuickBooks.
 - Reimbursement from WSSC (\$811) for emergency repair service
 - ARPA Fund line-item correction (23.4B should read "ARPA Expenditures")
 - CM Spealman noted Community Contributions for FY25 had not yet been sent. Council confirmed:
 - \$1,500 to Glen Echo Fire Department
 - \$1,500 to Glen Echo ParkTM Theis will submit these via bill.com.
 - CM Stiglitz inquired about increased FY25 budget for Accounting Services. Mayor Costello will follow up with LSWG. The monthly accounting fee remains \$850, and the FY25 budget line may not have been properly calculated.
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ORDINANCE 25-03 – Amendment to Town Code

Motion made by __CM Stiglitz__ Second __CM Spealman__ Vote __ALL__.

- CM Stiglitz noted unclear language on Page 2 regarding "\$15,000 competitive bid unless subsection B or C."
 - Attorney Bolt has shared documentation with Mayor Costello, CM Stiglitz, and TM Theis for review.
 - Council will review amendments and plans to adopt the ordinance at the July 14 meeting.
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TOWN ATTORNEY REPORT

Attorney Ron Bolt introduced HB 1466, new Maryland legislation taking effect October 2026, addressing setbacks for Accessory Dwelling Units (ADUs).

- The law affects sheds, garages, and ADUs.
- Town's current setbacks apply only to corner lots.
- To comply, Town may need to standardize or eliminate certain setback requirements.

- Council agreed to await Montgomery County's response before proceeding.
 - The Council emphasized that ADUs will not be permitted as short-term rentals. Attorney Bolt confirmed that rentals under 30 days are restricted by federal Fair Housing Act guidelines.
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CONSTRUCTION UPDATES

6103 Princeton Avenue:

Mayor Costello and TM Theis will meet again with Sandy Spring Builders to address water runoff onto University Avenue.

- A construction notice email list has been created for impacted residents and weekly updates will be sent.
 - Contractors were reminded to use Oxford Road for all site access.
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TOWN OPERATIONS REPORT

Administrative

- **MML Summer Conference (June 22–25, Ocean City, MD):**
TM Theis and CM Spealman will attend. Council approved attendance at the MML MoCo Chapter Dinner on June 23.
- **Town Tree Ordinance:**
TM Theis is revising language from "permission" to "permit" for private property trees. She is consulting with neighboring towns. CM Spealman and CM Stiglitz discussed past resident concerns and the need for compromise.
- **Stormwater Restoration Grant:**
\$150,000 grant earmarked for the Town. TM Theis submitted the initial application and is working through the Grant Intake Process.
- **Reimbursement:**
Council approved Mayor Costello's reimbursement of \$284.42 for refreshments provided at the Nancy Long Memorial Service. TM Theis will submit via bill.com.

Infrastructure

- **Paving Completed by Chamberlain Contractors:**
University Avenue, Wellesley Circle, Upper Bryn Mawr, Radcliffe, Lower Cornell, and pothole repairs on Oberlin.
 - Total Cost: \$162,600
 - Funded by \$72,375.52 (ARPA) + \$90,224.48 (FY25 Street Repair Budget)
- **Irish Inn Parking Lot:**
 - CM Wilson received preliminary estimates of \$700 per month from resident Vanessa Sax.

- Two bids from Chamberlain Contractors in May 2025: \$21,000 (asphalt) and \$16,000 (gravel).
 - Meeting to be scheduled with Patrick Murphy and Christy (Irish Inn) to discuss rental rate. Current rate: \$300/month (last increase year and amount TBD).
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SOCIAL EVENTS

- **July 4:** Bike parade, popsicles, National Anthem, Declaration reading. Constant Contact reminder to be sent.
 - **August 24:** Summer Picnic & Pie Baking Contest (5–7 PM, Town Hall).
 - Same caterers (California Tortilla, Clay Boys) and water slide vendor to be confirmed.
 - Invitations to Rep. Jamie Raskin, Sen. Love, Del. Korman, Del. Wolek and CM Friedson. Notify police and fire.
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RESIDENT COMMENTS

Gloria Levin raised concerns about vegetation overgrowth contributing to the recent PEPCO power outage and transformer failure.

AJOURNMENT: 9:11PM

Mayor adjourned and All in Favor

Minutes Prepared by: Dia Costello and Susan Theis

Approved:


Mayor, Dia Costello

Date:

7/16/2025

