

TOWN COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES FOR APRIL 14, 2025

CALL TO ORDER: MAYOR DIA COSTELLO, 7:32PM

Mayor: Dia Costello

Councilmembers: (CM) Julia Wilson, Dawn Tanner, Dan Spealman, and Matt Stiglitz

Town Manager: Susan Theis

Swearing in of new Town Manager, Susan Theis.

COUNCIL COMMENTS:

CM Stiglitz mentioned concern regarding potential safety issue of white van driving late with loud muffler repeatedly at Glen Echo Park parking lot. Mayor Costello will reach out to Officer Johnson, MCPD community liaison.

CM Tanner mentioned pet waste problems in the ROW and unleashed dogs in the Glen Echo Park Green space. Will send Constant Contact reminders to Glen Echo and Bannockburn residents about this issue.

MAYOR UPDATES

Mayor Costello acknowledged the sudden passing of two longtime residents in March.

Mitigation Plan Resolution. All council members agreed on signing on to the Montgomery County Mitigation Plan resolution so if federal disaster grants are needed then the town may apply for them.

Election Supervisor and Judge Updates: The Mayor announced that a new Election Supervisor needed to be appointed due to the untimely death of former Election Supervisor, Jan Shaut. Resident Vanessa Sax will serve as the new town Election Supervisor and will be sworn in the week of April 21st. The three election judges will be residents Mark Steele, Patrick Hooper and Maire Hewitt.

Cantilever Bridge Repairs: Mayor Costello mentioned NPS Cantilever Bridge Renovation project. The mayor sent in a letter as there was a public comment period. Concerns regarding potential traffic problems during the work, suggesting construction of noise barriers, and creative solutions were highlighted.

Budget Discussion: Open comment period for residents continues. CM Stiglitz wants to know the dollar difference if taxes rate is lowered from 0.15 to 0.14. He also inquired if diesel prices have lowered so Town doesn't have to pay extra money to Key Sanitation. Town Manager will check the contract. Discussion regarding raising rental for FY26 to Irish Inn parking lot. Since the parking area has been neglected, the Town will investigate pricing for putting down new gravel since a raise in rental fees seems somewhat unjustified if the parking area is in a deteriorated state.

MOTION TO APPROVE MARCH 18 MINUTES

Motion made by CM Stiglitz; 2nd CM Spealman; All in Favor – approved as amended (CM Wilson noted typo changes from Green Tree Shelter to Greentree Shelter and noted change to Variance Amendment language to change from “votes in favor” to “requested”)

MOTION TO APPROVE FINANCIAL REPORTS FOR MARCH

Motion made by CM Spealman; 2nd CM Tanner; All in Favor.

CM Spealman noted the increase in FY25 Town Hall Rental and in Interest. Confirmed FY26 budget reflected increase from \$12,000 to \$15,000 for proposed FY26 budget for Town Hall Rental income.

TOWN OPERATIONS REPORT

Elevator inspection scheduled for April 25. CM Stiglitz noticed walls need to be painted. TM and Mayor will meet with elevator company after inspection to ensure all details are finalized.

Road work scheduled for May 12-14 to be done by Chamberlin. Will send advance/reminder notice to residents no parking on effected streets.

Final ARPA reporting deadline to Department of Treasury is April 30, 2025. Reporting period April 1, 2024 - March 31, 2025, Town work done during this period using ARPA funds was elevator and road work (paving.)

Leaf Collection: 10 responses to resident survey for curbside leaf removal. Moving forward curbside leaf collection for fall 2025 (October – December 2025) will be once a month. New contract will be bid out for all landscaping and snow removal in summer 2025.

Councilmembers also reiterated that Yard Trash pick-up will continue Mondays throughout the year.

Town Hall Rentals: Ballet Petite has asked to use 3 weeks this summer, plus Thursday afternoons from 3-6pm, Saturday mornings 9am-12pm in addition to current use of Sunday mornings 9am-12pm beginning September 2025.

Town Hall Rentals: Mayor Costello mentioned the issue with renters not consistently cleaning after an event. This is especially difficult when there are back-to-back rentals and no time to assess cleanliness. Discussion regarding automatically include cleaning fee of \$150 with all evening rentals using food and/or drink. Marcelli Cleaning Service, Town Hall cleaners, will provide this service. Town will continue to charge deposit for rental use. As this is a change from many years of rentals for residents and non-resident alike, the town will need to communicate this new Town procedure.

RESIDENT COMMENTS: None

AJOURNMENT: 8:36 PM

CM Spealman; 2nd CM Wilson; All in Favor

Minutes Prepared by: Dia Costello and Susan Theis

Approved:



Date: 05/15/2025

Mayor, Dia Costello