

TOWN COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES FOR FEBRUARY 10, 2025 (virtual)

CALL TO ORDER: MAYOR DIA COSTELLO, 7:31

Mayor: Dia Costello

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

Town Manager: Absent

Minutes Taker: Emily Parsons

Residents: Tisha Anderson

COUNCIL COMMENTS

CM Wilson mentioned an archeologist was silting the soil at the Clara Barton House, looking for remains or artifacts. The Mayor said it was good something was happening since they need a contract for construction by October 2025 to realize \$12 M in state funds.

MAYOR UPDATES

Mayor Costello submitted the following proclamation honoring long term resident and councilmember, Nancy Long, who died on February 1 at the age of 96.

MAYORAL PROCLAMATION Honoring the Outstanding Lifetime Contributions of Nancy Long

WHEREAS, the community spirit of Glen Echo is built upon the dedication, service, and generosity of its residents; and

WHEREAS, Nancy Long demonstrated unwavering commitment to the betterment of our community through her exceptional service, leadership, and contributions; and

WHEREAS, Nancy Long played a vital role in her long term elected council member participation for 50 years; and

WHEREAS, her dedication to leading important program improvements at Glen Echo Park including the renovation and protection of the historic

carousel, helping to establish the now renowned annual Labor Day art show and a leader in establishing the Glen Echo Park Partnership for Arts and Culture, and

WHEREAS, Nancy Long had deep commitment to being an attentive and proactive steward to the surrounding natural environment, especially the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal, and

WHEREAS, the Town of Glen Echo recognizes and sincerely appreciates Nancy Long's dedication and commitment to making our town and the greater community a better place for all; and

WHEREAS, NOW, THEREFORE, I, Dia Costello, Mayor of Glen Echo, Maryland, do hereby proclaim it is fitting and proper that we publicly acknowledge and honor Nancy Long's lifetime outstanding achievements and invaluable service to the Town of Glen Echo

Dia Costello Mayor, Town of Glen Echo February 10, 2025

The variance hearing for 7316 University Ave. scheduled for this meeting needed to be rescheduled for the March meeting. Town residents need ten-day's notice. In order for all the CMs to attend, it was decided that the next Council meeting will be Tuesday, March 18, at 7:30 PM, and the variance hearing will happen at that meeting.

Mayor Costello asked CMs to come to the March meeting with ideas about improvements to Town Hall that she should include in next year's budget. Mayor Costello reported that she is still interviewing candidates for the open Town Manager position and that the installation of the new elevator in Town Hall is still in progress.

RESIDENT COMMENTS

Tisha Anderson asked the Council to consider changing the traffic pattern on Harvard Ave., specifically by making it one-way towards MacArthur Blvd. She cited speeders down the hill at the top of Harvard, the large Postal Service truck that comes multiple times a day to the Post Office, and cars squeezing past each other, as making the street a perfect storm of dangerous traffic. She

said that her family's cars have been hit three times in the past year, hit-and-runs that have cost them thousands of dollars, and that cars regularly drive into yards and fences along Harvard. Her husband Blair Anderson, formerly undersecretary of the Department of Transportation, has spent a lot of time thinking of possible fixes and has landed upon advocating that Harvard Avenue to one-way out of town as the best solution.

Mayor Costello said she wants to run the idea by an engineer and Council agreed although universally did not want to conduct a large-scale survey of the traffic on Harvard. Council agreed to run this specific idea by an engineer of Mayor Costello's choosing. The Council wants to know how this change would affect traffic on other streets in town. CM Spealman said that the installation of a few security cameras could help with identifying drivers in hit-and-run situations. CM Wilson asked if a smaller USPS truck could be used. Ms. Anderson pointed out that big trucks aren't even supposed to be on any streets but Oxford and University.

MOTION TO APPROVE THE JANUARY 13 MINUTES

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

MOTION TO APPROVE FINANCIAL REPORTS FOR JANUARY

The Mayor told Council that the Irish Inn is way behind in paying rent on the parking leased to them by the town. She is considering raising the rent from \$300/month to \$500/month. No one on Council disagreed.

Motion made by CM Spealman; 2nd CM Stiglitz; All in Favor

TOWN OPERATIONS REPORT

Town Manager is still collecting responses to a recent leaf pick up survey. A reminder will be sent out and response incorporated into the coming budget discussions. CM Tanner reiterated her position that there should be no leaf pick up in the ROW to keep pollinator populations up. After a Green Team presentation in the Town Hall which was well attended by residents and local neighbors from Cabin John and Bannockburn, Green Team wondered how they could financially compensate speakers if requested in the future. The Mayor is considering giving the Green Team a small amount of money in the budget for speaker fees.

The Mayor hopes to have a meet-the-current-Councilmembers event at Town Hall in March as a kickoff to the town election season. The deadline for filing is April 15, and ballots will be created April 17. May 2 will be a meet-the-candidates event if there are more candidates than seats, and the election will be Monday, May 5, 2025.

RESIDENT COMMENTS

None

ADJOURNMENT 8:42 PM

CM Spealman; 2nd CM Tanner; All in favor

Minutes prepared by: Emily Parsons

Approved:

Date:

Mayor, Dia Costello

