

Town of Glen Echo · 6106 Harvard Avenue · Glen Echo · Maryland 20812 ·

TOWN COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES for JANUARY 13, 2025

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

Mayor: Dia Costello

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

Town Manager: Angie Zeidenberg

Residents: Emily Parsons, Rafe Amdur

Council Comments:

CM Tanner asked about sidewalks cleared after snow.

CM Wilson mentioned the sledding hill.

Both of these items are discussed during Mayor Updates.

CM Wilson asked about new build on Princeton and leaf collection. (discussed more in the Town Ops)

CM Spealman asked about an update with the WSSC bill from last month (WSSC is coming out to do another reading).

CM Spealman also wanted to know if there was an update about the additional income for Admission & Amusements from the state (another call will be made to the Comptroller).

CM Spealman inquired about the NPS feedback for park initiatives and wondered whether the Town Council wants to provide feedback to them.

CM Spealman sent a link from NPS to the Council to make comments at this time.

Mayor Costello explains the different change/enhancement proposals for the Glen Echo Park. (behind Spanish Ballroom, green space, Crystal Pool area, accessibility to all areas, bathroom replacement, permeable surface, moving the yurts) Mayor Costello is meeting with GEEPAC's Executive Director at the park this week and will share input about how the town can support the park.

Encourages council to write individual letters. Reminded that this is an early stage in the process. The contract for the Clara Barton House project needs to be signed by October 2025, so will most likely be the park's priority and the changes to the interior of the park will be long-term project. A priority for the Glen Echo Park Board is to have HVAC in the Spanish Ballroom. The County is supporting this initiative financially. Mayor Costello mentioned that there are two proposals for the park initiative, and the board likes the 2nd proposal the most.

CM Wilson wonders if it is too early to formulate a response. It is recommended to provide input.

CM Tanner asked to consider checking to make sure the Town has not invested in *weaponsfree funds*. CM Stiglitz and Mayor Costello assured that no town funds can be invested in equities for stability purposes.

CM Wilson and CM Spealman announced a new date for Winterlude - moving it to March 8, with a rain date on March 9.

CM Spealman provided an update on the MLK project. More monetary donations are still needed from residents to fund the sandwiches. Noticed inflation with supplies. Also looking for young volunteers (SSL).

Mayor announced that WSSC partial water ban is lifted and is safe to drink.

MAYOR UPDATES AND OLD BUSINESS:

Letter of resignation from Angie Zeidenberg as Town Manager.

Discussion about hiring the next Town Manager.

Budget process will begin soon (February). Mayor asks the Council to take a look at the budget and provide initial feedback.

Discussed the number of leaf pick-ups and the idea of sending a poll to residents to get a sense of the need for next year.

Snow Removal: There needs to be a reminder about sidewalk clearing after a snow fall, including residents or homeowners who are not in town at the time. Mayor Costello spent a lot of time with Level Green during their first snow plowing job in the town and is hopeful that things will get better.

Sledding hill discussion about when to plow the sledding hill before it gets dangerous with freezing conditions. CM Wilson proposed plowing after the first day of snow so that sledders can sled for a full day, then it will be cleared for the residents on the street. Emily Parsons, The Echo editor, will put in this update in the Echo.

Mayor shares feedback about the snow plowing from the residents, including the timing of the plowing. She explained the variables involved with plowing – trucks waiting in line to get the salt, driving on the highway at slow speeds, etc. They know the residents would prefer to have a reasonable time for snow plowing and they do the best they can with their circumstances.

Mayor Costello mentioned that the Polaks will be applying for an amended variance for their front porch for retractable screening.

Town Hall Rentals: Discussion about fees and resident rentals. CM Spealman suggests adding a provision that states anyone who signs a rental application is the contact person from the beginning to end – including making the deposit, completing the application, setting up, cleaning up and anything in between. The town can also offer a cleaning service after rentals to pay directly to the cleaners.

MOTION TO APPROVE THE December MINUTES;

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

MOTION TO APPROVE FINANCIAL REPORTS for December

CM Stiglitz asked about the funds from Legislative Bond Initiative. Mayor Costello says the state has still not explained when the LBI funds for stormwater will be received.

CM Stiglitz also questioned the expenditures with the Town's engineer, which was for the MacArthur Project/Wild Bird Center.

CM Stiglitz questioned the "admin line item" for the \$173.11 expenditure. (this was later determined to be for office supplies from Staples in August.)

CM Stiglitz wanted clarification on whether the Community Garden is self-sustaining and asked about an expense of \$116. It was explained that the funds came from their own account.

CM Stiglitz is glad about having the budget vs actual printout.

Motion: CM Stiglitz; 2nd CM Spealman; All in Favor

TOWN OPERATIONS REPORT:

The new elevator is waiting on a part for the door before the completion of the installation.

Planning an upgrade for the bathrooms – with small tables for bathroom for items.

Sandy Spring Builders is doing a demolition and rebuild on Princeton. Permits are in the process now.

OPPORTUNITY FOR COUNCIL COMMENTS:

CM Wilson mentioned the Glen Echo Election announcement and process starting within the next month or so.

CM Tanner suggested that next year sending a reminder about safety on NYE and to notify police if you notice anything alarming.

OPPORTUNITY FOR COUNCIL TO HEAR RESIDENTS' COMMENTS:

None at this time.

COUNCIL MEMBERS' COMMENTS:

ADJOURNMENT: 8:47 PM

CM Wilson; 2nd CM Tanner; All in Favor

Minutes Prepared by: Angie Zeidenberg

Approved: Dia Costello Date: 02/14/2025

Mayor, Dia Costello