

TOWN OF GLEN ECHO
TOWN COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
March 9, 2026

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Costello at 7:30pm.

ATTENDEES:

Mayor Dia Costello

Councilmember Dan Spealman, Councilmember Matt Stiglitz and Councilmember Dawn Tanner
Councilmember Julia Wilson was absent.

Residents (via Microsoft Teams): Thom Admur, Julie Brohas, Gloria Levin and Emily Parsons

Residents (in-person): Madeleine Carter, Claudia Rossel and Kellan Steele

Guests: Dan Israel, Compost Crew

Staff: Susan Theis, Town Manager

PRESENTATION: COMPOSTING PILOT PROGRAM

Dan Israel of Compost Crew presented the proposed curbside 1-year pilot composting program for the Town of Glen Echo. Compost Crew is a regional provider serving Montgomery County, Washington, DC, and Northern Virginia, with experience working with neighboring municipalities.

The proposed program is scheduled to begin the week of April 20, 2026. Residents may select either a 7-gallon bin (\$20 one-time fee) or a 12-gallon bin (\$35 one-time fee). The Town will cover the cost of weekly curbside compost collection for the 7-gallon bin. Residents opting for the 12-gallon bin will pay an additional \$4.00 per month directly to Compost Crew.

Additional program details include:

- Weekly collection scheduled for Tuesdays
- Compostable liners provided with bins
- Materials processed at a Montgomery County composting facility
- One complimentary bag of finished compost annually for participants

Council discussion included:

- Expected participation rates (estimated 30–40% initially)
- Tracking participation, missed pickups, and usage metrics
- Billing structure based on participating households
- Consideration of future cost-sharing models

Residents asked questions regarding bin size, weight, acceptable materials, and best practices for composting. Compost Crew noted that residents may manage service, including skipping pickups, through an online portal. Monthly reporting will be provided to the Town.

COUNCIL COMMENTS

Composting Program:

Council expressed support for the pilot program and emphasized the importance of monitoring participation and evaluating program success over the one-year period.

Dog Waste:

Council discussed ongoing concerns regarding improper disposal of pet waste. Additional signage has been ordered by resident, Alexis Feringa, and further outreach to residents and visitors will be conducted.

Event Squad:

Winterlude was reported as a successful community event, raising over \$800 for GreenTree Shelter. Council discussed potential improvements for future events, including food and lighting placement.

Green Team:

Recent sustainability programming and educational events were well attended. Continued efforts toward Sustainable Maryland certification were discussed.

MAYOR UPDATES:

Sewage Leak: C&O Canal/Potomac Interceptor

The Mayor provided an update on the ongoing sewage leak and response efforts. A community meeting was held with approximately 250 attendees. A follow-up meeting is scheduled for March 18. Coordination continues with DC Water and environmental agencies. A site visit is planned to assess sediment and water conditions.

Discussion included potential development of a public notification system for water safety levels, sediment testing and long-term infrastructure considerations.

Glen Echo Park Environmental Assessment:

The Mayor submitted comments regarding accessibility improvements, including pathways, restroom locations, and inclusive playground design.

Legislation: Starter and Silver Homes Act

The Mayor provided an update on pending state legislation and noted an upcoming meeting with state officials.

FINANCIAL REPORT: FEBRUARY 2026

The Council reviewed the monthly financial report. Discussion included ongoing budget monitoring and general expenditures.

Motion: Councilmember Spealman moved to approve the February 2026 Financial Reports as presented.

Second: Councilmember Stiglitz seconded the motion.

Vote: All in Favor

APPROVAL OF PRIOR MEETING MINUTES

Council discussed formatting of meeting minutes and to include Town Ops Report and Financial Reports.

Motion: Councilmember Stiglitz moved to approve the February 9, 2026 to include formatting edits and inclusion of Town Ops Report and Financial Reports.

Second: Councilmember Spealman seconded the motion.

Vote: All in Favor.

FY 2027 BUDGET

Discussion and clarification of several line items of the FY 2027 budget. Updates will be made and shared with residents in advance of the April 13th Council meeting. The FY 2027 will be adopted at the May 11th Council meeting.

TOWN OPS REPORT: TM Theis

March 6, 2026

ADMINISTRATIVE

- Tree Ordinance: TM Theis followed up with Ron Bolt to start drafting an updated ordinance for the Council to review ahead of the April meeting, and also asked him to put together something as comprehensive as possible for everyone to review.
- Composting Program: At the February meeting, Council voted to provide a one-year composting pilot program to residents and contract with Compost Crew for this service. Compost Crew will be attending the March 9 Council meeting to provide an overview of the program and answer any questions. Notification was sent to residents on February 23 and March 3. More details to follow before program begins April 13.
- Accounting:
 - On March 4 CM Stiglitz reviewed the February 2026 monthly financial reports in advance of the Council meeting to support accountability.
 - On March 10, CM Stiglitz and Town Manager will meet with Cesar Contreras, PNC Bank and Kari Schwartz, PNC Merchant Services for our monthly meeting re: Town banking issues. These meetings have been scheduled for the second Tuesday of every month at 12pm via Teams.
 - As of March 1, the 3% charge is in effect for online credit card payments. Confirmed by several resident payments for their Community Garden plots.
- FY 2027 Budget: Draft enclosed with revisions from Council works session on February 11. Please note changes in green and comments in purple. Town Manager also included information on Municipal Tax Duplication, which has been reviewed and approved by Town Attorney, Ron Bolt.
- SMS Service: Working with Constant Contact to have this begin in the coming weeks and will send notice to residents on how to sign up.
- PIA Requests:
 - SmartProcure: request for all purchasing records since October 16, 2025
 - The Lead Sheet: 2 separate requests for Town permits issued over last 6 months

- Battery Recycling: Post Office will be asked if the Town could place the bin inside as this will be more convenient for residents to drop off batteries, than in the Town Hall.
- Post Office Lease Renewal: March 6 submitted online request to USPS Facilities Leasing Help and a Postal Service Representative will reach out to assist. Update as soon as response is received.
- Multi-Agency Safety Meeting held on January 22 re: Glen Echo Park parking lot; sent minutes from meeting and follow up but not heard back from NPS. Contacting Charles Hershey again and update the Council when there is more information.
- LGIT Renewal Workshop: Town Manager will be attending on March 17 from 9am-2pm in Hanover.
- Out of Office: Town Manager will be out of the office on Friday, March 13.

INFRASTRUCTURE

- Snow Removal Issues: Met with Level Green Landscaping twice after “snowcrete” to discuss how they can do better and move forward before future snow emergencies. Level Green Landscaping services during the snow from February 22-23 resulted in only 2 inches of snow therefore less issues and concerns and \$2,000 invoice was paid. However, still in dispute regarding January and February “snowcrete” invoices (totaling \$18,451.66), which have not been paid.
- Town Hall Renovation: A summary of vendor bids to replace the Fire Doors is included in the packet. Town Manager has started contacting references for all seven proposals and will update the Council before the next meeting.
- Town Hall Elevator: annual inspection scheduled for March 26 at 7am with Preferred Elevator and All Safe Elevator, as the required 3rd party vendor.

MOTION TO ENTER CLOSED SESSION

Mayor and Council rescheduled for Thursday, March 12 at 7pm via Teams to discuss Public Employee Performance Evaluation of Town Manager. Notification of Closed Session will be sent to residents via Constant Contact and posted on the Town website.

MOTION TO ADJOURN

Motion: Councilmember Spealman moved to adjourn the meeting.

Vote: All in Favor


The meeting was adjourned at approximately 9:30pm.

PREPARED BY:

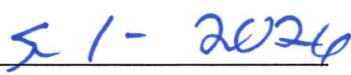
Susan Theis
Town Manager

APPROVED BY:

Dia Costello
Mayor



Signature



Date