

TOWN OF GLEN ECHO - Town Council Meeting Minutes
June 8, 2026

CALL TO ORDER: Mayor Dia Costello called the meeting to order at 7:35pm

Councilmembers and Residents Present (in person)

- Mayor Dia Costello (on phone in transit and then arrived in person at 8pm)
- Council Members Dan Spealman, Kellan Steele and Julia Wilson
- Susan Theis, Town Manager
- Residents: Tisha Anderson, Jerry Bodlander and Karim Kalifa

Councilmember Absent

- Matt Stiglitz

Residents Present (via Teams)

- Gloria Levin and Emily Parsons (editor, The Echo)

COUNCIL COMMENTS:

4th of July Parade

The Council discussed the annual 4th of July Parade. Event Squad leaders announced they would no longer be hosting this event. Mayor Costello agreed to lead it with assistance of new volunteers. It was agreed that a notice would be sent through Constant Contact and the Town listserv seeking volunteers willing to organize this year. Council members expressed appreciation for the years of service provided by Angela Hirsch who had coordinated the parade.

Community Yard Sale

Discussion was held regarding the annual Community Yard Sale.

- Tisha Anderson volunteered to serve as lead organizer for the event this year and will determine possible date for late September or early October.
- Councilmember Wilson discussed the possibility of incorporating a small craft sale component alongside the yard sale. It was suggested that craft vendors could be offered tables at Town Hall as a pilot effort.
- No formal action was taken regarding event dates or format.

Annual Creek Cleanup

The annual creek cleanup was discussed.

- Councilmember Wilson suggested September 12, 2026, as a potential date because it aligns with a regional watershed cleanup event. Event Squad member, Julie Broas will be consulted regarding scheduling and coordination.

MAYOR UPDATES:

Bohi Property – Tree Removal

Mayor Costello reported that the Kelly and Jim Bohi will need to remove approximately six trees from their property. The tree roots have caused significant damage to their underground utility pipes and driveway.

The Bohis expressed concern about removing the trees and indicated they would be interested in discussing a replanting plan using species less likely to cause future root-related damage. Council acknowledged the issue and appreciated the residents' thoughtful approach to replacement planting.

Dog Waste Stations

Mayor Costello provided an update on discussions regarding dog waste stations and bag dispensers throughout Town.

TM Theis will explore options with Montgomery County as many of the problems are on MacArthur Blvd.

COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES: May 11, 2026

The Council reviewed the May meeting minutes.

Approval of the May meeting minutes was postponed until the July 13 Council Meeting to ensure a quorum of members eligible to vote.

FINANCIAL REPORT: May 2026

The Council reviewed the May 2026 financial reports.

Discussion included:

- The Town remains under budget for the fiscal year and is projected to finish the year with expenditures below budgeted amounts.
- Councilmember Spealman encouraged use of staff training funds.
- Landscaping expenditures appeared lower than budgeted due to accounting classifications. TM Theis explained that landscaping-related expenses had been recorded in separate accounts and will be consolidated in FY2027.

Motion: Approve the May 2026 Financial Report.

Moved by: Councilmember Spealman

Seconded by: Councilmember Wilson

Vote: Approved unanimously.

TRAFFIC STUDY DISCUSSION:

Traffic Study was reviewed for Harvard Avenue. It was decided more information was necessary to include Saturday mornings and more extensive hours on the weekday. TM Theis will have this scheduled for the fall 2026.

Traffic Patterns and Study Analysis

The Council discussed several aspects of the consultant's report and requested additional analysis regarding:

- Potential impacts of converting additional streets to one-way traffic patterns, including partial one-way configurations and modified circulation loops.
- Safety implications of proposed traffic-flow changes, including driver adaptation, transitional measures, and effects on vehicle speeds.
- Estimated implementation costs.
- Clarification of the consultant's definitions of "peak hour" and "peak period."
- Whether the traffic-count periods accurately reflect actual congestion conditions.

Council members requested that the consultant evaluate traffic conditions during periods identified by residents as representing higher traffic volumes, including:

- Saturday and Sunday mornings during Ballet Petite classes.
- Monday mornings except holidays.
- Holiday mailing periods (Christmas and Tax Day).
- Times when Town Hall events occur during Post Office hours.

The Council also requested that future analysis consider pedestrian, bicycle and dog-walking activity within the study area.

Resident Feedback

The Council reviewed concerns expressed by residents regarding traffic congestion, speeding, parking violations, and vehicle damage along Harvard Avenue.

Residents reported frequent instances of vehicles stopping, blocking and/or parking in prohibited areas near the Post Office to access post office boxes or mail items, creating safety concerns for motorists and pedestrians. Several participants noted that the narrow roadway of Harvard Avenue contributes to sideswipe incidents and near misses when vehicles are improperly parked.

One-Way Traffic and Parking Considerations

The Council discussed potential one-way traffic configurations and the relative advantages and disadvantages of northbound and southbound traffic flow. Discussion included impacts on:

- Vehicle speeds.
- Resident and pedestrian safety.
- Access to the Post Office parking lot.
- Traffic circulation on surrounding streets.
- Neighborhood parking availability.

No consensus was reached regarding a preferred traffic pattern.

Traffic Safety and Enforcement

The Council discussed ongoing traffic safety concerns throughout Town, particularly in areas heavily used by pedestrians, bicyclists, children, and pet owners.

Discussion included:

- Parking enforcement.
- Stop sign compliance.
- Speed enforcement.
- Existing and potential speed limits.
- The feasibility of automated speed and stop-sign enforcement programs.

TM Theis agreed to research available traffic safety options and report back to the Council.

Future Actions

The Council directed that resident feedback and additional questions be compiled and forwarded to the traffic consultant. Council members were encouraged to submit any additional comments to the Mayor and Town Manager for inclusion in the consultant follow-up.

No formal action was taken.

ACCESSORY DWELLING UNIT (ADU) ORDINANCE:

Mayor Costello reminded Council that state law requires municipalities to adopt regulations governing detached ADUs by October 1.

Council reviewed the three regulatory options previously presented by Town Attorney Ron Bolt.

Discussion focused primarily on Option 3, which would establish setback and height requirements based on a formula tied to lot size and ADU dimensions rather than fixed setbacks.

Key discussion points included:

- Detached ADUs would not be required to provide additional on-site parking.
- Council expressed a desire to balance preservation of neighborhood character with making ADUs reasonably feasible for property owners.
- Several Councilmembers noted that many Glen Echo lots may not physically accommodate detached ADUs due to existing lot constraints.
- Questions were raised regarding:
 - ADUs on corner lots and properties without traditional rear yards.
 - Whether detached ADUs may be located in front-yard areas under certain circumstances.

- Height limitations relative to the primary residence.
- Fire safety implications of reduced setbacks.
- Treatment of existing grandfathered structures.

Introduction of Draft Ordinance

Council agreed that introducing the Option 3 draft ordinance would provide adequate time for public review and comment while preserving flexibility to revise or replace the proposal later if needed.

Motion: To introduce the draft ADU ordinance based on Option 3 for public review and discussion.

Moved by: Councilmember Steele

Seconded by: Councilmember Wilson

Vote: Approved unanimously.

Council encouraged residents to review the proposed ordinance and provide feedback prior to public hearing.

AUGUST COUNCIL MEETING:

Due to the statutory deadline for ADU adoption, Council discussed scheduling a special August meeting and agreed to hold a hybrid special meeting on Monday, August 24 at 7:30pm for final action on the ADU ordinance.

TOWN OPS REPORT

ADMINISTRATIVE:

- **MML Summer Conference** June 14 - 17 in Ocean City, MD. TM Theis will be out of the office and responding to Town emails and phone remotely.
- **Composting Program:** To date 48 households have signed up for the pilot program with Compost Crew. The curbside collection is averaging at 85% pickup rate.
- **Permits:**
 - 30 Wellesley Circle: fence permit – applied to County 5/19; awaiting approval and plans
 - 6001 Yale Avenue: residential building permit – applied to County 5/27; awaiting approval and plans
 - 6103 Princeton Avenue: street obstruction – Town permit application & \$150 fee for moving trucks on June 9 & 10
- **Moving Trucks:**
 - June 4: 49 Wellesley Circle – new resident, Trey Huelskamp
 - June 9-10: 6103 Princeton Avenue – new resident, Hilary Kapner
 - June 24-26: 7315 University Avenue – Paula Arean (moving out)
- **PIA request:** on 5/28 requesting residential permit information
- **ADU (Ordinance No. 2026-02):** draft from Ron Bolt included in Council packets for discussion and potential introduction at June meeting.
- **STS Traffic Study:** One-Way on Harvard Avenue. Report in Council packet which recommends if doing than convert Harvard Avenue to southbound.
- **Accounting:** QuickBooks input FY2027 Budget.

INFRASTRUCTURE:

- **Town Hall Fire Doors:** TM Theis calling references
- **Sidewalk Repairs:** June 3 - Mayor and TM Theis walked Town and marked sidewalks in need of repair. TM Theis to contact companies.

- **Curb Painting:** Council to decide marking guidelines – align with Town vs County regulations. TM Theis to contact companies and will research practices used by neighboring municipalities and return with recommendations at a future meeting.

SOCIAL:

- **June 18:** ClayBoys Shaved Ice for last day of school event for students from 3-4pm in front of Town Hall
- **July 4th:** Mayor will lead effort
- **August 30:** Annual Summer Picnic and “Jan Shaut” Pie Baking Contest, 5-8pm. Town Hall has been reserved. TM Theis to schedule vendors (California Tortilla, ClayBoys, Andy’s Parties (waterslide & drinks) as in the past. Invite Congressman Raskin, State Senator & Delegates, County Councilmember District 1. Notify police and fire of the event.
- **September 29:** CVS Flu Clinic from 4-7pm in Town Hall.
- **Town Yard Sale:** need to decide date for event; CM Wilson suggested Yard & Craft Sale – craft sales could be set up on Yale Avenue.

RESIDENT COMMENTS:

Resident Gloria Levin suggested that the Town consider creating a dedicated welcome event for new residents. Ms. Levin noted that Glen Echo has experienced significant turnover recently and that many residents have fewer opportunities to meet newcomers. She referenced similar programs in neighboring communities and suggested an annual event focused specifically on welcoming new residents.

Council members expressed support for the idea and agreed that it would help strengthen community connections. Mayor Costello agreed to explore possible dates for such an event.

ADJOURNMENT:

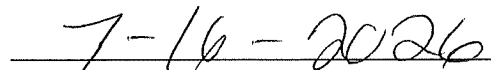
A motion to adjourn was made, seconded, and approved unanimously.
The meeting adjourned at 9:22 pm.

Prepared by: Susan Theis, Town Manager

Approved by: Dia Costello, Mayor



Signature



Date

