

Town of Glen Echo
Town Council Meeting
September 14, 2026 at 7:30pm
Hybrid Meeting via Microsoft Teams (recorded)

Attendance:

Mayor Dia Costello
Councilmembers Dan Spealman, Kellan Steele, Matt Stiglitz and Julia Wilson
Town Manager, Susan Theis

Residents:

Pete Epanchin, Gloria Levin, Emily Parsons for *The Echo* and a resident who would like to be anonymous

RESIDENT COMMENTS:

A resident raised concerns about online privacy related to posting *The Echo* and Town Council meeting minutes on the Town's website. The Mayor proposed placing both the Town meeting minutes and *The Echo* behind a password-protected wall to prioritize the security of residents' personal information and protect against identity theft and other cybersecurity threats. Another resident had a strong objection to the password protection proposal, regarding it as important for public transparency.

Another resident asked if the Council could facilitate TM Theis becoming a notary, a useful service to many Town residents.

COUNCIL COMMENTS:

CM Wilson spoke about the upcoming Town Yard Sale and Craft Market. To date not as much interest from residents about participating in the Craft Market and CM Wilson wanted Council ok to invite neighboring Bannockburn community to participate. Mayor asked to limit the number of vendors to 10 as the Craft Market will be on the Town Hall lawn on Saturday, October 10 from 9am-1pm for the event.

MAYOR UPDATES:

- Success of Folk Festival though parking concerns for residents in Town on Oxford Road. Again, parking issues with GE Park Labor Day Art Show. Mayor will speak with both GEPAC and NPS expressing her concerns and their plans for future/upcoming events.
- The Town Charter was last updated in 1997. The Mayor and CM Stiglitz will initiate the first round of proposed edits. Discussion of potential updates included shortening Council terms from four years to two years, reducing the time required for voting, and including compensation for the Mayor. CM Spealman also suggested considering youth voting by lowering the voting age to 16. The Town would like to encourage resident input throughout the process and may consider forming a Charter Review Committee, with monthly meetings held prior to the regular Town Council meetings. Mayor Costello and TM Theis spoke with MML about the process and asked for references for assistance and will contact PALS program at the University of Maryland.
- The Mayor will be out of town September 27 to October 7 and asked CM Stiglitz to be acting in her absence to which he agreed.

COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES: July 13, 2026

The Council reviewed the July meeting minutes. In Resident Comments, CM Stiglitz asked that comment to Police Non-Emergency number be placed in brackets since the action was taken after the Council meeting. CM Stiglitz also edited word tense (meeting to meet) in Financial Report. TM Theis will correct.

Motion: CM Stiglitz to accept minutes as amended

Second: CM Wilson

Vote: Approved unanimously.

COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES: August 24, 2026

Approval of the August meeting minutes was postponed until the October 19 Council Meeting for substantive edits from CM Stiglitz regarding the Public Hearing on Amendment No.26-02 (ADUs). CM Stiglitz requested a copy of the signed amendment and will be editing the draft August 24 Council meeting minutes using this information.

FINANCIAL REPORT: July 2026

The Council reviewed the July 2026 financial reports.

Discussion included:

- CM Stiglitz reported a discrepancy found in the reviewing the Financial Summary and the Expenses by Vendor reports that the totals did not match. TM Theis found a portion of the \$700.30 difference to be Employer Taxes which she was not including in the Salary Expense but will do so moving forward. However, there is still a discrepancy of \$41.16 which was not accounted for.

Motion: Approve the July 2026 Financial Report.

Moved by: Councilmember Stiglitz

Seconded by: Councilmember Spealman

Vote: Approved unanimously.

FINANCIAL REPORT: August 2026

The Council reviewed the August 2026 financial reports.

Discussion included:

- CM Stiglitz reported a discrepancy found in the reviewing the Financial Summary and the Expenses by Vendor reports that the totals did not match. TM Theis found the exact difference of \$494.31 to be Employer Taxes. TM Theis was not including Employer Taxes in the Salary Expense Total but will do so in the monthly Financial Summary reports moving forward.

Motion: Approve the August 2026 Financial Report.

Moved by: Councilmember Stiglitz

Seconded by: Councilmember Spealman

Vote: Approved unanimously.

6001 YALE AVENUE:

Resident, Roshini Thinakaran presented a request for Town support in a variance for her home renovation with the Montgomery County Department of Permitting Services. Ms. Thinakaran's initial plans for an addition were declined by the County, however, it was unclear to the Council as to why. CM Stiglitz suggested she get in writing what they would like and suggested she ask for letters of support from her immediate neighbors which may help her case. Also unclear to the Council was to reference points to the front door – County considers it on Yale Avenue and the homeowners consider the front door on the side of the home off the driveway. Ms. Thinakaran will contact the County for the next steps in the process to request a variance. No formal Council action was taken.

COMMUNITY GARDEN COMMITTEE: postponed their presentation until the October Council Meeting.

FY2027 SNOW REMOVAL SERVICES:

TM Theis reported that only two bids had been received and would like to have at least three or more before deciding on the contract for the winter 2026-27 season. Council decided snow removal bids will be reviewed at the October Council meeting.

TOWN OPS REPORT:

The Town Manager reported on:

- FY26 Audit progressing with firm SEK. SEK will present audit at October Council meeting.
- Composting update: Currently, 49 households participating. CM Steele asked that success metric be identified, which could include reducing trash pickup from twice weekly.
- Public Information Act requests received during the month.
- Discussion regarding the archiving/digitizing of Town documents. TM Theis will contact Julie Sparciano for expected completion by June 30, 2027. If so, Council to discuss possible amendment to FY27 budget for increase funds to finish this project.
- Completed and upcoming curb and sidewalk repairs with Precision Concrete and Chamberlain Contractors.
- Town Hall maintenance with Cintas for fire and sprinkler inspections, install new smoke/CO2 detectors.
- Discussion for need of additional recycling bins/toters for residents. TM Theis reported company minimums were 100+, Council suggested ordering from Amazon as needed for new residents.
- Community Events:
 - CVS Flu Clinic: September 29 from 4-7pm
 - Creek Clean-Up: October 3
 - Town Yard Sale & Craft Market: October 10 from 9am-1pm; rain or shine
 - Halloween Pizza Party: October 31 from 5-6pm
 - Holiday Brunch: December 19 from 11am-1:30pm

ADJOURN:

The meeting concluded at 9:25pm with a motion from CM Wilson and Seconded by CM Spealman. All voted in favor. Next hybrid Council meeting is scheduled for Monday, October 19, 2026 at 7:30pm.

Prepared by: Susan Theis, Town Manager

Approved by: Dia Costello, Mayor



Signature



Date