REGULAR MEETING OF THE GREENBELT CITY COUNCIL held Monday, July 13, 2015.

Mayor Jordan called the meeting to order at 8:06 p.m.

ROLL CALL was answered by Councilmembers Judith F. Davis, Konrad E. Herling, Leta M. Mach, Silke I. Pope, Edward V. J. Putens, Rodney M. Roberts and Mayor Emmett V. Jordan.

ALSO PRESENT were Michael McLaughlin, City Manager; David Moran, Assistant City Manager; Karen Ruff, Associate of the City Solicitor; and Cindy Murray, City Clerk.

Mayor Jordan asked for a moment of silence in memory of residents Terry Mousley and Judith Holland and former resident Ralph Arroyo. Ms. Davis then led the pledge of allegiance to the flag.

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA: It was moved by Ms. Mach and seconded by Mr. Putens that the consent agenda be approved. The motion passed 7-0.

Council thereby took the following actions:

Minutes:

Work Session, June 15, 2015
Work Session, June 17, 2015
Work Session, June 25, 2015
Approved as Presented

Reappointments to Advisory Groups: Council reappointed Consuella Harris to a new term on the Greenbelt Ethics Commission.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: It was moved by Ms. Davis and seconded by Ms. Pope that the agenda be approved. The motion passed 7-0.

PRESENTATIONS: None

PETITIONS AND REQUESTS: Donna Hoffmeister of the Memorial Legacy Committee presented a petition requesting the City to erect its peace pole at the recently dedicated Memorial Park. (Petition attached to minutes.) Ms. Hoffmeister also spoke about the Greenbelt Peace Committee's sister city initiative in February 1984. After brief discussion, Mr. Putens, Ms. Mach and Ms. Pope said the City establishing a sister city may be something to be considered in the future.

Mayor Jordan read petition submitted by Donna Almquist, 112 Hedgewood Drive, requesting Council delay or cancel the award for Contract No. 2015-01 for the Forest Preserve Health Assessment, Greenbelt Forest Preserve. (Petition attached to minutes. Ms. Almquist was unable to attend the meeting.) Mr. McLaughlin advised five responses had been received to the Request for Proposals for the Forest Preserve Health Assessment. He said the responses are currently under review by the Forest Preserve Advisory Board.

MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETINGS:

Statement for the Record – Executive Session of June 22, 2015: Ms. Davis moved that in accordance with the General Provisions Article, Section 3-306(c)(2) of the *Annotated Code of Public General Laws of Maryland*, the minutes of tonight's meeting reflect that Council met in

executive session on Monday, June 22, 2015, at 9:46 p.m. in the Library of the Municipal Building. Council held this closed meeting in accordance with the General Provisions Article, §3-305(b)(7) of the *Annotated Code of Public General Laws of Maryland,* to consult with legal counsel.

Vote to close session:

	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent
Ms. Davis	X			
Mr. Herling	X			
Ms. Mach	X			
Ms. Pope	X			
Mr. Putens	X			
Mr. Roberts	X			
Mayor Jordan	X			

The following staff members were in attendance: Michael McLaughlin, City Manager; Karen Ruff, Associate of the City Solicitor; and Cindy Murray, City Clerk.

Other individuals in attendance: None

Council took no actions during this session.

Mr. Putens seconded.

ROLL CALL: Ms. Davis - yes
Mr. Herling - yes
Ms. Mach - yes
Ms. Pope - yes
Mr. Putens - yes
Mr. Roberts - yes
Mayor Jordan - yes

<u>Statement for the Record – Executive Session of June 25, 2015</u>: Ms. Davis moved that in accordance with the General Provisions Article, Section 3-306(c)(2) of the *Annotated Code of Public General Laws of Maryland,* the minutes of tonight's meeting reflect that Council met in executive session on Thursday, June 25, 2015, at 5:46 p.m. in the Library of the Municipal Building. Council held this closed meeting in accordance with the General Provisions Article, §3-305(b)(1) of the *Annotated Code of Public General Laws of Maryland,* to discuss a personnel matter.

Vote to close session:

	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent
Ms. Davis	X			
Mr. Herling	X			

DRAFT

Ms. Mach	X			
Ms. Pope				X (arrived at 6:20 p.m.)
Mr. Putens	X			
Mr. Roberts				X (arrived at 6:02 p.m.)
Mayor Jordan	X			

The following staff member was in attendance: Michael McLaughlin, City Manager.

Other individuals in attendance: None

Council took no actions during this session.

Ms. Putens seconded.

ROLL CALL: Ms. Davis - yes
Mr. Herling - yes
Ms. Mach - yes
Ms. Pope - yes
Mr. Putens - yes
Mr. Roberts - yes
Mayor Jordan - yes

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS: Mr. McLaughlin commented on the Memorial Park Dedication and recognized the work of David Moran as well as Karl Skaggs and Brian Abbott of the Public Works Department on the event.

Mr. McLaughlin also reported on the Moonlit Movies schedule through September as well as the upcoming Greenbelt Bike Connection scheduled for Saturday.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

LEGISLATION:

A Resolution to Authorize the Negotiated Purchase of Certain Goods and Services from Various Vendors as Enumerated Herein When Total Fiscal Year Purchases from Each Vendor Exceed Ten Thousand Dollars

Mayor Jordan read the agenda comments.

Ms. Pope introduced the resolution for first reading.

A Resolution to Authorize the Purchase and Installation of a Thermoplastic Polyolefin Roofing System for the Replacement of the Flat Roof at the Greenbelt Aquatic and Fitness Center from A.K.J., Inc. at a Cost Not to Exceed $78,200

Mayor Jordan read the agenda comments.

DRAFT

Ms. Pope introduced the resolution for first reading.

BELLE POINT PLAYGROUND PATH: Mayor Jordan read the agenda comments.

Ms. Davis moved that Council approve installation of a pervious path at the Belle Point playground at a cost of $10,000. Mr. Herling seconded.

Ms. Davis said that since the playground was within the Greenbelt Forest Preserve and installation of the pervious path was not a high cost, it was the action to take. Noting that the original project path was budgeted at $3,000, she asked if the additional $7,000 could be funded with Program Open Space funds. Mr. McLaughlin said staff would check.

Mr. Roberts expressed concern about the use of a pervious surface path. He mentioned that he was familiar with test patches of pervious surface materials that had not held up after the first few years. Mayor Jordan noted the pervious surface installed at Springhill Lake Recreation Center has held up well.

Mr. Putens suggested Council hold off further discussion on this item until the next meeting to give Council additional time to look at the site and consider the surface options. Ms. Davis requested staff provide Council with information on the conditions of the pervious surfaces previously installed at Buddy Attick Park and Springhill Lake Recreation Center.

Mr. Putens moved to table this item. Ms. Mach seconded. Motion passed 5-2. (Davis, Pope)

Ms. Pope stressed the need for some type of surface on the pathway as soon as possible since individuals with accessibility issues cannot access the playground.

MARYLAND MUNICIPAL LEAGUE 2016 LEGISLATIVE REQUESTS: Mayor Jordan read the agenda comments.

Ms. Mach suggested the legislative priority "Solar Energy Initiative/Funding for Electric Vehicles Infrastructure" submitted by the City to the Maryland Municipal League (MML) as a legislative priority in 2014 be resubmitted this year as a legislative priority.

There was discussion regarding protection of Highway User Revenue funds. Ms. Davis and Mr. Moran noted this is a standing legislative priority for MML.

Ms. Davis suggested Program Open Space be enhanced to assure municipalities receive their fair share of funds.

Ms. Mach moved that Council submit "Solar Energy Initiative" and "Protection of Program Open Space Funding" as legislative initiatives to the MML. Mr. Herling seconded. The motion passed 7-0.

Mr. Roberts moved that Council also submit "Municipal Authority for Approval of Pepco plans for Vegetative Management Around Utility Poles" as a legislative initiative to MML. Mr. Herling seconded.

Ms. Davis requested staff check with Delegate Tarlau to determine whether he will be resubmitting legislation in the next session regarding Pepco and the local protection of trees.

The motion passed 7-0.

COUNCIL REPORTS: Councilmembers commented on their attendance at the following events.

National League of Cities Small Cities Steering Committee Meeting – Mr. Putens and Ms. Pope
Maryland Municipal League Conference - Mayor Jordan, Ms. Davis, Mr. Putens, Ms. Mach, Mr. Herling and Ms. Pope
Metropolitan Washington Air Quality Executive Committee Conference Call – Ms. Mach
Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Council Meeting – Mr. Herling
Retirement Celebration for City of College Park City Manager Joe Nagro – Mayor Jordan, Ms. Davis and Mr. Putens
Greenbelt Lions Club Installation of Officers Ceremony - Mayor Jordan, Ms. Davis, Mr. Putens and Ms. Pope
Prince George's County Police Chiefs Annual Awards Ceremony – Mayor Jordan and Ms. Davis
Delegate Alonzo Washington's 2015 Fundraiser and Reception – Mayor Jordan, Ms. Davis, Ms. Mach and Mr. Herling
Memorial Park Dedication of Benches for Bert Donn, Esther Webb, Bob Auerbach and Doug Love – Mayor Jordan, Ms. Davis, Mr. Putens and Mr. Herling
Greenbelt American Legion Meeting on the Department of Veterans Affairs Community Based Outpatient Clinic for Veterans – Mayor Jordan and Ms. Davis
Greenbelt Theater Special Program on July 3 – Ms. Davis
Ice Cream Fundraiser in Support of Heifer International – Ms. Davis
Meeting with University of Maryland Graduate Design Group working with the Academy of Excellence for Local Governance – Ms. Davis
Ribbon Cutting Ceremony for Dedication of New Nursing Home at Doctors Community Hospital – Mayor Jordan and Mr. Herling
Farewell Celebration for Town of Berwyn Heights Mayor Calvo – Mayor Jordan and Mr. Herling
Mindful Eating Workshop sponsored by the Greenbelt Recreation Department – Mayor Jordan

Councilmembers commented on the successful July 4th Fireworks and thanked the Police and Public Works Departments for their efforts. Ms. Davis congratulated Mr. Herling on his retirement from the Federal Communications Commission. She also congratulated the Today Show "Everyone Has a Story" honoree Bill Wertz and his wife Heather Norden of Greenbelt.

MEETINGS: Council reviewed the upcoming meeting schedule.

Executive Session on August 3, 2015: Ms. Davis moved that Council schedule an Executive Session in the Library of the Municipal Building immediately following the conclusion of the August 3, 2015, work session. Council will hold this closed meeting in accordance with the General Provisions Article 3-305(b)(7) of the *Annotated Code of Public General Laws of Maryland* to consult with legal counsel to obtain legal advice.

Ms. Pope seconded.

ROLL CALL: Ms. Davis - Yes

Mr. Herling - Yes
Ms. Mach - Yes
Ms. Pope - Yes
Mr. Putens - Yes
Mr. Roberts - Yes
Mayor Jordan - Yes

Executive Session on July 25, 2015: Ms. Davis moved that in accordance with the General Provisions Article, Section 3-306(c)(2) of the *Annotated Code of Public General Laws of Maryland,* Council schedule an Executive Session on Wednesday, July 15, 2015, at 7:00 p.m. in Room 201 of the Greenbelt Community Center. Council will hold this closed meeting in accordance with the General Provisions Article 3-305(b)(1) of the *Annotated Code of Public General Laws of Maryland* to discuss a personnel matter.

Ms. Pope seconded.

ROLL CALL:
Ms. Davis - Yes
Mr. Herling - Yes
Ms. Mach - Yes
Ms. Pope - Yes
Mr. Putens - Yes
Mr. Roberts - Yes
Mayor Jordan - Yes

ADJOURNMENT: Ms. Mach moved to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Putens seconded. The motion passed 7-0.

Mayor Jordan adjourned the regular meeting of Monday, July 13, 2015, at 9:31 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Cindy Murray
City Clerk

"I hereby certify that the above and foregoing is a true and correct report of the regular meeting of the City Council of Greenbelt, Maryland, held July 13, 2015."

Emmett V. Jordan
Mayor

DRAFT

6N Plateau Place
Greenbelt, MD 20770
301 441 9377

July 8, 2015

Greenbelt City Council
25 Crescent Road
Greenbelt, MD 20770

Dear City Council:

We request that the City of Greenbelt erect its peace pole at the recently dedicated memorial site behind the library. Its presence in Greenbelt testifies to the creative and hardworking energies of its citizens to open up communication between Greenbelt and a city in the U.S.S.R during a time in the mid-1980's of intense propaganda, isolationism and the serious threat of nuclear war. The effort was organized by members of the Greenbelt Peace Committee, some of whom are honored in the memorial site.

Greenbelt acquired this peace pole on May 13, 1987 from the Japanese Peace Pole Project because of Greenbelt's persistent though unsuccessful effort to establish a "sister city" relationship with Rezekne, a city of similar size in Latvia, U.S.S.R.

The Greenbelt Peace Committee began its "sister city" initiative in in February, 1984 by requesting a "sister city" similar to Greenbelt from The Ground Zero Pairing Project, a national anti-nuclear organization. Ground Zero had successfully created 60 other sister-city relationships between Soviet and U.S. cities. Greenbelt sent it first information packet to Rezekne and to the U.S.S.R.-USA Society, the official clearing house for sister cities, on March 21, 1984; it followed-up with a letter to the Soviet Embassy requesting support of this initiative.

The initial packet to Rezekne included greetings from the Greenbelt City Council inviting the people of Rezekne to become a "sister city." The packet also included letters from the City Recreation Department, Sierra Club, the Greenbelt Cultural Arts Center, Prince George's County Schools, Greenbelt Elementary School, St. Hugh's Catholic Church and Green Ridge House along with brochures, photographs and 150 personal messages from school children and Greenbelt residents.

The Greenbelt Peace Committee followed up with another packet on Thanksgiving, 1984, since it has not received an acknowledgement of its first mailing. Two years later, on March 27, 1986, a member of the Greenbelt Peace Committee, Gail Drake, met in Moscow with the Secretary for Relations between Soviet and Foreign Cities, inquiring what impeded Greenbelt's "sister city" initiative; she learned that Greenbelt was too small to be paired under the Soviet Union's sister cities program; further it considered Greenbelt a suburb, not a city.

Fiercer objections to this initiative were voiced locally by people who believed that the U.S.S.R. had to be condemned unconditionally because of its human rights violations. Others viewed a city in Latvia as unsuitable because of Soviet occupation of Latvia after World War II. Wide-spread media coverage of this initiative ensued when Arthur M. Eckstein, a resident of Greenbelt, stated in the *Washington Post* on June 15, 1986 that Rezekne was the site of a KGB prison. A political prison near Rezekne may well be the reason the U.S.S.R. vetoed the Greenbelt-Rezekne "sister-city" initiative. Greenbelt Mayor Gil Weidenfeld said: "It is not so easy to have a dialogue with communities that may have something to hide" (*Prince George's Journal*, June 17, 1986).

In the end, Greenbelt did not establish a sister-city relationship with any city in the Soviet Union. The peace pole, as an internationally recognized symbol, acts as a reminder of the importance of open communication between peoples of different ideologies and circumstances. We request that the City install the peace pole to remind us of the valiant effort by the City of Greenbelt and the Greenbelt Peace Committee to foster dialogue in an era of confrontation. We request that the pole be placed near the recently dedicated benches in honor of Bert Donn, Esther Webb, Bob Auerbach and Doug Love.

Cordially,

Donna Hoffmeister

Donna Hoffmeister
for the Memorial Legacy Committee

Petition to Delay Award

I petition City Council to delay or cancel the award for Contract No. 2015-01 Forest Preserve Health Assessment, Greenbelt Forest Preserve. I believe the following reasons apply:

1. The low number of responses to the Request for Proposal (RFP)
   a. The City received only 5 proposals from 135 solicitations.
2. The solicitation targeted the wrong audience of experts.
   a. As stated in the Forest Preserve Management and Maintenance Guidelines document a forest ecologist/biologist is the most appropriate type of professional to do a forest health assessment. The list of performers used by the City is from the Department of Natural Resource web site and emphasizes individuals and companies with a forester perspective.
3. The RFP was too stringently written thereby limiting the number of acceptable proposals.
   a. For example, the RFP required candidates to be located in close proximity to the site.
4. The RFP should have been written to include a condition that the candidate will have knowledge and experience of non-chemical approaches to the management of invasive plants.
   a. Greenbelt is moving in a direction of sustainability through various environmentally friendly initiatives therefore it is important that the RFP reflect this movement towards a sustainable community. Sustainability includes the use of non-toxic, non-chemical approaches. The Greenbelt forest preserve is protected by an ordinance and is meant to be left in an undisturbed state. There is no language in the ordinance that mandates a forest health assessment. The Management and Maintenance Guidelines suggests a forest evaluation would be helpful, but does not mandate such an evaluation. Also, the Management and Maintenance guidelines state clearly on page 56: "Economic benefits of resources derived from management activities are not considered relevant to the goal

of maintaining forest health and therefore should not be considered in designing a management strategy". A forester is a person trained in forestry. Forestry revolves around systematic forest management for the production of timber, conservation, etc. A forester has a bias toward silvicultural forest management. Silviculture is the art of cultivating a forest. A forester perspective involves economic gain and is not relevant to the Greenbelt Forest Preserve as written in the Management and Maintenance Guidelines.

Thank you for hearing my petition.

Donna Almquist Donna Almquist 7-13-15
Boxwood Village
301-345-2583