WORK SESSION OF THE GREENBELT CITY COUNCIL/LEGISLATIVE DINNER held Wednesday, March 2, 2016, at Harry Browne's Restaurant in Annapolis, for the purpose of discussing the status of the City's legislative priorities and other legislative matters.

Mayor Jordan began the meeting at 6:50 p.m.

PRESENT WERE: Councilmembers Konrad E. Herling, Leta M. Mach, Silke I. Pope, Edward V. J. Putens, Rodney M. Roberts and Mayor Emmett V. Jordan. Councilmember Judith F. Davis was out of the country.

STAFF PRESENT WERE: Michael McLaughlin, City Manager; David E. Moran, Assistant City Manager; and Cindy Murray, City Clerk.

ALSO PRESENT WERE: State Senator Paul Pinsky; State Delegates Anne Healey and Alonzo Washington; and County Councilmember Todd Turner. State Delegate Tawanna Gaines arrived at 7:20 p.m. County School Board Representative Lupi Grady was unable to attend.

Mayor Jordan welcomed the legislators. He said the purpose of the gathering was for the City to receive an update on the status of pending legislation, including the priorities presented at the December legislative dinner.

The following City priority issues were reviewed.

SUPPORT FBI HEADQUATERS IN GREENBELT:

Mayor Jordan said that the developer has expressed concern about the financing of infrastructure at Greenbelt Station and the need for public financing. In response to a question from Delegate Washington, Mayor Jordan and Mr. McLaughlin said the City is working closely with David Iannucci, Prince George's County Assistant Deputy Chief Administrative Officer for Economic Development, and Council has indicate its willingness to consider a TIF.

The delegates noted that the 495 Interchange project was the #1 priority for Prince George's County. Delegate Gaines said the State has asked the County to help with funding for the interchange project. She added that the State has never asked a local government in the past to help fund any State highway project.

Delegates Gaines and Healey both remarked that caution needs to be taken regarding all TIF's. They said that TIFs impact the wealth of the County and adversely affect educational funding.

GREENBELT ROAD STREETSCAPE IMPROVEMENTS:

Councilmember Turner said this project remains as the #2 project planning priority for Prince George's County. He added that movement on this project will likely depend on the FBI decision.

M-NCPPC TAX ISSUE:

Senator Pinsky and Delegate Washington said they expect PG/MC 117 to move forward. They noted the bill was on the BiCounty agenda tomorrow and encouraged a representative from the City be present.

PROTECT MUNICIPAL FUNDING SOURCES:

Senator Pinsky said he was hoping funding in HB 783/SB 585 (Highway User Revenue) moved forward.

Council Member Turner said protection of the Greenbelt and Bowie School Resource Officer (SRO) funding is one of his priorities and believes the SRO's will be funded this fiscal year.

CHILDREN LIVING IN GREENBELT STATION SHOULD ATTEND GREENBELT SCHOOLS:

Ms. Mach said promises were made years ago that Greenbelt children would attend Greenbelt School but children in Greenbelt Station are going to Berwyn Heights Elementary, Greenbelt Middle School and Parkdale High Schools. She recognized that all Greenbelt schools are overcrowded, but said the other schools are overcrowded as well. Ms. Mach emphasized the importance of these children having a sense of community and the need for them to attend Greenbelt schools.

Ms. Pope added that the City supports its schools in many ways including the Advisory Committee on Education's grants programs.

Council Member Turner said he had communicated this concern to Dr. Maxwell and will request the Boundary Office review the matter. Senator Pinsky said he understood the City's concern, as well as Dr. Maxwell's situation, noting that since this can't be done for all municipalities he doesn't want to set a precedent.

Mr. Putens suggested a process be considered which would allow for children residing in the municipal boundaries of the City to make application to attend schools in the City.

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City Supported/Opposed Legislation

Council noted their support of the following bills.

PG 404/HB 1130: Prince George's Plastic Bag Fee

SB 57/ HB 31: Community Cleanup & Greening Act

PG/MC 117/HB 1123: M-NCPPC Metropolitan District Boundaries

HB 435: Vegetation Management (with amendment)

SB 367/HB 862: Redeemable Container Deposit Program (with amendment)

PG 418/HB 1137: Prince George's Bag Prohibition

PG/MC 109/HB 1198: Extraordinary Development District (with amendment)

SB 323/ HB 610: Greenhouse Gas Reduction Act

HB 211/SB 198: Pollinator Protection Act

HB 1106/SB 921: Clean Energy Jobs – RPS Revisions

HB 1287/SB 867: Renewable Energy Portfolio Standard – Eligible Sources

SB 776/HB 1361: Hotel Tax – Limited Residential Lodging

Council noted their opposition to the following bill.

PG/MC 110/HB 1027: Permit Review, Consolidation

HB 436/SB 468: Speed Camera Repeal

Other Items

There was discussion regarding Greenbelt residents serving on County Boards and Committees. Council Member Turner said appointments to Boards and Committees are managed by the County Executive's Office and approved by the County Council. He encouraged anyone interested in serving on a County Board or Committee to either contact his office or Bea Tignor, County Executive's Municipal Liaison.

The legislators thanked the City for its hospitality. Council thanked the legislators for attending.

The meeting ended at 8:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Cindy Murray
City Clerk

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