WORK SESSION OF THE GREENBELT CITY COUNCIL held Wednesday, March 23, 2016, to discuss a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Greenbelt Access Television (GATE).

Mayor Jordan started the meeting at 8:06 p.m. The meeting was held in Room 201 of the Community Center.

PRESENT WERE: Councilmembers Judith F. Davis, Konrad E. Herling, Leta M. Mach, Silke I. Pope, Rodney M. Roberts and Mayor Emmett V. Jordan. Council Member Edward V. J. Putens arrived at 9:30pm.

STAFF PRESENT WERE: Michael McLaughlin, City Manager, and David Moran, Assistant City Manager.

ALSO PRESENT WERE: Bob Zugby, Susan Gervasi, Alan Haley and Malia Murray, GATE, Laura Kressler, Bill Orleans and Kathleen Gallagher, News Review.

MOU with GATE

Mayor Jordan welcomed everyone and noted that the City has been working on this MOU for some time.

Mr. Zugby stated there were two issues, the MOU and the list of services provided to the City in lieu of rent. He indicated the GATE Board was happy with the MOU and he was prepared to sign it. Mr. Zugby stated the list of services was still a work in progress.

Ms. Davis was glad to hear that the MOU was acceptable to GATE. She expressed concern that some of the indirect assistance provided by GATE was chosen by GATE and not directed by the City. Mr. Zugby responded that the indirect services were beneficial to the community.

Ms. Pope agreed that GATE provides beneficial services to the City. She indicated that there are some events that the City might not choose to cover. Ms. Pope stated that there needed to be a clear contract between the City and GATE outlining their respective responsibilities.

Mr. Zugby did not believe the distinctions regarding who covers what were clear. He stated there were things on the indirect list that the City may have done in the past and would do if GATE wasn't here. Mr. Zugby observed that GATE's initial motivation/criteria had been the need of the program and GATE's ability to cover it. He now believed the motivation was starting to become financial based and this was concerning. Mr. Zugby suggested that paying rent would change GATE's motivation.

Mayor Jordan indicated that other tenants at the Community Center pay rent and the question came up about GATE and why they didn't.

Mr. Zugby suggested that GATE sign the MOU and provide an annual list of services to Council and let Council decide the value of those services.

Ms. Mach agreed that GATE provides a valuable service. Referencing GATE's list of services, she questioned the comparison to commercial rates and did not believe this was useful information since the City would not likely pay this rate.

There was discussion of the Public, Educational & Governmental (PEG) fees. Ms. Murray indicated that her role was to teach people to operate cameras, produce shows, etc.

Ms. Davis believed there should be a division between City requests and those other events that GATE chooses to cover.

Mr. Herling indicated there was overlap between the direct and indirect services that GATE provides.

Mr. Zugby did not want GATE's provision of services linked to a decision about charging rent. He suggested that if the City wanted to charge rent they should charge it. Mr. Zugby stated GATE could provide a report of the activities and Council could decide if these were valuable to the City.

Mr. Roberts suggested GATE pay the rent and then GATE could decide what services it wanted to provide.

Ms. Mach asked if GATE would agree to let the City Manager take the difference out of the PEG fee. Mr. Zugby preferred the City simply charge GATE rent.

Ms. Davis stated that the value of the space needed to be included in the MOU.

Ms. Mach summarized that GATE preferred that the City charge GATE rent and credit the services provided.

Mayor Jordan requested that the MOU be updated to include the rent rate and then the City and GATE could sign it. Mr. McLaughlin indicated he would work with Mr. Zugby to review and execute the MOU.

Ms. Pope reported that she was not able to receive the Municipal Access Channel 71 at here home.

Information Items

Ms. Davis reported that MML Legislative Committee held a conference call update. She also reported on a Anacostia Trails Heritage Area (ATHA) meeting where participating jurisdictions were asked to provide a list of projects over the next five years.

Mayor Jordan reported on a conversation with Delegate Washington indicating that PGMC 117 was proceeding toward passage.

Executive Session

Ms. Davis moved that Council conduct an Executive Session in accordance with Section 3-305(b)(1) of the General Provisions Article of the Annotated Code of the Public General Laws of Maryland to discuss a personnel matter.

Ms. Davis announced that Council would not return to open session.

Ms. Putens seconded.

ROLL CALL:	*Ms. Davis*	-	*Yes*
	Mr. Herling	-	*Yes*
	Ms. Mach	-	*Yes*
	Ms. Pope	-	*Yes*
	Mr. Putens	-	*Yes*
	Mr. Roberts	-	*No*
	Mayor Jordan	-	*Yes*

The work session ended and Council moved into Executive Session at 9:39 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

David E. Moran
Assistant City Manager