WORK SESSION OF THE GREENBELT CITY COUNCIL held Wednesday, April 27, 2016, for the purpose of reviewing the Public Works and Capital Projects sections of the Proposed FY 2017 Budget.

Mayor Jordan started the meeting at 7:34 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. Edward V. J. Putens was absent due to illness.

STAFF PRESENT WERE: Michael McLaughlin, City Manager; David Moran, Assistant City Manager; Jeffrey Williams, City Treasurer; Jim Sterling, Acting Director of Public Works; Richard Fink, Superintendent of Parks; Luisa Robles, Sustainability Coordinator; and Erin Josephitis, Volunteer Environmental Coordinator

ALSO PRESENT WERE: Molly Lester, Bill Orleans, Diane Oberg, Greenbelt News Review, and others.

Public Works

Mayor Jordan began with introductions. He read the Mission and Value Statement for Public Works.

Mr. Sterling read the goals. He indicated the Strategic Plan was three years old and there had been some changes including an additional value statement entitled "strengthening active citizenship through community service-learning opportunities ..." Mr. Sterling noted that some daily activities had been removed from the Accomplishments list, but were still listed as performance measures.

Mr. Sterling indicated that retirements were providing some salary savings and provided an opportunity to examine the organizational structure. There were also plans to hire an additional manager position.

Under the "Maintain rights-of-ways and roadways..." goal, Mr. Sterling noted that street resurfacing was catching up, but more work was needed. Ms. Davis asked about the status of FEMA reimbursements from Winter Storm Jonas. Mr. Sterling responded he anticipated that most of the City's request would be granted at a 75% reimbursement rate.

Ms. Mach relayed a resident suggestion for a raised crosswalk at Lastner Lane and Ivy Lane to encourage people to stop at this location. She also suggested speed humps on Lastner Lane. Mr. Sterling responded that Planning & Community Development and Public Works would consider this request.

Under the "Implement environmental improvements & sustainability practices..." goal, Mr. Sterling reported that there are requirements to maintain the City's Sustainable Maryland Certified designation. There was also discussion of the Maryland SMART Energy Communities Grant and Mr. Sterling reported that Phase 3 had not begun and was awaiting State approval. Ms. Davis suggested that the parking lot lights at Attick Park be upgraded using SMART Energy grant funds.

There was discussion of recycling. Mr. Sterling noted now the City was paying a fee for bringing materials to the County Recycling facility. This expense was not known when the current budget was

adopted, but is included in the FY 2017 Budget. Ms. Robles reported that GreenDrop has replaced American Rescue Workers as the donation drop off vendor.

Mayor Jordan asked about the City's MS4 stormwater permit for Public Works. Mr. Sterling explained the inspection requirements and the quarterly inspections by the County. Ms. Davis asked about washing vehicles. Mr. Sterling explained there was no longer an exception allowing vehicle washing discharge.

Mr. Herling asked about the caging of trees to prevent beaver damage. Mr. Sterling responded it was going well and indicated there had been less activity.

Under the "Ensure safe, clean, sustainable and inviting public green spaces..."goal, Ms. Davis asked about the Cemetery video. Mr. Fink responded the video was available on the City's YouTube channel.

Mayor Jordan asked about replenishment and raking of engineered wood fiber (EWF) in City playgrounds. Mr. Sterling indicated that playgrounds are checked monthly for raking and other maintenance issues. He reported that EWF replenishment occurs as resources allow and are prioritized based on need.

Ms. Pope thanked Public Works for the Belle Point playground. She asked about the status of the K-9 Turf installation at the Animal Shelter and Dog Park. Mr. Fink responded that staff was working with the contractor to determine final measurements.

Ms. Mach proposed having an adopt a flower bed program. Mr. McLaughlin agreed to add this as an FY 2017 management objective for Public Works.

Mayor Jordan asked about adoption of benches or trees for special events like weddings. Mr. Moran responded that currently it was a memorialization program. He believed it was difficult to determine which special events would qualify for adoption.

Under the "Support and maintain all City facilities..." goal, there was discussion about the theater. Mr. Sterling indicated there are still door issues and warranty issues being resolved. Mr. Herling asked about the roof. Mr. Sterling responded the roof needs to be replaced and would be done as part of the Phase II Renovation. Mr. Roberts asked about the masonry caps along the roof line. Mr. Sterling responded that some work had been done to repair these.

Under the "Provide a variety of quality Services..." goal, Council asked about the Volunteer Maryland program. Mr. Sterling responded that Ms. Josephitis recruits and works with the many volunteers.

Mr. Roberts asked about the summer youth help program. Mr. Sterling indicated the program had been very successful and the FY 2017 budget increased the number of positions from two to four.

Mr. Herling expressed support for a circulator bus service throughout Greenbelt if additional funds could be obtained.

Under the "Invest in the professional development of staff..." goal, Mayor Jordan reviewed the professional development activities.

Under Issues and Services for FY 2017, Mr. Sterling discussed staffing. Mayor Jordan reported that there were changes at Chesapeake Education, Arts and Research Society (CHEARS) which might impact the City. Ms. Davis noted that two of the CHEARS leaders were leaving.

There was discussion of the tree master plan and Forest Preserve Assessment. There was also discussion of meeting the City's SMART Energy Communities renewable energy goal and installation of solar panels on City facilities. Mr. Sterling stated that staff was continuing to work with solar vendors to try and identify projects that meet the goal.

Mr. Sterling and Ms. Josephitis presented a GIS presentation.

Mr. McLaughlin noted a new performance measure was included under the Administration account which attempted to capture the volunteer hours provided to Public Works.

There was discussion about food trucks at Roosevelt Center. Ms. Davis and Ms. Mach expressed concerns about these trucks including competition with merchants. Mayor Jordan and Ms. Pope favored allowing food trucks.

Council reviewed the Parks account. Ms. Davis expressed concern about the number of rusted basketball hoops and poles throughout the City. Mr. Fink responded this would be addressed as part of a maintenance plan.

Other Funds

Mayor Jordan wanted to move the $50,000 in the FY 2016 Non-Departmental Budget for an economic development grant program into the Special Projects Fund so the allocations could accumulate each year. Council wanted to discuss this at another time.

Under the Replacement Fund, Ms. Davis stressed that purchases had been deferred and the fund transfer would need to be increased in future years. Mr. Herling and Ms. Pope raised the issue of protective vests for firefighters.

Capital Projects

Council reviewed the Capital Projects section. Ms. Pope wanted to put $5,000 in the FY 17 Budget for a second dog park. Ms. Davis requested a list of the pedestrian and traffic calming projects.

The meeting ended at 11:50pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

David E. Moran
Assistant City Manager