

REGULAR MEETING OF THE GREENBELT CITY COUNCIL held Monday, December 13, 2010.

Mayor Davis called the meeting to order at 8:01 p.m.

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

ALSO PRESENT were Michael McLaughlin, City Manager; David E. Moran, Assistant City Manager; John Shay, City Solicitor; and Cindy Murray, City Clerk.

Mayor Davis asked for a moment of silence in memory of Greenbelt resident Martha Robison and former residents Dolores Baxter, Miriam Dredger, James Gainor and David Hensel. She then led the pledge of allegiance to the flag.

CONSENT AGENDA: Ms. Mach asked to remove the minutes of the work session on July 21, 2010, from the consent agenda. With that change, it was moved by Mr. Putens and seconded by Mr. Jordan that the consent agenda be approved. The motion passed 7-0.

Council thereby took the following actions:

MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETINGS:

Regular Meeting, November 8, 2010
Work Session, November 10, 2010
Work Session, November 15, 2010
Work Session, November 22, 2010
Approved as presented.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Park and Recreation Advisory Board Report #10-3 (Proposed Volunteer Background Checks, CAR #25-2009): Council accepted the report and will consider it on the agenda of the next meeting.

APPOINTMENTS TO GREENBELT MIDDLE SCHOOL TASK FORCE: Council appointed the following advisory board members to the Greenbelt Middle School Task Force.

Theresa Bugg - Advisory Committee on Education
Keith Chernikoff - Advisory Planning Board
Anna Socrates - Arts Advisory Board
Rev. Daniel Hamlin- Community Relations Advisory Board
Ken Blue- Park and Recreation Advisory Board
Brenda Cooley - Senior Citizens Advisory Committee
Elizabeth Hammett - Youth Advisory Committee

APPOINTMENTS TO ADVISORY GROUPS: Council appointed Betty Timer and Brenda Cooley to the 75th Anniversary Planning Committee and Shane Wisdom to the Arts Advisory Board.

REAPPOINTMENT TO ADVISORY GROUP: Council appointed Kevin Murphy to a new term on the Employee Relations Board.

RESIGNATION FROM ADVISORY GROUP: Council accepted with regret the resignation of Sheldon Goldberg from the Advisory Planning Board.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: Ms. Mach requested Appointment to Advisory Board be added to the agenda. With that change, it was moved by Mr. Putens and seconded by Mr. Jordan that the agenda be approved as amended. The motion passed 7-0.

PRESENTATIONS:

Greenbelt Access Television (GATE) and Greenbelt Association for the Visual Arts (GAVA): Barbara Simon briefed Council on a special animation project being developed by GATE/GAVA for the 75th Anniversary celebration. She explained that local students will work as a team to create the video based on their vision of Greenbelt.

Transit Riders United of Greenbelt (TRU-G): John Stith, representing TRU-G, thanked Council and City staff, especially Terri Hruby, Assistant Director of Planning, for their work with TRU-G on the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (WMATA) and the Prince George's County Department of Public Works and Transportation (DPW&T) transit service change plan that will be implemented on December 20, 2010. He reported that TRU-G reviewed the new published time tables for both WMATA and DPW&T at their meeting on Saturday, and had voted to oppose the new schedules. Mr. Stith explained that there appeared to be no effort to coordinate the schedules of the WMATA and DPW&T transit services and, in many cases, the busses are scheduled to arrive at the same destinations at approximately the same time. He said that TRU-G would be sending a letter to Council indicating their concerns.

PETITIONS AND REQUESTS: None

MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETINGS: None

Minutes of July 21, 2010: Ms. Mach noted she was not present at this meeting. With this change, Ms. Mach moved that the minutes be accepted. Mr. Jordan seconded. The motion passed 7-0.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS: None

COUNCIL REPORTS:

Mr. Putens reported on an ordinance from Los Angeles, California, that requires notification to local governments on foreclosure matters. He noted the benefits similar legislation could provide to the City and local homeowner associations. Mr. Putens requested Mr. Shay review the ordinance and also requested the item be added to the agendas of the upcoming Prince George's County Municipal Association and Four Cities meetings.

Ms. Mach commented on the Washington Metropolitan Area Council of Governments annual meeting,

which was also attended by Mayor Davis, Mr. Jordan, Mr. McLaughlin and Mr. Moran. She also mentioned the Greenway Center Holiday breakfast, Senator Pinsky's Town Hall meeting, and the Franklin Park Holiday party, which was attended by Mayor Davis and Mr. Jordan also.

Mayor Davis commented on the Meals on Wheels Holiday luncheon, which she attended with Ms. Mach, and the Greenbelt East Tree Lighting ceremony, which was also attended by Mr. Jordan, Mr. Roberts, Mr. Putens and Ms. Pope. She requested staff write a letter to Combined Properties expressing Council's appreciation for the Holiday Breakfast event, and also thanking Old Navy and Denny's for their participation. Mayor Davis thanked the Recreation Department and Greenbelt Neighbors Alliance for assisting Camp Fire USA and Franklin Park with their holiday party.

COMMITTEE REPORTS: None

LEGISLATION:

A Resolution to Negotiate the Purchase of Enhancer/Rectangular Rapid Flash Beacon Devices for the St. Hugh's Crosswalk on Crescent Road from R.D. Jones' Stop Experts, Incorporated, of Venice, Florida, at a Cost not to Exceed \$22,725.00

Mayor Davis read the agenda comments. Ms. Pope introduced the resolution for second reading and moved that it be adopted. Ms. Mach seconded the motion.

There was discussion regarding removal of the existing flashing school crossing sign when the new devices are installed. Ms. Mach noted the number of children who use this walkway to and from Greenbelt Elementary School, and recommended the existing flashing sign remain in place for safety reasons.

Mr. Jordan mentioned the Enhancer/Rectangular Rapid Flash Beacon Devices are also needed in other areas of the City, especially in Greenbelt West by the Metro Station.

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

The resolution was declared adopted (Resolution No. 1072, Book 8).

FEDERAL HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATION FESIBILITY STUDY ON WIDENING THE BALTIMORE-WASHINGTON PARKWAY: Mayor Davis read the agenda comments.

Mr. Roberts recommended Council send a letter to Congressman Ruppberger, along with the State and County representatives, stating the Council's opposition to adding additional lanes on Interstate 295/Baltimore-Washington Parkway (I-295). Mayor Davis, Mr. Putens and Mr. Herling recommended the letter indicate the City's concerns regarding the widening study, but noted the need to provide residents an opportunity to voice their opinion on the study prior to Council taking any position. They

suggested the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) be asked to hold a public hearing in the City to provide information on the study.

Ms. Mach recommended the letter ask why the study had been requested and what the purpose of the study was. She also recommended that if the purpose of the study was to address traffic congestion, that other alternatives other than widening the Parkway be considered to achieve the same purpose.

After further discussion, Mr. Herling moved that Council send a letter to Congressman Ruppertsberger, along with State and County representatives, incorporating the questions posed by Ms. Mach and also indicating the following concerns and requests. Mr. Jordan seconded.

1. Adding additional traffic lanes will change the nature of the roadway from a parkway into an interstate.
2. Additional traffic will create an increase in pollution and noise level.
3. Alternatives be considered to address traffic congestion issues other than building new or expanding existing roadways.
4. Request a public hearing be held in January 2011 or as soon as possible.

The motion passed 7-0. Mr. Putens requested the item be included on the agenda of the January Four Cities meeting.

STATE LEGISLATION – PG 407-11: Mayor Davis read the agenda comments.

Mayor Davis and Mr. Putens expressed concern that the City is not prepared to pursue this legislation at this time. Mr. Putens suggested a study is needed to determine what type of municipal bus system the City wants or needs, how much it would cost to operate such a service, and how long it would take to implement the service. Mr. Jordan and Mr. Herling agreed and suggested the study determine the transportation needs of residents to destinations not only within the city, but to other areas of the region as well.

Mr. Roberts noted the current “TheBus” transportation service in Greenbelt is not well run or cost effective. He moved that Council support PG 407-11 that would allow the City to access/obtain the funds currently used to provide “The Bus” service in Greenbelt and operate our own municipal bus system instead. No second was received. The motion failed.

Mayor Davis moved that Council send a letter to Delegate Ross thanking him for his attention to the issue, indicating the City will not be pursuing the legislation at this time, and requesting grant funding to conduct a feasibility study of the cost, implementation and parameters of City operation of a municipal bus service. Mr. Putens seconded. The motion passed 6-1. (Roberts) Mr. Roberts said he did not support requesting additional funding for a study.

Mayor Davis said the issue would be raised at the upcoming meetings of the Prince George’s County Municipal Association and the Four Cities, as well as the Blue Ribbon Commission on Maryland Transportation Funding.

OTHER REPORTS: Mayor Davis, Mr. Jordan, Mr. Putens, Mr. Herling, Ms. Mach and Ms. Pope reported on their attendance at the National League of Cities Conference they recently attended. Ms. Mach also reported on the Washington Metropolitan Area Council of Governments Air Quality

Meeting and Mayor Davis reported on the meeting of the Blue Ribbon Commission on Maryland Transportation Funding.

APPOINTMENTS TO COMMITTEES: Ms. Mach moved that Council appoint Kahli Brannigan to the Park and Recreation Advisory Board. Ms. Pope seconded. The motion passed 7-0.

MEETINGS: Council reviewed the meeting schedule.

ADJOURNMENT: A motion to adjourn the regular meeting was made by Ms. Mach and seconded by Mr. Putens. The motion passed 7-0.

Mayor Davis adjourned the regular meeting of Monday, December 13, 2010, at 10:12 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 December 13, 2010."

Judith F. Davis
Mayor