



***WORK SESSION OF THE GREENBELT CITY COUNCIL held Wednesday, October 14, 2009, for the purpose of receiving a City Manager Update.***

*Mayor Davis called the meeting to order at 8:10 p.m. It was held in the Senior Classroom of the Community Center.*

*PRESENT WERE: Councilmembers Konrad E. Herling, Edward V. J. Putens, Rodney M. Roberts, and Mayor Judith F. Davis. Leta M. Mach arrived at 8:25 p.m.*

*STAFF PRESENT WERE: Michael McLaughlin, City Manager, and Cindy Murray, City Clerk.*

*ALSO PRESENT WAS: Bill Orleans.*

*Mr. McLaughlin summarized his financial update memorandum to Council dated October 2, 2009. He said that even with the reduction of \$450,000 in Highway User Revenue (HUR) and \$80,000 in Police Aid, there would be no impact to city services or programs at this time. He mentioned the savings built into the FY 2010 budget and the operational savings that have occurred so far with property taxes better than estimated and lower insurance costs.*

*Mr. McLaughlin said that when there had been cuts in HUR in past years, the number of street resurfacing projects had been reduced. He noted that any cuts in street resurfacing would have to be made up in future years as the street condition would continue to decline. Mr. McLaughlin said of the three streets scheduled for work (Hedgewood, Greenway Center and Westway), the Westway project (\$72,000) can best be deferred. Mayor Davis noted that, since this street resurfacing work wouldn't be done until spring, a decision whether to cut any street resurfacing work should be made by the new council.*

*Council also reviewed the following projects from the Replacement and Capital Funds that could possibly be delayed: call boxes; pedestrian crossing at Northway; traffic calming; gateway signage; Greenbrook trails; dredging plan; Schrom Hills Park bollards; and the purchases of a compact pickup truck and 1-1/2 ton dump truck. Mr. McLaughlin noted that the only project that may begin within the next few months would be the dredging plan. After discussion, Council recommended a decision whether to delay any of the other projects or purchases should be made by the new council.*

*Mr. Roberts and Mr. Putens suggested that staff look into purchasing a sediment pump to do the dredging work at Greenbelt Lake in-house. Mr. McLaughlin said staff would check on this suggestion but noted the funds budgeted was only for the hiring of a consultant to develop a plan for the dredging work. He said that it was his understanding that a plan would still be needed even if the work was done in-house.*

*Mr. Roberts mentioned the outsourcing of landscape services by the Public Works Department and questioned whether any savings would be realized by doing this work in-house. Mayor Davis and Mr. Putens said they believed it would be more expensive to do this work in-house.*

*Council reviewed the following items from the Top Ten List.*

*Election Issues: Staff is working on preparing for the election and supporting the candidates, while continuing the education and outreach aspects. A memorandum would be in Council's packet this week regarding locations for election banners.*

*Playground Agreement: Renovation of the Greenwood Village playground was completed in late September. A tentative playground priority list through 2013 was provided to Council. It was noted that the list could be amended due to budget constraints and/or changes in conditions.*

*Greenbelt Middle School: Plans are proceeding for the construction of the new school and the targeted opening is expected in August or September 2011. Some funding is in place but more funding is needed. Staff is working in conjunction with County Councilmember Turner, the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission and the School Board regarding ball field lighting.*

*Greenbrook Lake: A meeting with homeowner association representatives had been held in October. Mr. Putens stressed the need to work with the County to resolve this issue.*

*Greenbelt Theater: The permit has been filed and staff is currently preparing bid documents. Mr. McLaughlin mentioned that the funding issue still needs to be worked out. Mr. Roberts asked if a second contractor had provided a second opinion on the work. Mr. McLaughlin said he had not yet responded.*

*Sustainability/Energy Efficiency: The City recently received a \$93,000 State grant and staff is working on prioritizing projects that will meet the State requirements. County funding has also been requested for a sustainability study of the City and community, and to upgrade lights in City buildings. Ms. Mach asked if any of the funds could be used for the Theater project. Mr. McLaughlin said possibly the heating, ventilating and air conditioning system or lighting replacement would qualify.*

*Mayor Davis mentioned a number of cities offer revolving loans to residents for energy efficiency projects. Mr. McLaughlin said this could be added to the list, but noted that the State and County has money available for residential loans for energy efficiency projects and questioned whether there was a need for the City to offer the same type of loans. Mayor Davis said some residents may be more inclined to use a City program.*

*Council then reviewed the following items that had been taken off the Top Ten List.*

*Gardenway Overpass: Mayor Davis said some residents still would like the overpass shut down at night and suggested a meeting be set up with homeowners associations and residents to provide an update on the issues, now that the cameras and call boxes are in place.*

*Empirian Village Livability Issues: Council discussed the large number of municipal infractions at Empirian Village and requested this item be placed back on the list.*

*Postal Unit at Municipal Building: Mr. McLaughlin mentioned there had been no increased usage of the CPU. Ms. Mach said she would like to see additional promotion of the service.*

*Under Management Objectives, Mayor Davis requested the quarterly informal Police Department Open Houses be started as soon as possible. She also requested a report on the usage of the Greenbelt Connection with the new Saturday service and expanded Sunday service hours.*

*Ms. Mach mentioned a recent request from a local school to obtain recycling containers. She noted it would be costly for the City to provide recycling containers to schools and suggested schools be encouraged to look for grants to fund the purchase of containers.*

*Mr. Putens and Mr. Herling mentioned a schedule of projects staff is currently working on and a flowchart showing how the City operates would be helpful for new council members.*

*Council requested information on contribution group funding and also an updated computer use policy. Mr. McLaughlin said this information would be provided to Council soon.*

#### *Informational Items*

*Mr. McLaughlin announced the County would be providing H1N1 flu shots at the City's Health Fair scheduled for tomorrow at Springhill Lake Elementary School.*

*Mayor Davis asked the status of the GHI encroachment issue. Mr. McLaughlin advised this issue would come to Council in November as an agenda item.*

*The meeting was adjourned at 10:15 p.m.*

*Respectfully submitted,*

*Cindy Murray  
City Clerk*