



**REGULAR MEETING OF THE GREENBELT CITY COUNCIL held April 28, 2008.**

Mayor Davis called the meeting to order at 8:05p.m.

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

**ALSO PRESENT** were Michael P. McLaughlin, City Manager; Robert A. Manzi, City Solicitor and David E. Moran, Acting City Clerk.

Mayor Davis asked for a moment of silence in honor of Greenbelt residents Susan A. Thompson and Therese B. Aumann, and former resident Robert L. Scott, Jr. She then led the pledge of allegiance to the flag.

**CONSENT AGENDA:** It was moved by Mr. Putens and seconded by Mr. Herling that the consent agenda be approved. The motion passed 5-0.

Council thereby took the following actions:

**MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETINGS**

- Work Session, April 9, 2008
- Regular Meeting, April 14, 2008
- Work Session, April 16, 2008
- Work Session #2, April 21, 2008
- Work Session April 23, 2008  
Approved as presented.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Park & Recreation Advisory Board, Report #09-1 (Size of Board): Council accepted this report and agreed to discuss it on a future agenda. It was noted that changing the size of the board would require an ordinance to revise the City Code.

Recycling & Environment Advisory Board, Report No. 2008-01 (Use of Plastic Bags): Council accepted this report.

**FOREST PRESERVE ADVISORY BOARD – APPROVAL OF BYLAWS:** Council approved the bylaws for the Forest Preserve Advisory Board.

**DONATION TO THE MARYLAND MUNICIPAL CLERKS ASSOCIATION**

**(MCCMA):** Council authorized a \$100 donation to MMCA for the upcoming Region II Conference in recognition of Kathleen Gallagher’s service to the profession.

**REAPPOINTMENTS TO ADVISORY GROUPS:** Council appointed the following to new terms on their respective advisory groups:

Charles Jackman	Advisory Committee on Trees
Andria T. Jones	Arts Advisory Board
Joan Falcão	Park & Recreation Advisory Board

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA:** Mayor Davis added an item entitled “Referral to the Forest Preserve Advisory Board.” It was moved by Mr. Putens and seconded by Mr. Herling that the agenda be approved with this addition. The motion passed 5-0.

**PRESENTATIONS:**

**Public Works Week – Proclamation:** May 18-24 is Public Works Week. Mayor Davis read a proclamation to mark the occasion, which was received by Kenny Hall, Director of Public Works, on behalf of the department. Council thanked the Public Works staff for the work they do.

**Click It or Ticket Month – Proclamation:** Click It or Ticket Month, recognized for the month of May, is part of the year-long Maryland Chiefs' Challenge. Mayor Davis presented a proclamation to MPO Scott Kaiser and Lt. David Buerger. Mayor Davis referenced a press release that Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD) had purchased breathalyzers and donated them to the Police Department. MPO Kaiser stated that the City has received several grants from the State for various traffic safety programs

**Recognition of Scott Kaiser:** Mayor Davis also recognized MPO Scott Kaiser for his outstanding accomplishments as the Greenbelt Police Department’s Traffic Officer. She noted the Department was awarded its seventh consecutive Maryland Governor’s Award for first place finishes in the Maryland Chiefs’ Challenge, an event co-sponsored by the Maryland Chiefs of Police Association, the Committee for Seatbelt Use, Inc., and the State Highway Administration. Mayor Davis stated that MPO Kaiser is also the coordinator for the Prince George’s Municipal DWI Task Force and oversees all Sobriety Checkpoints operated by officers from the Bladensburg, Hyattsville, Greenbelt, Laurel and Mt. Rainier Police Departments. She also reported that MPO Kaiser promoted the Pacesetter program for Greenbelt which resulted in award recognition for officers of the Greenbelt Police Department, Eleanor Roosevelt High School students and the citizens of Greenbelt for record high usage rate of seatbelts.

Lt. Buerger stated that MPO Kaiser performs many preventive and enforcement initiatives and is a leader in the State. He noted MPO Kaiser’s motorcycle safety program.

Mr. McLaughlin noted that Lt. Buerger had recently returned from the FBI Academy. Lt. Buerger reported that it was a rewarding and enjoyable experience. He stated that about only 1% of law enforcement officers nationwide get to attend the academy.

**PUBLIC HEARING ON THE PROPOSED FY 2009 BUDGET:** Mayor Davis read the agenda comments. Chris Shumann, 1-E Gardenway, stated that he was pleased there would not be a tax rate increase. He believed rebuilding City reserves was a good idea. Mayor Davis declared the hearing over.

**PETITIONS AND REQUESTS:** Chris Shumann, 1-E Gardenway referenced a News Review article about the Planning & Community Development department. He requested that more attention be given to illegal signs. He also expressed interest in more enforcement by the City and hoped the City would strengthen its code regarding signage. Mr. Shumann requested more guidance to the public on this topic and information which reminded people about sign rules and requirements.

Mr. Shuman's second request was a plea to address a drainage problem at the park area near the Gardenway overpass. He indicated that the drains there were blocked and reported flooding near the overpass. He also reported recent graffiti on the underpass and stated that this underpass was "the least loved" of any of Greenbelt's underpasses. He believed the entire area needed a drainage plan.

Mayor Davis noted that other parts of Greenbelt were experiencing drainage problems. Mr. Roberts asked which storm drains the City was responsible for and if the City had the necessary equipment to investigate/resolve storm drain issues. Mr. McLaughlin responded that storm drains were either a GHI, City, or County responsibility. He indicated that when a problem was the City's responsibility, the City would contract out the required work or borrow the necessary equipment from other jurisdictions.

Hariette Phelps reported on a storm water meeting that she had attended in Rockville. Mr. McLaughlin clarified that the City did not have planning and zoning authority or storm water responsibility as Rockville does.

## **MINUTES**

**Work Session #1, April 21, 2008:** Ms. Mach suggested that "to indicate that if an individual had a problem with paying the bill, they could contact the fire department" be added to the second to last paragraph after the word "personalized." With that change, Ms Mach moved the minutes be approved. Mr. Putens seconded. The motion passed 5 to 0.

**ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS:** Mr. McLaughlin reported on the successful "Celebration of Spring" event held at Springhill Lake. He noted an incredible turnout and congratulated the Recreation Department for the increased publicity about the event. He did note that the City ran short of food and drinks, and that this would be fixed for the future. Mayor Davis agreed that it had been a very successful event.

Ms. Mach too agreed that the Celebration of Spring was wonderful. She indicated that the Golden Age Club's 51st anniversary lunch was successful. Ms. Mach reported on a spaghetti dinner fundraiser for the Greenbelt Elementary 6th Grade Chorus and also the Board of Education's open house at Greenbelt Middle School and Springhill Lake elementary. She announced the Prince George's County Elected Municipal Woman's scholarship for a graduating senior attending college or technical school.

Mr. Putens commented on the Jim Cassells' memorial service and what a good person he was. He also noted the City's Arbor Day celebration. Mr. Putens reported on a basketball game between the faculty at Greenbelt Elementary School and Greenbelt Middle School which Greenbelt Middle won.

Mr. Herling also stated that the Celebration of Spring had been very well attended.

Mayor Davis reported on a recent Prince George's County Municipal Association meeting and a discussion of the high school achievement test. She also reported on a new vocational apprenticeship program in the schools. She thanked the volunteers and the Public Works staff who participated in Arbor Day. Mayor Davis reported on the Board of Education Open House at Greenbelt Elementary and Springhill Lake Elementary and also noted the City's Electronics Recycling day. She announced that Greenbelt & Springhill Lake Elementary had won the 2008 Potomac River Watershed Cleanup photo contest. Mayor Davis also announced that Springhill Lake Elementary had a finalist in the "If I were Mayor Contest." She congratulated Joe McNeal and Julie McHale for being elected President and VP of the Maryland Recreation & Parks Association (MRPA).

## **LEGISLATION**

A Resolution of the City of Greenbelt Adopted Pursuant to the Authority of Article XI-E of the Constitution of Maryland and Section 13 of Article 23a of the Annotated Code of Maryland, (1957 Edition as Amended), Title, "Corporation-Municipal," Subtitle "Home Rule" to Amend the Charter of the City of Greenbelt Found, in Whole or in Part, in the Compilation of Municipal Charters of Maryland (1983 Edition as Amended), as Prepared by the Department of Legislative Reference Pursuant to Chapter 77 of the Acts of the General Assembly of Maryland of 1983, by Amending Paragraph (d), "Powers," of Section 12, Titled "Employee Relations Board" (Charter Amendment Resolution No. 2008-1)

Mr. McLaughlin stated that Mr. Manzi had observed that the title of the Resolution did not provide an intent. He suggested the following additional language "to provide that the Employee Relations Board be empowered to hear grievances arising out of collective bargaining agreements."

With this change, Mr. Herling introduced the Resolution with the amended title for first reading. Mr. Putens seconded. There was a roll call vote on the first reading of the Resolution as amended.

ROLL CALL:

Mr. Herling - yes  
Ms. Mach - yes  
Mr. Putens - yes  
Mr. Roberts - yes  
Mayor Davis - yes

**REQUEST FROM GREENBELT CLIMATE ACTION NETWORK FOR GRANT**

**SUPPORT LETTER:** Mayor Davis read the agenda comments. It was noted Dr. Phelps was not the owner of the plot, but the current user. Mayor Davis noted the City's upcoming work session with the Garden Club and wanted this issue to be contingent on the discussions at this work session. Dr. Phelps expressed concern that the Garden Club had not been helpful with her request. Mayor Davis noted that the grant would pay for the cost of the water line and sub-meter along with in-kind installation services donated by Mr. Roberts. Dr. Phelps noted that the group of users sharing the plots in this area would pay the cost of the water bill.

Mr. Putens believed this was an opportunity to resolve the water issue at the garden plots and it could be a demonstration project. He stated that everyone needed to work together on this issue.

Mr. Putens moved that the City draft a letter of support contingent on the discussion at the upcoming Garden Club Work Session. Mr. Herling seconded. Ms. Mach recused herself due to being a member of the Greenbelt Foundation Board. Mr. Roberts recused himself since he is a plot user. The motion passed 3 to 0.

**PROPOSAL FOR FY 2008 AUDIT – CLIFTON GUNDERSON:** Mayor Davis read the agenda comments. Mr. Putens moved that Clifton Gunderson be selected as the City's Auditor. Ms. Mach seconded. The motion passed 5 to 0.

**REFERRAL TO THE FOREST PRESERVE ADVISORY BOARD:** Mayor Davis requested that the topic of "naming the woods" be referred to this Board. Mayor Davis moved that this occur. Ms. Mach seconded. The motion passed 5 to 0.

**MEETINGS:** Council reviewed the meeting schedule. Council added a work session with the ACLU/NAACP to the list of meetings to be scheduled.

**ADJOURNMENT:** A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Ms. Mach and seconded by Mr. Putens. The motion carried 5-0. The Mayor adjourned the regular meeting of April 28, 2008, at 9:42 pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
David E. Moran  
Acting 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 April 28, 2008.

Judith F. Davis  
Mayor