



REGULAR MEETING OF THE GREENBELT CITY COUNCIL held Monday,  
December 8, 2008 .

Mayor Davis called the meeting to order at 8:09 p.m.

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

ALSO PRESENT were Michael McLaughlin , City Manager; John Shay, City Solicitor; David E. Moran, Assistant City Manager; Cindy Murray , City Clerk; Amy Hofstra, Community Planner; and Christal Batey, Community Resource Advocate.

Mayor Davis asked for a moment of silence in memory of resident Bernice Bryant and all the victims of Pearl Harbor . She also asked to remember Edward Rich Jr., father of Greenbelt Police Officer Craig Rich. 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

Interview, November 24, 2008

Regular Meeting, November 24, 2008

Approved as presented.

#### COMMITTEE REPORTS

**Park & Recreation Advisory Board, Report #08-3 (Recognition Group Requests) :** Council accepted this report and agreed to add it to the agenda of the January 12, 2009 regular meeting.

**Recycling & Environment Advisory Committee, Report #2008-02 (Committee Name Change) :** Council accepted this report and agreed to add it to the agenda of the January 12, 2009 regular meeting.

**RESIGNATION FROM EMPLOYEE RELATIONS BOARD :** Council accepted with regret the resignation of Joan Falcão from the Park & Recreation Advisory Board.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA :** Ms. Mach requested Appointment to Committee be added as Item #14. It was moved by Mr. Putens and seconded by Mr. Herling that the agenda be approved as amended. The motion carried 5-0.

**PRESENTATIONS :**

University of Maryland School of Social Work and Nursing and Bowie State University School of Nursing Empirian Village Community Health Needs Assessment : Ms. Christal Batey introduced Crystal Devance-Wilson and Dr. Bonita Jenkins, Bowie State University Nursing Department; Laura Koo, Randa Deacon and Dr. Rebecca Wiseman, University of Maryland School of Nursing; and nursing students Jennell Onyenenmazu, Iyabode Alliu and Toma Solano. Ms. Onyenenmazu and Ms. Alliu provided a presentation which summarized the findings of a wellness needs assessment which focused on the families of Springhill Lake Elementary School and the surrounding community.

There was discussion regarding the need for a more in-depth study into the health care needs of the uninsured and undocumented residents, increased bi-lingual education outreach to insure eligible members of the community, greater access to existing health and dental care programs, increased primary care options for uninsured adults and additional health clinics.

Mayor Davis and Council thanked everyone involved in the presentation.

**City Council Report on Voting System Issues :** Mayor Davis read the following statement.

We would like to report on the status of our activities on the issues raised by NAACP and ACLU concerning the voting process for Council elections. After consultation with our City Attorney, we have determined that since we are still in the process of analyzing these legal claims and possible litigation, we must limit our report to a description of our activities, and we will not have further discussion or take questions at this point.

The process of analyzing our longstanding method of election of Members of the City Council and determining whether there is sufficient reason to change has taken more time and a lot more work than we originally thought it would.

To date, we have taken the following actions:

- We have held three public meetings with citizens, and at each of these meetings we invited representatives of the NAACP, ACLU and Fair Vote to attend and answer questions.
- We have allowed representatives of the Department of Justice to interview each of us, and during those interviews, we responded to their questions and provided information to that agency.
- We have retained counsel to assist us in analyzing the legal issues and advise us on the proper course of action, and counsel has obtained expert statistical support for their use in formulating their legal advice. Counsel is in the process of analyzing the situation under applicable law.

We have been discussing the circumstances and the views of our citizens and the legal issues with counsel. We expect to have their recommendations and advice shortly.

At this point, we can say a number of courses of action have been suggested by the citizens and are under consideration. We can also say that we are concerned with the low turnout for Council Member elections in precincts 8 and 13, and we are focusing on what changes might improve voter participation for Council Member elections in those precincts.

When the Department of Justice conducted its interviews, its attorneys informed us that they were still at a preliminary stage of their investigations. That does not surprise us, as we know that these issues take time to sort through.

When we determine a course of action, we will schedule meetings with our citizens to discuss and hear views on it, and of course we will meet with the NAACP and ACLU to discuss and hear their views.

We will be reporting on the status of these matters on a monthly basis at Council meetings.

**PETITIONS AND REQUESTS :** None

**MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETINGS:** None

**ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS:**

Mayor Davis and Ms. Mach discussed their attendance at the Windsor Green Open House, the Greenbriar Tree Lighting and the Festival of Lights. Mayor Davis thanked the Greenbelt Concert Band, the Eleanor Roosevelt High School Acappella Group, the Greenbelt Volunteer Fire Department and Rescue Squad, the Little, Junior and Miss Greenbelts and the Recreation and Public Works Departments for their participation in the Festival of Lights events.

Mayor Davis also commented on the Green Ridge House Residents meeting.

**LEGISLATION:** None

**ADVISORY PLANNING BOARD REPORT US 1/MD 201 STUDY :** Mayor Davis read the agenda comments and introduced Ms. Hofstra, Community Planner, and Mr. Branyan and Mr. Goldberg from the Advisory Planning Board (APB).

Mayor Davis and Council thanked the APB for the thorough report. Mayor Davis mentioned that the report concurs with the views of the City of College Park .

Mr. Herling mentioned the high rate of accidents involving bicycle and pedestrians in Prince George 's County. Mr. Branyan said bicycle and pedestrian safety needs were considered when creating the report but suggested adding another statement emphasizing bicycle and pedestrian safety.

Mr. Putens moved that Council formulate a letter to that point. Mr. Herling seconded. The motion passed 5-0.

Mr. Roberts asked if a map could be created showing the recommendations of the APB. Ms. Hofstra said a map could probably be created using the Global Positioning System but, if not, she would check on the cost of having it outsourced.

**APPOINTMENT OF COUNCILMEMBERS TO BOARDS AND COMMITTEES :** Mayor Davis read the agenda comments.

Mr. Putens moved the following appointments to City advisory groups and organizations as well as various Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (MWCOG) boards and committees.

**City Advisory Groups and Organizations**

Advisory Planning Board - Mr. Putens

Arts Advisory Board - Mr. Roberts

Community Relations Advisory Board - Mr. Putens

Park and Recreation Advisory Board - Mr. Herling

Advisory Committee on Education - Ms. Mach

Public Safety Advisory Committee - Mr. Putens

Recycling & Environment Ad. Committee - Mr. Herling

Senior Citizens Advisory Committee - Ms. Mach

Youth Advisory Committee - Mr. Roberts

Friends of the Greenbelt Museum Board - Mayor Davis

Greenbelt Access Television Board - Mr. Herling

**MWCOG**

Board of Directors - Mayor Davis

Alternate - Mr. Roberts

Transportation Planning Board - Mr. Roberts

Alternate - Mr. Herling

Metropolitan Washington Air Quality Comm. - Ms. Mach

Alternate - Mr. Herling

Metropolitan Development Policy Committee - Mr. Herling

Alternate - Ms. Mach

Human Services and Public Safety

Policy Committee - Mr. Putens

Alternate - Mayor Davis

Chesapeake Bay Policy Committee - Mayor Davis

Alternate - Mr. Putens

Aviation Policy Committee - Mr. Moran

Ms. Mach seconded. The motion passed 5-0.

**APPOINTMENT TO ADVISORY GROUP :** Ms. Mach moved to appoint John Winfrey to the Park and Recreation Advisory Board and Jacob Fletcher to the Youth Advisory Committee. Mr. Putens seconded. The motions passed 5-0.

**MEETINGS :** Council reviewed the meeting schedule. Mayor Davis requested the idea of a City sponsored event honoring Dr. Martin Luther King be referred to the Community Relations Advisory Board for their review.

**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 Monday, December 8, 2008 , at 9:20 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 8, 2008 .

Judith F. Davis

Mayor