



**REGULAR MEETING OF THE GREENBELT
CITY COUNCIL held Tuesday, May 27, 2008.**

Mayor Davis called the meeting to order at 8:03 pm.

ROLL CALL was answered by Council Members Leta Mach, Rodney M. Roberts, Edward V. J. Putens and Mayor Judith F. Davis. Council Member Konrad E. Herling arrived at 8:04 pm.

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

Mayor Davis asked for a moment of silence in honor of Greenbelt residents Linda Rose Gagliardi Byers, Robert Reed and Greenbelt pioneer James Donald Wolfe, Sr.; and former residents Susan Joan Gelber Weintraub and Andrea Jean MacQuillan. She then led the pledge of allegiance to the flag.

CONSENT AGENDA: Mr. Herling requested that the May 21, 2008 work session minutes be removed. With this change, it was moved by Mr. Putens and seconded by Ms. Mach the consent agenda be approved. The motion passed 5-0.

Council thereby took the following actions:

MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETINGS

- Work Session, April 3, 2008
 - Regular Meeting, May 12, 2008
 - Work Session, May 14, 2008
 - Work Session, May 19, 2008
- Approved as presented.

COMMITTEE REPORTS: There were none.

APPROVAL OF PAYMENT FOR MCDONALD FIELD SCOREBOARD: Council authorized the reimbursement of \$3,215 to Greenbelt Baseball for the new McDonald Field scoreboard.

RESIGNATION FROM ADVISORY GROUP: Council accepted Jeffrey Morisette's resignation from the Advisory Committee on Education.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: Ms. Mach added "Eleanor Roosevelt High School Staffing" and "Public Safety Advisory Committee Referral." Mr. Herling requested that Item 15 (Request for Recognition -Greenbelt in Focus) be removed from the agenda. Mr. Moran requested that Item 13 (Security Camera Resolution) be removed. With these changes, it was moved by Mr. Putens

and seconded by Mr. Herling that the agenda be approved. The motion passed 5-0.

PRESENTATIONS:

Introduction of New City Clerk: Cindy Murray was introduced as the new City Clerk. Mr. McLaughlin stated that Ms. Murray has worked for the City for 33 years, beginning her career as a police dispatcher and has held numerous administrative positions in Public Works, most recently as the City's Recycling Coordinator. He noted her outstanding work for the City and indicated he was very pleased that she had accepted the position. Ms. Murray stated that she liked working for the City and was looking forward to the opportunity.

Memorial Day Poppy Presentation - Unit 136, American Legion Auxiliary: Mayor Davis noted that the American Legion held its commemoration of Memorial Day yesterday. In honor of this annual remembrance of those who have died in combat while serving in the armed forces, Rosita Dietrich, representing the American Legion Auxiliary read a Memorial Day poem titled "In Flanders Fields." Mayor Davis expressed the City's gratitude for the memorial observances.

Presentation of MML Certificate: Mayor Davis presented a Certificate of Appreciation to Mr. Putens in recognition of his service to the Maryland Municipal League (MML) on the Convention Planning Committee.

PUBLIC HEARINGS:

FY 2009 Proposed Budget: There was no testimony from the general public. Mayor Davis announced that there would not be a City tax rate increase. Mr. McLaughlin noted an 8/10 of a cent reduction in the County tax rate for City residents based on tax differential.

Constant Yield Tax Rate: Mayor Davis announced that a notice had been published in accordance with State law. There was no testimony from the general public. Mayor Davis announced that the City's tax rate would be set on June 2, 2008.

PETITIONS AND REQUESTS: There were none.

MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETINGS

Work Session of May 21, 2008: Mr. Herling requested that language be added about the DVD projector. Mr. Moran suggested that the following sentences be added to page 2 of the minutes:

Mr. Herling asked about a DVD projector for the Greenbelt Theater proposed by GATE. Mr. McLaughlin responded that this should be considered in conjunction with the budget for the theater renovation project.

With this change, Mr. Putens moved approval of the minutes. Mr. Herling seconded. The motion passed 5 to 0.

Executive Session of May 21, 2008: Mr. Roberts moved that the minutes of the executive session

of the City Council held Monday, May 21, 2008, be approved as presented. He further requested that the minutes of this meeting reflect that the Council met in executive session at 7:35 p.m. in the Library of the Municipal Building and that Council held this closed meeting in accordance with Section 10-508 (a)(7) of the State Government Article of the *Annotated Code of Public General Laws of Maryland* to consult with legal counsel to obtain legal advice. Mr. Putens seconded.

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

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS: Mr. McLaughlin announced that his daughter had graduated from high school earlier in the day and thanked the Mayor and Mr. Putens for the reception they gave her at the graduation ceremony.

Ms. Mach reported that all of Council had attended a County budget hearing regarding restoration of funding for Greenbelt Middle School and reported that funding had been restored. She had attended the US 1/MD 201 planning meeting and the Older Americans month luncheon. She also reported on the Clean Air Partners meeting and their work plan for the coming year.

Mr. Herling reported on the foster parent dinner sponsored by Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments and Fannie Mae.

Mayor Davis reported on a homeless enumeration report that was distributed at a Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments Board meeting including four proposed solutions: prevention, fund housing & supportive services, develop a living wage and affordable housing at all income levels. She indicated that she had attended the Strengthening Families program at Springhill Lake and the US 1/MD 201 information workshop. She reported on a Chesapeake Bay Policy meeting and some of the impacts that future development would have on the region. She also noted the Older Americans luncheon and congratulated Leonie Penney on her award, the Friends of Greenbelt Museum lecture and participation on a Prince George's County Municipal Association interview panel for a District Court judge position.

LEGISLATION

An Ordinance to Amend Chapter 12, "Parks and Recreation" of the Greenbelt City Code in Order to Revise Section 12-17, "Membership" for the Purpose of Changing the Size of the Park and Recreation Advisory Board

Mayor Davis read the agenda comments. Mr. Herling introduced the Ordinance for first reading.

APPROVAL OF PATIO SCREENING – NEW DEAL CAFÉ: Mayor Davis read the agenda comments.

Peter May, President of the New Deal Café, agreed with the staff recommendation. He noted that the fencing was attractive, but not permanent. Mr. Putens suggested the addition of some planters with the fencing.

Mayor Davis asked when the remodeled café would be open. Mr. May noted that inspections were underway. He thanked Mr. Roberts for helping with the renovations. Mr. May stated that once the inspections were finished the café could open. He hoped the opening might occur in mid-June.

Mr. Putens moved that Council approve the proposed patio enclosure with the following conditions: 1) that the New Deal Café agree to a site visit with Planning and Community Development staff at the time of installation and 2) Café staff will be responsible for the repair and replacement of damaged fencing, and keeping the patio area clean and free from accumulated garbage and trash. Ms. Mach seconded. The motion passed 5 to 0.

APPROVAL OF MUTUAL AID AGREEMENT FOR PUBLIC WORKS

DEPARTMENTS: Mayor Davis read the agenda comments.

Mr. Roberts moved that Council approve the agreement and authorize the Mayor, City Manager and Public Works Director to sign the agreement. Mr. Putens seconded. Mayor Davis asked how an emergency is determined. Mr. McLaughlin responded that when a municipality has utilized all of its public works resources and still needs additional resources, this would constitute an emergency. Mr. Manzi noted that the Governor or County Executive can declare a state of emergency under certain circumstances.

The motion passed 5 to 0.

Eleanor Roosevelt High School (ERHS) Staffing: Ms. Mach reported that 13.5 teaching positions were being cut at ERHS. She stated the ERHS Parent Teacher Student Association was encouraging members to write letters expressing concern about this idea. Ms. Mach reported that the cuts were based on an ERHS enrollment decrease to 2,600 students, but she believed this would not happen. Ms. Mach suggested a letter expressing concern about the staffing cuts and doubt about the enrollment decrease.

Mayor Davis noted a conversation with former Principal Conyers where he indicated this matter was being worked on.

Ms. Mach moved that Council send a simple letter expressing strong concern and doubt about the enrollment projections. Mr. Putens seconded. The motion passed 5 to 0.

Referral to Public Safety Advisory Committee (PSAC): Ms. Mach referenced a recent Washington Post article indicating that the region was not prepared for a disaster. She suggested a “City Preparedness Day” and wanted to refer this to PSAC.

Ms. Mach moved that Council refer the “City Preparedness Day” idea to the Public Safety Advisory Committee. Mr. Putens seconded. The motion passed 5 to 0.

MEETINGS: Council reviewed the meeting schedule. Mayor Davis requested that a work session with Greenbelt in Focus be listed.

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 May 27, 2008, at 9:18 p.m.

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 May 27, 2008.

Judith F. Davis
Mayor