



***BUDGET WORK SESSION of the Greenbelt City Council held May 5, 2008, for the purpose of reviewing the Public Works section of Proposed FY 2009 Budget.***

*Mayor Davis started the meeting at 8:01p.m. It was held in the Council Room of the Municipal Building.*

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

*STAFF PRESENT WERE: Michael P. McLaughlin, City Manager; Jeff Williams, City Treasurer; Kenny Hall, Director of Public Works; Carolyn Clemens, Assistant Director of Public Works; Lesley Riddle, Superintendent of Parks & Grounds; Cindy Murray, Recycling Coordinator and David E. Moran, Assistant City Manager.*

*ALSO PRESENT WERE: Bill Orleans; Sheldon Goldberg, Advisory Planning Board and Virginia Beauchamp, News Review.*

*Mayor Davis thanked Public Works for identifying savings in their proposed Budget. Mr. Hall presented a powerpoint presentation.*

*Next, Council reviewed each page of the Budget. There was discussion of the City's recycling program. Mayor Davis noted that 3,600 pounds of recyclables were collected at the Labor Day Festival. Mr. Herling asked if similar public containers were used at the July 4 fireworks. Ms. Murray responded yes. Ms. Mach noted the cash prize for the increase in recycled paper at the Abitibi drop off location at Hanover Parkway and asked about this increase. Ms. Murray responded that several newspaper vendors were using this location.*

*Mayor Davis asked about the decrease in Greenbelt Connection trips. Mr. Hall responded that some of the long-time Connection riders had passed away. Ms. Mach suggested establishing online Connection reservations.*

*Mr. Putens asked if the City recycled carpeting. Ms. Murray responded no. Ms. Clemens noted that staff was planning to recycle the old Municipal Building carpeting at a small cost to the City.*

*Ms. Mach asked how often the barley straw at Attick Park Lake was replaced. Ms. Riddle responded that staff did not plan to replace it and that this program was not working out as well as had been hoped.*

*Mr. Putens commented on the success of the program allowing residents to replace their driveways while the City was doing resurfacing work on a particular street.*

*Under Issues and Services, Mayor Davis noted upcoming staff transitions in the Department. Mr. McLaughlin reported that when meetings were held with Public Works supervisors, they were confident that the Department's work would continue even with leadership changes.*

*There was discussion about the City's CNG fueling site. Ms. Clemens noted that the fueling appliance was meeting the City's current needs, but had no additional capacity. Mr. Hall reported that Greenbelt, Hyattsville and College Park were meeting to explore CNG opportunities, including grant funding and use of larger CNG vehicles.*

*Mayor Davis announced the Community Parks and Playground grant that the City received for the Ora Glen playground. Mr. Herling asked about outfield maintenance at McDonald Field. Mr. Hall agreed to look into this. It was noted that the new scoreboard for McDonald field was at Public Works and staff hoped to install it this week.*

*There was discussion about rising utility costs and Mr. Herling asked if enough funds were budgeted to cover this. Mr. McLaughlin responded that the utility line items reflected staff's best estimate and hoped if costs continued to increase, savings would be found to offset this.*

*Under Waste Collection, Ms. Murray described the new fluorescent bulb recycling program. She also described a pilot program using larger recycling toter bins. She noted that College Park and Prince George's County are using the larger bins and have received positive feedback on them.*

*Mr. Putens expressed concern about size of the General Fund contribution towards of waste collection account and suggested that waste collection fees should be raised higher to reduce this contribution. Mayor Davis noted that this contribution included the cost of refuse collection in City parks and facilities.*

*Next, Council reviewed the Parks and Traffic Control budgets.*

*There were several items of information discussed. Mr. McLaughlin reported on a memo from the City Treasurer indicating a \$75,000 reduction in Pension costs. He expressed concern about the way that the Maryland State Retirement Agency had reported this information.*

*Mr. Herling asked if the City should respond to the recent News Review editorial. Mayor Davis expressed concern about responding to editorials. Mr. Putens requested a timeline on the distribution of the ACLU letter. Ms. Mach reported on the Boxwood Civic Association annual meeting.*

*There was considerable discussion about the proposed overpass from Greenbelt Station to College Park. Council reviewed the letter of support for Dr. Phelps application to the Greenbelt Community Foundation.*

*The meeting ended at 11:25 pm.*

*Respectfully submitted,  
David E. Moran  
Assistant City Manager*