



REGULAR MEETING OF THE GREENBELT CITY COUNCIL held Monday,
November 24, 2008

Mayor Davis called the meeting to order at 8:08 p.m

ROLL CALL was answered by Councilmembers Leta M. Mach, Rodney M. Roberts, Edward V. J. Putens and Mayor Judith F. Davis. Councilmember Herling was unable to attend due to illness.

ALSO PRESENT were Michael McLaughlin , City Manager; David E. Moran, Assistant City Manager; Cindy Murray , City Clerk; Terri Hruby, Assistant Director of Planning; Luisa Robles, Recycling Coordinator; William Smith , Refuse and Recycling Supervisor; Beverly Palau, Public Information and Communications Coordinator; and Maria Parker, Administrative Corporal. Robert A. Manzi, City Solicitor, arrived at 8:20 p.m.

Mayor Davis asked for a moment of silence in memory of residents Keith O. Gary, Alice Pearlman, Vera Mae Sowers, Margaret Wildoner and former resident Duane Ronald Bowman. She then led the pledge of allegiance to the flag.

CONSENT AGENDA : It was moved by Mr. Putens and seconded by Ms. Mach that the consent agenda be approved. The motion passed 4-0.

Council thereby took the following actions:

MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETINGS

Work Session, October 22, 2008

Regular Meeting, October 27, 2008

Work Session, October 29, 2008

Approved as presented.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Public Safety Advisory Committee Report #2008-2 (Preparedness Day) : Council accepted this report and did not recommend further action at this time.

Advisory Committee on Education, Report #1-08 (Greenbelt Middle School) : Council accepted this report and will consider it later on the agenda.

Advisory Planning Board, Report #08-02 (US 1/MD 201 Study) : Council accepted this report and agreed to add it to the agenda of the December 8, 2008 regular meeting.

COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS FANNIE MAE AND FREDDIE MAC CHARITABLE GIVING PROGRAM : Council approved sending letters to federal regulators and Members of Congress urging that federal regulators maintain a charitable giving program as part of any restructuring of the business operations of Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac.

EMPLOYEE SPECIAL HOLIDAY : Council assigned this year's employee special holiday to Friday, December 26, 2008 .

RESIGNATION FROM EMPLOYEE RELATIONS BOARD : Council accepted with regret the resignation of Charles Ashurst from the Employee Relations Board.

REAPPOINTMENT TO ADVISORY GROUP : Council appointed Joyce Chestnut to a new term on the Advisory Planning Board.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA : Ms. Mach requested Appointment to Committee be added as Item #19. It was moved by Mr. Putens and seconded by Ms. Mach that the agenda be approved as amended. The motion carried 4-0.

PRESENTATIONS :

Recycle Right Awards : November 15 was America Recycles Day. Among other activities recognizing the event, the Public Works Department conducted the annual Recycle Right contest. Luisa Robles and William Smith , Public Works staff, presented special recycling bins to the contest winners, as well as a number of prizes awarded by Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments. The winners from all but the Wednesday route were present at the meeting.

Colin and Suzette Israel 6819 Landon Court Monday City Route

Vivian, William and Natalie Olsen 134 Rosewood Drive Tuesday City Route

Thomas and Jeanne McArdle 6-B Crescent Road Wednesday City Route

Linda Lacey 35-B Ridge Road Thursday City Route

Maria Teresa and Derrick Jones 7856 Emilys Way Contractual Route

Prince George's County Municipal Association (PGCMA) Longevity Award for Mayor Pro Tem Roberts: Mayor Davis presented Mr. Roberts with the Prince George's County Municipal Association (PGCMA) longevity award recognizing Mr. Roberts' seventeen (17) years of dedicated and continuous municipal service in pursuit and support of strategic goals and accomplishments in Prince George's County.

Municipal Government Month Proclamation : Mayor Davis read and presented to Ms. Palau a proclamation recognizing November as Municipal Government Month. Ms. Palau provided a demonstration of the new educational quiz show program Greenbelt Works available on the City website. The program was created to promote citizen awareness of the role and function of Greenbelt government. Mayor Davis encouraged all residents to go on-line and participate in the program.

CrimeReports.com : Mayor Davis announced Greenbelt Police Department and CrimeReports.com have entered into a partnership that will provide easy to read crime maps and automated alerts to the citizens of Greenbelt . Cpl. Maria Parker provided a demonstration of CrimeReports.com, a free service that allows citizens to view reported crime activity on an easy to use map for any location within Greenbelt . The City's participation in CrimeReports.com is being funded through a grant from the Governor's Office of Crime Control and Prevention (GOCCP) for the first year.

PETITIONS AND REQUESTS : None

MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETINGS: None

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS:

Mr. McLaughlin announced numerous events would be held during the holiday season beginning with the City's Festival of Lights and ending with the Greenbelt New Year celebration. He also announced the second City newsletter had been mailed out to residents.

Mr. Putens, Ms. Mach and Mayor Davis discussed their attendance at the National League of Cities annual conference. Ms. Mach noted she had received a letter from Charlestowne Village thanking the City for its help in having crosswalks installed on Lakeside Drive . Ms. Mach also commented on the PGCMA Legislative Dinner and the Purple Line public hearing.

Mr. Putens commented on the JFK 50 Mile Run in Boonesboro, which was attended by a number of Greenbelt residents. He also requested an update on the new City brochure comparing FiOS and cable. Mr. McLaughlin said this would be complete within two months.

Mayor Davis commented on the Springhill Lake Health Fair, the Greenbelt Community Foundation breakfast, the Halloween Parade, the Veterans Day Observance and the Beltway Plaza Holiday Parade. She congratulated Glenarden Woods Elementary School , Greenbelt Elementary School , Magnolia Elementary School , Robert Goddard French Immersion and Robert Goddard Montessori schools for being recognized by the Prince George 's County Board of Education as Exemplary Schools.

Mayor Davis mentioned that PEPCO and Washington Gas were providing assistance for residents in need. She also mentioned the Census Bureau is recruiting workers for the 2010 census.

Mayor Davis also congratulated the Greenbelt Police Department, Eleanor Roosevelt High School, the State Highway Administration District 3, the United States Park Police Department Greenbelt Sub-Station and the Citizens of Greenbelt for being recognized by the Maryland Highway Office at the State Highway Administration and the Committee for Safety Belt Use, Inc. for exemplary seatbelt use by their employees and students throughout 2007.

LEGISLATION:

GREENBELT FARMERS MARKET : Mayor Davis read the agenda comments and then introduced Ms. Kim Kash and Ms. Kimberly Rush from the Greenbelt Farmers Market (GFM) and Ms. Dorrie Bates from the Greenbelt Consumers Cooperative. Ms. Kash remarked about the success of the market this past year and said they were already looking ahead to next year. She said they were currently working on soliciting more vendors for next season, exploring ways to provide shade and surveying this past season's vendors and customer base regarding expanding the hours next season. She noted the GFM needed a permanent sign for next season and may need additional parking lot space depending on the number of vendors. Mayor Davis suggested Ms. Kash work with the Planning Department on these requests.

Ms. Kash reported sales at Greenbelt Consumers Cooperative had increased as a result of the GFM and the store was now carrying products from several of the markets vendors. Additionally, Joe's Carry Out and the New Deal Café both used items from the market over the season.

Mayor Davis and Mr. Putens suggested additional marketing was needed, especially in Greenbelt East and Greenbelt West. Ms. Kash said they are working on more advertising in these areas. She also mentioned she had recently met with the Park and Recreation Advisory Board regarding GFM's application for recognition group status.

Council thanked Ms. Kash and the other volunteers for making the GFM such a success.

PROPOSED REVISED PROGRAM OPEN SPACE (POS) FY 2009 ANNUAL PROGRAM : Mayor Davis read the agenda comments. She expressed concern about the possibility of unencumbered funds being taken away by the State given the current economic situation. Ms. Hruby stated the County has indicated any unencumbered acquisition fund balance could be used on development projects as a way of protecting the funds. She further explained that staff had identified two additional development projects, Neighborhood Playground Improvements and Springhill Lake Recreation Center Renovation and Expansion, which could be included in the POS FY 2009 annual program.

Mr. Roberts stated he was opposed to using acquisition funds for development projects noting the need to purchase open space is greater than it's ever been. He asked why the acquisition funds couldn't be encumbered for acquisition projects. Ms. Hruby stated that in order to encumber the acquisition funds, the City would have to identify the property and the interested seller, and obtain a minimum of two property appraisals. Mr. Roberts stated more effort needs to be put into property acquisitions. Mr. Manzi stated he continually checks on available property in the area but, with the current low land values, owners are holding onto their properties. Ms. Hruby

explained the Annual Program can be revised at any time, and development project applications withdrawn, if an acquisition project presents itself.

Mr. Putens asked if Northway Field improvements had been considered as a project. Mr. McLaughlin explained this project was not considered at this time because of affordability.

Mr. Orleans, Greenbelt, asked and was provided answers to several questions.

Ms. Mach moved the Proposed Revised FY 2009 Program Open Space Annual Program be approved in order to encumber the City's funds with the understanding that the Annual Program can be revised at anytime. Mr. Putens seconded. The motion passed 3-1. (Roberts)

ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION REPORT GREENBELT MIDDLE SCHOOL :

Mayor Davis read the agenda comments. Mr. Putens moved that Council send a letter to the Governor of Maryland expressing support for the project funding prior to December 5, 2008 and that copies of the letter be sent to the State Treasurer, State Comptroller and the Interagency Committee on School Construction . Ms. Mach seconded. The motion passed 4-0.

PROPOSED 2009 LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM : Mayor Davis read the agenda comments. After discussion, Ms. Mach, Mr. Putens and Mr. Roberts suggested Municipal Electric Aggregation and/or Regulation should remain on the City's list of other issues. Mr. Roberts moved Council approve the Proposed 2009 Legislative Program with this change. Mr. Putens seconded. The motion passed 4-0.

APPOINTMENT TO ADVISORY GROUP : Ms. Mach moved to appoint James Kelly to the Recycling & Environment Advisory Committee. Mr. Putens seconded. The motions passed 4-0.

MEETINGS : Council reviewed the meeting schedule.

ADJOURNMENT : A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Ms. Mach and seconded by Mr. Putens. The motion carried 4-0. The Mayor adjourned the regular meeting of Monday, November 24, 2008 , at 10:20 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 November 24, 2008 .

Judith F. Davis
Mayor