



WORK SESSION of the Greenbelt City Council held Wednesday, October 29, 2008, for the purpose of meeting with County Executive Johnson.

Mayor Davis started the meeting at 7:35 p.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; David Moran, Assistant City Manager; and Cindy Murray, City Clerk.

ALSO PRESENT WERE: Obie Pinckney, Paula Burr and Mike Herman, County Executive's Office; Tomeka Bumbry, County Council Member Turner's Office; Buddy King, Prince George's County Volunteer Firemen's Rescue Association; Christopher Fleshman, Dicky Wynkoop and Kenny Stair, Greenbelt Volunteer Fire Department and Rescue Squad; Tom White, Greenbelt News Review; Kap Kapastin, Beltway Plaza; Yohance Ford, Bill Orleans and others. Jack Johnson, County Executive, arrived at 7:45pm.

Mayor Davis welcomed everyone in attendance and then everyone introduced themselves. She announced that Mr. Johnson was running a few minutes behind and suggested starting the meeting with Council's exchange of informational items.

Informational Items

Ms. Mach announced the Advisory Committee on Education is preparing a letter writing campaign to ensure continued funding of the new Greenbelt Middle School.

Councilmembers agreed to cancel the regular meeting scheduled for Monday, November 10, 2008, due to the National League of Cities Conference.

Mr. Johnson arrived at 7:45pm. Mayor Davis welcomed Mr. Johnson and thanked him for the gateway median improvements on Kenilworth Avenue, the Homeland Security Summit and Economic Development briefings and getting the hospital issue addressed. Council then discussed a number of topics of interest with Mr. Johnson.

Continued Support for Construction of Greenbelt Middle School: Mayor Davis stated Council was pleased this project is proceeding and appreciated any help Mr. Johnson could offer to keep the project on track. Mr. Johnson stated he would include funding in his budget requests, but there remained the question of how much money the Governor would commit in the State's budget

for new school construction.

Support for Volunteer Fire Companies: *Mr. Johnson said he was very pleased to announce that the conflict between the County and volunteer companies regarding the ambulance service fees had been resolved. Mr. Johnson expressed his appreciation to Mr. King and fire company volunteers for their work with the County on this issue. The County will handle all the billing for ambulance service fees and allocate them for the appropriate volunteer company. The funds can be used for approved expenses such as equipment. Mr. King also expressed his appreciation to Mr. Johnson for his work resolving this issue.*

Mr. Herman stated a compassion clause had been included in the agreement to cover individuals who don't have insurance and/or are unable to pay. Mr. Johnson emphasized that fire department personnel will respond whenever a call for service is received; regardless of whether the person in need is able to pay.

Greenbelt Station: *Mayor Davis said this area is within the corporate limits of Greenbelt and the city has a negotiated development agreement with the owners. She stressed the City needs to be involved with any proposed development plans for the area. She also stated the City does not support the idea of a soccer stadium.*

Opposition to ICC and Kenilworth Avenue Expansion: *Mayor Davis said the City is opposed to these projects as they are costly, severely impact the environment, add traffic and do little to address congestion. Mr. Johnson stated he supported the Konterra project and, in order for this project to be successful, the ICC was needed. Mr. Roberts said an expansion of the Green Line would be a preferable project.*

Support Purple Line: *Mayor Davis stated the City does support the Purple Line project. Ms. Mach suggested the Purple Line project should begin on the New Carrollton (Prince George's County) side. Mr. Johnson indicated there is support in the County for this project.*

Continued Investment in Established Communities: *Mayor Davis expressed the City's appreciation to Mr. Johnson for his efforts in this area. She mentioned how Livable Communities has helped Greenbelt with CARES programs and the street sweeper partnership, and the Community Development Block Grants (CDBG) have been a long term aid in keeping streets and walkways in good condition. She mentioned the \$40,000 CDBG grant recently received for the Accessible Greenbelt program which will provide grants to eligible senior and disabled individuals for home modifications to enable them to remain in their homes. Mr. Johnson noted his support for programs like the Accessible Greenbelt program.*

Public Safety: *Mayor Davis stated the City appreciates the opportunity for municipal police departments to be included in the county's new public safety communications system but will need help with funding of the new mobile radios. Mr. Johnson indicated some money may be available through Homeland Security funding.*

Mayor Davis mentioned Greenbelt supports the use of speed cameras and submitted it to the Maryland Municipal League (MML) as legislative initiative where it has been made one of MML's priorities.

There was discussion regarding the lack of communication with local municipal Police Departments in the recent incident in Berwyn Heights.

Need for Landlord/Tenant Commission: Mayor Davis stated Greenbelt has experienced twice in the last five years, disputes with landlords that sought unreasonable rent increases. Tenants had come to Council when there was no place else to go. She stressed the need for a commission to handle these issues. Ms. Mach stated the number of landlord/tenant issues will likely increase with the large number of home foreclosures in the area. Mr. Johnson stated the Judiciary supports creation of a landlord/tenant commission but he was unsure if the funding resources would be available.

Permit Processing: Mayor Davis mentioned the City's difficulty with permits processing in a timely manner with the County. Mr. Johnson indicated the City should see improvements in this area.

Transit Service and Operational Plan (TSOP): Mayor Davis stated the community has reviewed the TSOP and there are concerns about service reductions and the lack of Sunday service. Mr. Johnson stated the County may have additional funds available and have been considering increasing service with extended hours during the week and more weekend service. Mr. Herling stressed the need for better communication between all transportation providers to produce a more effective transportation system. Mr. Herling also mentioned the upcoming Council work session on November 17th where Council would receive a briefing on the Transportation Land Use Connection (TLC) study. Mr. Johnson said he would have a representative from the County attend this meeting. He also noted there may be an opportunity for the County and municipalities to partner to provide transportation.

Mr. Orleans suggested the County create a citizen committee to study and advise on transportation related issues. Mr. Johnson indicated the County already has this volunteer committee and would forward him information.

Mr. Johnson thanked Council for the opportunity to meet with them.

The meeting ended at 9:40pm

*Respectfully submitted,
Cindy Murray
City Clerk*