



WORK SESSION of the Greenbelt City Council held October 6, 2008, for the purpose of receiving a quarterly update from the City Manager.

Mayor Davis started the meeting at 8:02 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 McLaughlin, City Manager and David Moran, Assistant City Manager.*

Mayor Davis announced an open house at Vansville Elementary School, a new “green” elementary school.

Mr. McLaughlin reviewed the “Top Ten List.” Under NAACP & ACLU election concerns, Mayor Davis reiterated that Council and staff were gathering information and expected to have a proposed plan in 45-60 days which would be brought forward to a public meeting.

Under FY 2009 & 2010 budgets, Mr. Herling asked about the number of foreclosures in Greenbelt. Mr. McLaughlin responded that the number had been staying around 50. Under Police computer system, Mr. McLaughlin provided a detailed update on this project.

Under fire department budget cuts, Mayor Davis noted that this problem existed in other counties in Maryland. Under the Greenbelt Station item, Mayor Davis reported that the ramps had been deferred. Mayor Davis asked if the City could publicize the general email list for additional comments on the voting system issue.

Mr. Roberts asked about the Westway curb situation. Mr. McLaughlin responded that he was waiting for a report and cost estimate from Public Works.

Next, Council reviewed the Management Objectives and Capital Projects lists page by page.

Under Administration, Mayor Davis hoped that there would be progress on the “Cool Capital Challenge.” Mr. McLaughlin responded that this was only the first quarter of the fiscal year and that additional progress would be made.

Under Public Information, Council discussed providing input on the next City Newsletter. Mr. McLaughlin indicated he was meeting with Ms. Palau and would return to Council with some potential topics.

Under Greenbelt Museum, Mr. McLaughlin reported that with the new curator, the pod cast item may be deferred. He also indicated that now it appeared that the “Greenbelt” workshop at the National Recreation and Park Administration conference would go forward.

Under Planning, Mayor Davis requested that trees be flagged on the Hillside outfall project. Ms. Mach asked about the impact of the Hillside project and Greenbelt Lake dredging projects if grant funding is not available. Mr. McLaughlin responded that there were sufficient funds to complete the Hillside project. He indicated that the Greenbelt Lake project was an unknown cost, but financing would be required.

Under Greenbelt Connection, Mayor Davis requested that staff evaluate a Saturday service and a rush hour commuter service as part of the FY 2010 Budget.

Under Street Maintenance, Mr. McLaughlin indicated that Greenbrook Drive would be the top priority and Walker Drive would be done if funds remained.

Under Waste Collection, Mayor Davis was glad to see promotion of the recycling changes that allowed for additional recyclables. Ms. Mach asked that the toter pilot test program be voluntary. Mr. Putens hoped that the toter pilot would be expanded to other areas of Greenbelt. Mr. Herling raised a concern about seniors using these toters.

Under Roosevelt Center, Mayor Davis asked about the rat problem there. Mr. McLaughlin responded that some of the plant growth had been removed. Traps were being used in enclosed locations. Mr. McLaughlin suggested a News Review article to provide some information. Mr. Putens suggested that commercial eateries needed to cooperate with this matter.

Under Recreation Centers, Mr. Roberts asked about consideration of the renovation/expansion of the Springhill Lake Recreation Center. Mr. McLaughlin responded that this was something Council needed to consider as part of the capital projects financing. Mr. Herling reported on skate park users who were not wearing their helmets.

Under Capital Projects, Ms. Mach asked if there was agreement between the parties utilizing the Braden Field shed. Council asked that this matter get resolved prior to the FY 2010 budget discussions.

Gardenway/Spellman Overpass Plan

Mr. McLaughlin reported that phone lines were installed and staff would be bringing Council a plan to contract with Avrio for the security cameras.

Other Matters

Mr. McLaughlin requested agenda items from Council for the meeting with County Executive Johnson.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:30 pm.

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