



**REGULAR MEETING OF THE GREENBELT CITY COUNCIL held
Monday, September 8, 2008.**

Mayor Davis called the meeting to order at 8:05 p.m.

ROLL CALL was answered by Councilmembers Konrad E. Herling, Leta M. Mach, Rodney M. Roberts, Edward V. J. Putens and Mayor Judith F. Davis.

ALSO PRESENT were David Moran, Assistant City Manager; John F. Shay Jr., City Solicitor, and Cindy Murray, City Clerk.

Mayor Davis asked for a moment of silence in memory of residents Dennese Elsie Hopper and Demetri Nader and former residents Oliver Cone, William Shugrue Sr., Ruth Megill Hutchison, Jeffrey Ball and Martin Anderson. She also asked to remember Mildred Craze, mother of Police Chief Jim Craze. She then led the pledge of allegiance to the flag.

CONSENT AGENDA: Ms. Mach asked to remove the minutes from the July 21, 2008 work session and August 11, 2008 regular meeting from the consent agenda. It was moved by Mr. Herling and seconded by Mr. Putens that the consent agenda be approved as amended. The motion passed 5-0.

Council thereby took the following actions:

MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETINGS

Work Session, July 28, 2008

Work Session, August 6, 2008

Interview, August 11, 2008

Work Session, August 18, 2008

Approved as presented.

PERMISSION FOR GREENELT HOMES, INC. INTERPRETIVE PANEL: The City Council authorized the placement of Greenbelt Homes, Inc. interpretive panel in city right-of-way on Hamilton Place.

RESIGNATION FROM ADVISORY GROUP: Council accepted Luisa Robles' resignation from the Forest Preserve Advisory Board.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: Mayor Davis asked to add as item #20 "Addition to Stakeholders List" and Ms. Mach asked to add as #21 "Appointment to Advisory Board" to the agenda. It was moved by Mr. Putens and seconded by Mr. Herling that the agenda be approved as amended. The motion carried 5-0.

PRESENTATIONS: There were none.

PETITIONS AND REQUESTS: There were none

MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETINGS:

Work Session, July 21, 2008 and Regular Meeting, August 11, 2008: Ms. Mach asked to correct the minutes of the July 21, 2008, work session to indicate she was not present at this meeting and to correct the minutes of the August 11, 2008 regular meeting to indicate that Ms. Sharon Vanzego is the new Service Coordinator for Green Ridge House, not Greenbelt Homes, Inc. With these changes, the minutes were approved 5-0 on a motion by Mr. Putens, seconded by Mr. Herling.

Executive Session of August 20, 2008: Mr. Roberts moved that the minutes of the executive session of the City Council held Wednesday, August 20, 2008, be approved as presented. He further requested that the minutes of this meeting reflect that the Council met in executive session at 8:04 p.m. in the Council Room 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. Mr. Putens seconded the motion.

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

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS:

Mr. Moran reported that three trees had received minor damage as a result of Tropical Storm Hanna.

Ms. Mach reported she had attended the Prince George's County School Board Public Hearing on the Capital Improvement Program and noted construction on the new Greenbelt Middle School is expected to be complete by school year 2010. Ms. Mach also reported she had attended the KaBOOM Forum and announced that Greenbelt had again received designation as a Playful City USA.

Mayor Davis and Ms. Mach commented on the Maryland Association of Youth Services Bureau's Advocacy in Action Award presentation to Lt. Governor Anthony Brown.

Mr. Herling reported that he, along with Mayor Davis and Ms. Mach, had attended the Greenbelt Little League Banquet. He also reported attending the memorial service for Mildred Craze, Chief Craze's mother.

Mayor Davis noted her attendance at the Maryland Municipal League's Board of Directors Retreat, the annual Pooch Plunge and the Artful Afternoon's Sock Hop. She also noted she had represented Council by presenting celebratory letters to the widow and sons of Larry Noel in honor of the 50th Larry Noel 15K Race.

Mayor Davis commented on the success of the Labor Day Festival and thanked the Labor Day Festival Committee, the Police, Recreation, Planning and Community Development and Public Works Departments and all the organizations that had participated in the festival and parade. She congratulated Ms. Leonie Penney for being named Greenbelt's Outstanding Citizen.

LEGISLATION

A Resolution of the City of Greenbelt Adopted Pursuant to the Authority of Article XI-E of the

Constitution of Maryland and Section 13 of Article 23a of the Annotated Code of Maryland, (1957 Edition as Amended), Title, "Corporation-Municipal," Subtitle "Home Rule" to Amend the Charter of the City of Greenbelt Found, in Whole or in Part, in the Compilation of Municipal Charters of Maryland (1983 Edition as Amended), as Prepared by the Department of Legislative Reference Pursuant to Chapter 77 of the Acts of the General Assembly of Maryland of 1983, by Amending Paragraph (d), "Powers," of Section 12, Titled "Employee Relations Board" (Charter Amendment Resolution No. 2008-1)

Mayor Davis read the agenda comments. Mr. Roberts introduced the resolution for second reading and moved its adoption. Mr. Putens seconded.

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

The Resolution was declared passed (Resolution No. 1030, Book 8)

A Resolution to Repeal Resolution #1002 and to Establish Fees and Penalties Related to the Administration and Enforcement of Chapter 4 "Buildings and Building Regulations" of the Greenbelt City Code

Mayor Davis read the agenda comments. Ms. Mach introduced the resolution for second reading and adoption. Mr. Herling seconded.

ROLL CALL: Mr. Herling - yes
Ms. Mach - yes
Mr. Putens - yes
Mr. Roberts - no
Mayor Davis - yes

Mr. Roberts commented he felt the fee increase was actually a tax increase and he didn't feel this was a good time to be increasing taxes. He also questioned the need for an additional inspector when Council had been informed a few years ago that there was no substandard housing in Greenbelt. Mayor Davis stated the fee increase to pay for an additional inspector had been discussed during budget preparation and also during the visioning sessions. She commented there is now some substandard housing in the city, partly due to the increase in the number of home foreclosures. Mr. Putens and Ms. Mach expressed the need for an additional inspector to ensure all rental properties receive proper inspections. Mr. Herling commented the increase in inspection fees would send a message to Empirian Village that the city is serious about holding property owners responsible for their rental properties.

The Resolution was declared passed (Resolution No. 1038, Book 8)

A Resolution of the City of Greenbelt, Maryland, to Participate in the Maryland Municipal League Geocache Trail

Mayor Davis read the agenda comments. Ms. Mach introduced the resolution for first reading and moved suspension of the rules in order to allow second reading and passage of the ordinance tonight. Mr. Herling seconded.

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

Ms. Mach noted the idea of local geocaching had originated during a Greenbelt Artful Afternoon discussion and she then took the idea to the Maryland Municipal League's Communications Committee.

Ms. Mach introduced the resolution for second reading and moved that it be adopted. Mr. Putens seconded.

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

The resolution was declared adopted (Resolution No. 1039, Book 8).

A Resolution to Negotiate the Purchase of a Vermeer BC1000XL Drum Style Brush Chipper for the Public Works Department with Vermeer Mid-Atlantic, Inc., of Annapolis Junction, Maryland at a Cost of \$27,384

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

An Ordinance to Amend Section 17-24, “Posting Notices Prohibited,” of the Greenbelt City Code

Mayor Davis read the agenda comments and introduced the ordinance for first reading. Mayor Davis asked if the ordinance included signs on utility poles. Mr. Moran advised it included signs on utility poles on city right-of-way. Mayor Davis asked about signs on county and state right-of-ways. Mr. Shay advised the ordinance wording “public property” is to encompass signs on all public property. He noted the city has already received permission from the State to remove signs on their right-of-ways and may need to obtain permission from the County.

Mr. Putens mentioned a letter received from Ms. Falcão stating her concern the ordinance would prohibit yard sale signs. Mayor Davis and Mr. Roberts asked if language could be added to allow for residential yard sale signs that are normally put up for only one or two days over the weekend. Mr. Shay said his office would work with the City Manager’s office regarding these concerns and possible amendments to the ordinance would be made for next meeting.

Presentation on Greenbelt Action Center: Mayor Davis read the agenda comments and introduced Mr. Dale Worley, the City’s Information Technology Manager.

Mr. Worley demonstrated the Greenbelt Action Center, a new feature to the Greenbelt CityLink website that enhances the City’s ability to communicate and respond to citizens. Mr. Worley explained how citizens can find information on this site by searching Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs), ask questions and request city services. City staff can view all citizens’ questions and requests. Although the Public Works Department is the only city department to have its FAQs posted at this time, the Greenbelt Action Center tool will grow as additional departments are included and their FAQs are added.

Ms. Mach asked who is maintaining and updating the site. Mr. Worley explained that each department is responsible for the content of their information. Mayor Davis asked Mr. Worley to provide an update on the Greenbelt Action Center in one-two months.

Award of Contract for FY 2009 Street Construction Work: Mayor Davis read the agenda comments.

Mr. Putens moved that the City Council approve the Award of Contract for FY 2009 Street Construction Work to NZI Construction of Beltsville, Maryland at an estimated total cost of \$330,000 including the allowance for the asphalt price adjustment. Mr. Herling seconded. The motion passed 5-0.

Mayor Davis mentioned crosswalks were needed at major intersections on Walker Drive and asked if there was enough room for bike lanes. Mr. Moran will ask staff and respond back.

Community Development Block Grant Application for PY 35: Mayor Davis read the agenda comments.

Mr. Roberts moved that the City Council approve submission of the Community Development Block Grant Application for PY 35. Ms. Mach seconded. The motion passed 5-0.

Additions to stakeholders meeting list: Mayor Davis moved to add Watershed Groups on an annual schedule and Apartment Complexes on a bi-annual schedule to the stakeholders meeting list. Ms. Mach seconded. The motion passed 5-0.

APPOINTMENTS TO ADVISORY GROUPS: Ms. Mach moved to appoint April Vega to the Arts Advisory Board. Mr. Herling seconded. The motion passed 5-0.

MEETINGS: Council reviewed the meeting schedule. Mayor Davis asked to move the work session with REAC on the pesticide report to the “ready to be scheduled” list. She noted the County Board of Elections work session would be scheduled after November.

ADJOURNMENT: A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Ms. Mach and seconded by Mr. Roberts. The motion carried 5-0. The Mayor adjourned the regular meeting of Monday, September 8, 2008, at 9:30 pm.

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 September 8, 2008.

Judith F. Davis
Mayor