



REGULAR MEETING OF THE GREENBELT CITY COUNCIL held December 10, 2007.

Mayor Davis called the meeting to order at 8:04 p.m.

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

ALSO PRESENT were Michael P. McLaughlin, City Manager; John F. Shay, City Solicitor and David E. Moran, Acting City Clerk.

Mayor Davis asked for a moment of silence in honor of former resident and Greenbelt Pioneer Donald H. Cooper and former resident Norma Hofberg. She then led the pledge of allegiance to the flag.

CONSENT AGENDA: It was moved by Mr. Putens and seconded by Mr. Herling the consent agenda be approved. The motion passed 5-0.

Council thereby took the following actions:

MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETINGS

- Regular Meeting, October 22, 2007
- Work Session, November 12, 2007
- Special Charter Meeting, November 12, 2007
- Work Session, November 19, 2007
- Work Session, November 28, 2007

Approved as presented.

SENIOR CITIZEN ADVISORY COMMITTEE REPORT (2007 OPEN FORUM): Council accepted this report.

NEW DEAL CAFÉ – DEFERRAL OF RENT PAYMENT

Council agreed to temporarily suspend New Deal's rent for a period of three months starting with December 2007 through February 2008. The suspended rent will be added to the debt owed to the City.

RESIGNATION FROM ADVISORY GROUP

Council accepted Neal Barnett's resignation from the Recycling and Environment Advisory Committee.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: It was moved by Mr. Putens and seconded by Ms. Mach that the agenda be approved as presented. The motion passed 5-0.

RECOGNITION OF DELEGATE TAWANNA GAINES BY MAYSB: The Maryland Association of Youth Services Bureaus (MAYSB) presented Delegate Tawanna Gaines with their 2007 “Advocacy in Action - Legislator of the Year” award for her tireless efforts on behalf of the youth and families of Maryland. Liz Park, MAYSB President, introduced other Youth Service Bureau directors from across Maryland and recited the contributions made by Delegate Gaines. Dr. Park presented the award to Delegate Gaines. Delegate Gaines thanked MAYSB for the award.

BILL OF RIGHTS DAY/HUMAN RIGHTS DAY – PROCLAMATION: Mayor Davis noted that Eleanor Roosevelt was instrumental in human rights and served as a member of the United Nations Commission on Human Rights. The Mayor read a proclamation recognizing December 10 as Human Rights Day and December 15 as Bill of Rights Day. Doug Love of 3-D Plateau Place distributed copies of the Bill of Rights and thanked Council for the proclamation.

PETITIONS AND REQUESTS: There were none.

MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETINGS

Executive Session of December 3, 2007: Mr. Roberts moved that the minutes of the executive session of the City Council held Monday, December 3, 2007, 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 on a legal matter related to the Charlestowne North Apartments. Mr. Putens seconded.

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

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS: Mr. McLaughlin invited the community to Bill Phelan’s retirement celebration. Next, he reminded everyone about the Greenbelt New Year program. Then, he announced the visioning sessions for January 12, 26 & February 2.

Mayor Davis asked if the Board of Education had updated the City on the Greenbelt Middle School plans or scheduled community forums yet. Mr. McLaughlin responded that staff would follow-up on these item.

Ms. Mach commented on the tree lighting, craft show and also the “Greenbelt in Focus” program. She reported that the art-work on the front page of the Book World section of the Washington Post was done by a nine year old Greenbelt resident named Linda Kuo.

Mr. Herling reported on a College Park meeting regarding increased traffic along Route 1 due to development and the need for additional transit. He noted Neal Barnett's departure from REAC.

Mayor Davis noted Festival of lights events and thanked the Recreation and Public Works departments. She reported on Senator Pinsky's town hall meeting and a community partners meeting hosted by the County Department of Public Works.

LEGISLATION

An Ordinance to Amend Chapter 19, "Taxation," of the Greenbelt City Code in Order to Repeal and Reenact with Amendments Section 19-1 for the Purpose of Establishing a City Homeowners' Property Tax Credit Program Indexed to the State of Maryland's Homeowners' Property Tax Credit Program.

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

ROLL CALL: Mr. Herling - yes

Ms. Mach - yes

Mr. Putens - yes

Mr. Roberts - yes

Mayor Davis - yes

The ordinance was declared passed (Ordinance No. 1293, Book 12)

COMMUNITY RELATIONS ADVISORY BOARD/PUBLIC SAFETY ADVISORY COMMITTEE JOINT REPORT ON PUBLIC SAFETY IN THE VICINITY OF SPELLMAN OVERPASS : Mayor Davis read the agenda comments.

Mr. Putens asked about the number of cameras being proposed. Mr. McLaughlin responded that no specifics were being proposed.

Mayor Davis noted that under proper maintenance, Public Works had already made repairs to the City's fence. She indicated that the City had sent a letter to the National Park Service requesting maintenance on their fencing on the overpass itself.

Ms. Mach noted that a Gardenway resident had suggested moving the playground closer to the parking lot and though this merited consideration. She also suggested that the closed slide at the playground there be replaced with an open slide. Ms. Mach also noted that someone had suggested use of motorcycles and she thought these might have a dual use.

Mr. Roberts stated that it was necessary to have a police presence in the area. He asked if the City was still committing police officers to the area and stressed the need for police presence when students are going to and from school.

Mr. Herling advocated for the use of bikes. Mr. Herling suggested the City consider solar lighting. He also asked if a roof could be installed on the overpass. Mr. Herling asked about lights on the overpass. Mr. McLaughlin responded that the National Park Service has standards for the lights on the overpass itself.

Mr. Roberts believed continued police presence was the most important recommendation on the list and stressed the need for a dedicated police presence.

Mr. Herling expressed concern that the fencing on the overpass gives a prison-like feeling and suggested a different design.

Mayor Davis encouraged more door-to-door communication occur and also outreach to students themselves. Ms. Mach suggested a referral to a student group.

Ms. Mach moved that Council approve the first seven recommendations in the joint CRAB and PSAC report with the understanding that staff will begin to proceed on the items and bring a plan of action to Council in January. The eighth recommendation is not directed to the City, but to the residents of the area . Mr. Putens seconded.

Mr. Roberts asked about the continued level of police presence. Mr. McLaughlin responded that there wasn't a specific amount or times being committed. He stated he would ask the Chief for more specifics on patrol levels. Mr. Putens and Mayor Davis favored getting a report from the police department. Mr. Roberts indicated he would vote for the motion, but didn't like the vagueness of the continued police presence item.

Mr. Putens suggested meeting with CRAB & PSAC to review the report and discuss the staff action plan. He also indicated that the City may eventually want to consider whether or not to hire staff to monitor the cameras.

The motion passed 5 to 0.

AWARD OF PURCHASE – POLICE CARS: Mayor Davis read the agenda comments.

Mr. Roberts moved that Council purchase eight police vehicles from State of Maryland contract #001B8900267 with Criswell Chevrolet of Gaithersburg, Maryland at a cost of \$143,142. Mr. Herling seconded. The motion passed 5 to 0.

AWARD OF PURCHASE – CLASSIFICATION/COMPENSATION STUDY : Mayor Davis read the agenda comments.

Mr. Herling moved that the Council approve contracting with Slavin Management Consultants to do a classification and compensation study in accord with their proposal of November 8, 2007. Mr. Putens seconded.

Ms. Mach noted that the proposal did appear more employee friendly. Mr. McLaughlin discussed some of the potential for saving on travel expenses in the proposal.

Mayor Davis suggested that the City notify the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments about this study, since they too were doing a study.

Mr. Putens asked about job descriptions. Mr. McLaughlin responded that the consultant planned to develop new position descriptions.

The motion passed 5 to 0.

APPOINTMENT OF COUNCILMEMBERS TO BOARDS AND COMMITTEES : Mayor Davis read the agenda comments.

Mr. Herling moved the following appointments to City advisory groups and organizations as well as various COG boards and committees.

Advisory Planning Board - Mr. Putens
Arts Advisory Board - Mr. Roberts
Community Relations Advisory Board - Mr. Putens
Park and Recreation Advisory Board - Mr. Herling
Advisory Committee on Education - Ms. Mach
Public Safety Advisory Committee - Mr. Putens
Recycling & Environment Advisory Committee - Mr. Herling
Senior Citizens Advisory Committee - Ms. Mach
Youth Advisory Committee - Mr. Roberts
Friends of the Greenbelt Museum Board - Mayor Davis
Greenbelt Access Television Board - Mr. Herling

Council also made the following appointments to Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (MWCOG):

Board of Directors - Mayor Davis, Alternate - Mr. Roberts
Transportation Planning Board - Mr. Roberts, Alternate - Mr. Herling
Metropolitan Washington Air Quality Comm. - Ms. Mach, Alternate - Mr. Herling
Metropolitan Development Policy Committee - Mr. Herling, Alternate - Ms. Mach
Human Services Policy Committee - Mr. Putens, Alternate - Mayor Davis
Public Safety Policy Committee - Mr. Putens, Alternate - Mayor Davis
Chesapeake Bay Policy Committee - Mayor Davis, Alternate - Mr. Putens
Aviation Policy Committee - Mr. Moran
Mr. Putens seconded. The motion passed 5 to 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 5 to 0. The Mayor adjourned the regular meeting of December 10, 2007, at 10:02 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

David E. Moran
Acting 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 December 10, 2007.

Judith F. Davis
Mayor