

WORK SESSION OF THE GREENBELT CITY COUNCIL held Wednesday, April 6, 2011, for the purpose of reviewing the Public Safety section of the Proposed FY 2012 Budget.

Mayor Davis called the meeting to order at 8:02 p.m. It was held in the Multi-Purpose Room of the Community Center.

PRESENT WERE: Councilmembers Konrad E. Herling, Emmett V. Jordan, Leta M. Mach, Silke I. Pope, Edward V. J. Putens, Rodney M. Roberts and Mayor Judith F. Davis.

STAFF PRESENT WERE: Michael P. McLaughlin, City Manager; Jeff Williams, City Treasurer; Chief James Craze, Capts. Tom Kemp, Carl Schinner and Dan O'Neil, Lts. Jim Parker and John Barrett, MPO's Kelly Lawson, Michael Apgar, Scott Yankowy, Scott Kaiser and Mike Dewey, Police Department; and Cindy Murray, City Clerk.

ALSO PRESENT WERE: Laura Kressler and Luis Vázquez, Public Safety Advisory Committee; Kathleen Gallagher, News Review; Kelly Ivy, Molly Lester and others.

Greenbelt Volunteer Fire Department & Rescue Squad

A representative from the Greenbelt Fire Department and Rescue Squad (GVFDRS) was not present. Staff will contact GVFDRS and attempt to reschedule their review for another evening.

Police Department

The 2010 Annual Report was reviewed in a slide presentation highlighting the department's organizational structure and accomplishments.

MPO Mike Dewey provided an update on the new Computer Aided Dispatch and Records Management System. The renovation of the dispatch office is expected to be complete in approximately seven days.

Capt. Schinner reported the officers normally assigned to the Patrol Commanders Squad (PCS) have been filling in on other squads due to staffing shortages. He said he expects the PCS to be fully staffed when three new recruits graduate and are assigned to regular duties.

Ms. Mach questioned whether CARES becomes involved when police have interactions with juveniles. Capt. Schinner said copies of reports dealing with juveniles living in the City are provided to CARES.

Mr. Jordan asked about community outreach efforts in Greenbelt West. Chief Craze said the Department continues outreach efforts to residents in all areas of the City through individual contacts, homeowners associations and other community groups.

Councilmember Pope asked about the status of neighborhood watch groups. MPO Lawson said she continues to work with these groups but mentioned recruiting members had been difficult, even in Old Greenbelt. She said consideration was being given to combining some of the smaller watch groups.

Mayor Davis commented that six sedan vehicles or five SUV vehicles were proposed for purchase next fiscal year. Capt. O'Neil explained that Police staff is conducting an analysis of police vehicles to determine the best type to meet the needs of the Department.

There was discussion regarding the Speed Camera Program. It was noted that a sworn officer is required to sign off on all violations and the officer is also required to appear in court when violations are contested. Mr. McLaughlin said staff would be further reviewing this program.

Mayor Davis requested an update on the Citizens Emergency Response Team (CERT). Capt. Kemp said he would provide a detailed report on CERT to Council. He added that the group had been revitalized recently under the direction of Ken Silberman.

Laura Kressler, Chair of the Public Safety Advisory Committee (PSAC), said PSAC will be holding a Public Safety Fair Day later this year. Mr. Putens mentioned that PSAC is requesting an increase in funding to \$1,000 for next fiscal year.

Capt. Schinner explained that, in his perspective as Patrol Commander, patrol squads are currently insufficiently staffed. He said that patrol squads are unable to respond to two priority incidents simultaneously or cover one large crime scene during most shifts. He said the addition of eight officers, two per patrol squad, would provide sufficient staffing; and the addition of four officers, one per patrol squad, would make a significant difference.

Kelly Ivy, 38 Lakeside Drive and an Associate Member of Greenbelt Fraternal Order of Police Lodge, stressed the need to hire additional officers. He said public safety should be the number one priority of the City and, if necessary, other City services and funding should be cut to provide the funding. Molly Lester, resident, also spoke in support of hiring additional patrol officers. After discussion, Council requested funding for four new officers be added to the budget wish list for further consideration.

Informational Items

Several informational items were discussed.

The meeting ended at 11:04 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

*Cindy Murray
City Clerk*