



WORK SESSION OF THE GREENBELT CITY COUNCIL held Wednesday, October 5, 2005, for the purpose of receiving a quarterly update from the City Manager.

Mayor Davis called the meeting to order at 8:00 p.m. It was held in the Senior Classroom of the Community Center.

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; and Kathleen Gallagher, City Clerk.

ALSO PRESENT WAS: Kelly Ivy.

Mr. McLaughlin said that since this was the first quarter, there was not a great deal to report. He said FY 2005 had ended better than had been anticipated, with revenues \$145,000 higher and expenses \$200,000 lower than expected. The increased revenues were primarily from income taxes and parking tickets. The latter was because the relationship with Data Ticket was finally stabilized. Decreased expenditures were in part attributable to lower red light camera expenses, but electricity and building maintenance costs were also lower than had been projected.

Mr. McLaughlin also pointed out the credit the City is receiving from LGIT over a three-year period. He said the estimated fund balance is about \$1 million – better than estimated in March, but still not what it should be.

For August, real estate taxes are up, with the second Patriot Office Park building having come on board six months ahead of schedule.

In going through specific items, Mr. Ivy noted that Fairfax has sent surplus police cars south to the hurricane-impacted areas. Mr. McLaughlin said he had asked Public Works to think about that option after determining whether vehicles can be used in the City. He added that about half the employees had contributed sick leave to create a donation to the Red Cross and that the deadline would be extended.

Reviewing management objectives, it was explained that the energy purchase contract was for only six months and would then be reviewed again.

The Mayor asked what had happened to the priority list for the playgrounds. She said it appeared that the work being done was still on “last year’s playgrounds.” Mr. McLaughlin suggested the prioritization would probably appear after all the agreements were signed.

There was discussion of ROAM Alert and whether Councilmembers were included in the list to receive practice alerts. Ms. Mach said she had received nothing. Mr. McLaughlin said he would check with David Moran. There was also discussion of the county’s planned phone-alert system and going back to air-raid type sirens.

Mr. McLaughlin reviewed the Institutional Network, saying it was soon to be operational but should have been years ago.

Mr. Putens suggested looking at whether additional staff or contract help was needed in IT and whether this should be given higher priority. The Mayor noted that additional staff was also needed for the Planning and the Recreation Departments.

Mr. Putens raised a question about traffic-calming on Megan Lane, which he said did not look in its initial stages of the roadwork as he had expected it to. Mr. McLaughlin said he would check on it.

There was discussion of planning for the 70th and 75th anniversaries. Mr. McLaughlin suggested hosting MML again, which had not been done since the 50th. The Mayor suggested looking into the current criteria, which she said now tend to eliminate most cities from eligibility.

There were no concerns regarding items on the CAR Report.

For FY 2006, there is strong interest in upgrading crosswalks. It was noted that there are eight objectives, in particular, that were highly rated by Councilmembers.

The Mayor said it had been agreed that Council should have a budget preview meeting with the City Manager in January, and the next quarterly update should also be in January.

Other Business

Mr. McLaughlin said there had been a request from the FOP for a table at the fall festival. They were told they were welcome to be there but the City would not provide the table for that or other political efforts so it would not appear that the City had taken a position.

Mr. Manzi has recommended Fred Sussman to the City for work on the annexation issue. The Mayor said she had asked Mr. McLaughlin to get in touch with the Concrete Institute.

Mr. McLaughlin said there would be an event on Saturday at 2 p.m. at Ora Glen and Mathew Streets with Delegate Ross to highlight the change in speed signs.

Mr. Herling gave a preview of the upcoming film festival.

The meeting was adjourned at about 9:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathleen Gallagher
City Clerk

