



---

**REGULAR MEETING OF THE GREENBELT CITY COUNCIL held November 8, 2004.**

Mayor Davis called the meeting to order at 8:01 p.m.

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

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

Mayor Davis asked for a moment of silence in honor of former resident and Greenbelt Pioneer Lorraine Mullen Nuzzo, as well as Thomas Peters, father of County Councilmember Douglas J.J. Peters. The Mayor then led the pledge of allegiance to the flag.

CONSENT AGENDA: Mayor Davis asked to remove the minutes of the October 25, 2004, meeting from the consent agenda, and Ms. Mach asked to remove the report from the Park & Recreation Advisory Board. Mr. Putens then moved that the consent agenda be approved as amended. Ms. Mach seconded the motion, which passed 5-0.

Council thereby took the following actions:

**MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETINGS**

- Interview, October 27, 2004

Approved as presented.

RESIGNATIONS/TERMINATION FROM ADVISORY GROUPS: Council accepted resignations from Jennifer Sager Cosgrove from the Advisory Committee on Trees, Paul Downs from the Forest Preserve Task Force, and Walter Moody from the Public Safety Advisory Committee. Council also removed Donna Osler from the Arts Advisory Board, since the board has been unable to locate her, and it is believed that she has moved out of town.

APPOINTMENT TO ADVISORY GROUP: Council appointed John W. Beauchamp to the Advisory Committee on Trees.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: Mr. Roberts asked to add "Process of the Springhill Lake Development Proposal" to the agenda as item #17. It was moved by Mr. Herling and seconded by Mr. Putens that the agenda be approved with that addition. The motion carried 5-0.

**PRESENTATIONS**

America Recycles Day – Proclamation: Mayor Davis read the agenda comments and presented a proclamation to Neal Barnett, Chair, Recycling & Environment Advisory Committee (REAC), declaring November 15 to be America Recycles Day. She thanked the Recycling & Environment Advisory Committee, Cindy Murray, and other staff of Public Works for their efforts in this area. She also commented on the success of the most recent electronics recycling day. Mr. Barnett described the process to take place next week, when REAC members and Public Works staff would inspect bins for the “Recycling Right” competition, the winners of which will be announced at Council’s November 22 meeting.

Suicide Prevention Campaign 2004 – Briefing: Mayor Davis read the agenda comments. Christal Batey, Community Resource Advocate, made brief remarks and then introduced Tim Jansen, Executive Director of Community Crisis Services, Inc., who described the success of the City’s participation in National Depression Screening Day in October. He said they hoped to use the Greenbelt experience as a model of community participation. Ms. Batey said funding from the Prince George’s County Department of Family Services, Aging Services Bureau, had made the program possible. She also commented on comparative data for the City from 2003 and 2004, for purposes of evaluating the four-month program leading up to the screening day. Mayor Davis presented a citation of appreciation from the City Council to Mr. Jansen for the staff and volunteers of Community Crisis Services, Inc., and asked that a second citation be passed on to Helen Barnes, who oversaw the program on behalf of the county Department of Social Services. Council also praised Ms. Batey for her work in initiating the program.

Ms. Mach asked what happened to the plan to include the high school as a site for the screenings. Ms. Batey said it had been too late in the academic year to get on their schedule but they were now looking into incorporating presentations into their health sciences curriculum rather than screening.

Ms. Batey also announced the City had received a grant from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development for \$156,000 for three years for a full-time service coordinator to serve residents and individuals on the waiting list at Green Ridge House.

PETITIONS AND REQUESTS: None:

MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETINGS: Regarding the minutes of the October 25 meeting, Mayor Davis said she had not been present at the Buddy Attick Park clean-up on October 23 and asked that the minutes be corrected to reflect that and to indicate appreciation to those who planned and participated in the event. It was moved by Ms. Mach and seconded by Mr. Herling that the minutes be approved as amended. The motion passed 5-0.

#### ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

Mr. Moran reported on a forum he attended about the impacts of the aging population on transportation needs.

Mayor Davis thanked Beverly Palau, Information and Communications Coordinator, for coordinating a briefing on Greenbelt and a tour for a group of government officials from

Japan. Kristen Ward, Community Planner, and Katie Scott-Childress, Museum Curator, also participated. She also reported on the annual public safety awards dinner held by American Legion Post 136, at which MPO Mike Mesol was named Greenbelt's Police Officer of the Year and Jay Remenick received the award from the Greenbelt Volunteer Fire Department and Rescue Squad. Mayor Davis said the Fire Department's open house had been held October 30 and that the Legion's Veterans Day commemoration would be held at 10 a.m. at Roosevelt Center. She also reported attending the opening of Dynamix, a new company located on Edmonston Road.

COMMITTEE REPORTS: Ms. Mach said she had removed the acceptance of Park & Recreation Advisory Board Report #04-7, regarding the removal of old playground equipment from Buddy Attick Park from the consent agenda because of concern about the eventual fate of the steel drum roller, which was described in the report as potentially dangerous despite meeting all current safety laws. After some discussion, Council directed staff to dispose of this equipment rather than reusing it.

LEGISLATION: None.

GREENBELT MIDDLE SCHOOL – STATUS OF RENOVATION/EXPANSION PLANS: Mayor Davis read the agenda comments. Mr. Roberts asked the status of the \$1 million that County Councilmember Peters had acquired for interim work on the Middle School. Ms. Mach said that when the Advisory Committee on Education (ACE) posed that question, it was told the funding had been assigned to planning. Mr. McLaughlin said he thought it was supposed to be used for planning unless it would not be adequate for planning. There was discussion of who would have been authorized to make the decision on how it should be spent. It was agreed to hold all of these matters, including the status of the item on the School Board Capital Improvement Project list, which was the topic that caused the topic to be raised by ACE, for the agenda of a work session to be scheduled with the School Board early in the new calendar year.

ORDER OF BUSINESS: It was moved by Mr. Herling and seconded by Ms. Mach that item #14 be taken up ahead of item #12, since the Fire Department representatives had arrived.

GREENBELT VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT – RENEWAL OF LEASE: Mayor Davis read the agenda comments. Jay Remenick, President of the Greenbelt Volunteer Fire Department and Rescue Squad (GVFD) and Chris Fleshman, Vice President, were present. With regard to the proposed Thursday evening bingo, Mr. Remenick said although they had stopped holding a daytime Wednesday bingo because it was not generating new revenues, they had determined there would be no competition for a Thursday night bingo. It was moved by Mr. Putens and seconded by Mr. Roberts that Council authorize the City Manager to sign a renewal of the Fire Department lease, to include allowing one evening and two daytime bingos. The motion passed 5-0.

Mayor Davis also read and presented to Mr. Remenick a proclamation recognizing him as Fire Officer of the Year. She explained the proclamation was being presented belatedly because the City had not been aware that he was receiving the award at the American Legion's annual banquet.

MDOT CONSOLIDATED TRANSPORTATION PROGRAM, FY 2005-2010: The Mayor read the agenda comments and pointed out that there were two nearby public meetings scheduled on what is now being called the Bi-County Transit Study, having become more focused on buses than on a purple line train: November 10 in New Carrollton and November 17 in College Park.

Terri Hruby, Assistant Director, Planning and Community Development, said there are a some new components of the program, including the funding of additional monies for the planning of the Kenilworth Avenue extension; a program called Metro Matters, which may be able to fund some items the City has been interested in, such as maps and route identification at bus stops; and plans for public hearings early in calendar year 2005 for the Inter-County Connector (ICC), with a start-date for building in 2006.

Mr. Roberts asked that a copy of the City's letter of comment be sent to State Senator Giannetti, since Mr. Roberts' conversations with him have indicated that he is supportive of the Kenilworth Avenue extension.

Mayor Davis said County Councilmember Dernoga should also be copied. She also suggested reversing the order of last year's letter and putting the items the City supports ahead of those it opposes. Ms. Mach supported reversing the order. She also suggested that the point be made that the ICC drains funds from other more worthwhile projects, and she suggested adding the City's opposition to the College Park I-95 connector road, noting that, with regard to that project as well as the Kenilworth extension, there are more useful projects to reduce congestion on Route 1, including improvement of the Rt. 1/Rhode Island Ave. intersection. With the additions suggested, it was moved by Ms. Mach and seconded by Mr. Putens that Council reiterate the City's previous positions, including its objections to the widening and extension of MD 201 and to the full Beltway interchange at the Greenbelt Metro Station as well as its support for the Bi-County Transit Study (Purple Line), with the draft letter to return to Council. The motion passed 5-0.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT (CDBG) APPLICATION – PY 31: Mayor Davis read the agenda comments. Mr. Moran clarified that parts of Center City that previously were eligible for this grant program no longer are, primarily because the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development has revised the criteria so that 51% of the population in the census district must now qualify as low-to-moderate income, compared with the previous 36-37%. Now only Springhill Lake is eligible. He said the City expects the money awarded last year for work on Crescent/Ridge Roads to be reprogrammed.

Mayor Davis asked if the proposed work in Springhill Lake would include traffic-calming measures. Mr. Moran said that would be evaluated, along with crosswalks. After considerable discussion, Mr. Roberts made a motion that Council authorize staff to apply for Community Development Block Grant funding for this year to reconstruct Breezewood Drive from Springhill Lane to Edmonston Road. Mr. Putens seconded the motion, which passed 5-0.

SPRINGHILL LAKE REDEVELOPMENT PROPOSAL: Mr. Roberts explained that he had asked to add this item to the agenda because he was getting the impression that the owner of the complex, AIMCO, was putting the cart before the horse in seeking county

approvals based upon one charette held in Beltsville on an "invitation only" basis. He said he was concerned that AIMCO might be presenting this as having the involvement and approval of the City, even though in reality there had been no opportunity as yet for public comment. Mr. Herling commented that at the charette last January, AIMCO had indicated its intention to hold a second, public charette. Mr. McLaughlin said he did not think they were actually seeking any county reviews, and Mayor Davis commented that she thought it probable that they were not even far enough along to hold the public charette. After some discussion, it was agreed that sending them a letter saying the City was getting mixed messages and requesting an update on the status of the process would be valuable, as well as contributing to the upcoming work session with AIMCO. Mr. Roberts moved that a letter be sent. Mr. Putens seconded the motion, which passed 5-0.

MEETINGS: Council reviewed the schedule of upcoming meetings. It was noted that the Greenbelt East tree lighting will occur on Sunday, December 12, at 7 p.m. and that a work session with the School Board should be added to the list of meetings to be scheduled.

ADJOURNMENT: A motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Putens and seconded by Ms. Mach. The motion carried 5-0. The Mayor adjourned the regular meeting of November 8, 2004, at 9:51 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathleen Gallagher

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 November 8, 2004.@

Judith F. Davis

Mayor