



---

**REGULAR MEETING OF GREENBELT CITY COUNCIL held October 7, 2002.**

Mayor Davis called the meeting to order at 8:10 p.m.

ROLL CALL was answered by Council members Edward V. J. Putens, Rodney M. Roberts, Alan Turnbull, Thomas X. White, and Mayor Judith F. Davis.

ALSO PRESENT were Michael P. McLaughlin, City Manager; David E. Moran, Assistant to the City Manager; Robert A. Manzi, City Solicitor; and Kathleen Gallagher, City Clerk.

Mayor Davis asked for a moment of silence in memory of resident Ethel B. Barrier and former residents Gladys Duffy and Robert E. Wilhide, as well as in sympathy with the victims of the shooting incidents in the metropolitan area of the last week and their family members. She then led the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag.

CONSENT AGENDA: It was moved by Mr. Turnbull 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**

- Work Session, September 18, 2002
- Interview, September 23, 2002
- Work Session, September 25, 2002
- Work Session, October 2, 2002

Approved as presented.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

- Advisory Committee on Education, Report #05-2002 (Search for Schools CEO): Council accepted this report and agreed to consider it later on tonight=s agenda.
- Advisory Committee on Education, Report #06-2002 (Proposed Use of Additional ACE Funds): Council received this report and will consider it on the agenda of the next regular meeting.
- Advisory Planning Board, Report #02-06 (Golden Triangle - Detailed Site Plan): Council received this report and will consider it on the agenda of the next meeting.

- Park & Recreation Advisory Board, Report #02-3 (Hoops at Windsor Green Ball Field): Council received this report and will consider it on a future agenda.

**RENEWAL OF FIRE DEPARTMENT LEASE:** Council approved renewal of the Fire Department lease and authorized the City Manager to sign the lease on the City's behalf.

**REAPPOINTMENTS TO ADVISORY GROUPS:** Council reappointed the following to new three-year terms on their current board or committee:

Sheldon Goldberg - Advisory Planning Board

Joyce Chestnut - Advisory Planning Board

Silke Pope - Public Safety Advisory Committee

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA:** Mr. Putens asked that AA Advisory Group Resignation and Appointments@ be added to the agenda as #19. Mr. Turnbull moved approval of the agenda as amended. Mr. White seconded the motion, which passed 5-0.

#### PRESENTATIONS

National Federation of the Blind - White Cane Safety Day - Proclamation: The Mayor read the agenda comments. Ken Silberman accepted the proclamation on behalf of the Southern Maryland Chapter of the National Federation of the Blind. Mr. Silberman thanked Council for the proclamation and also expressed appreciation for the cooperation of state and local governments in updating voting equipment to permit the blind and visually impaired to vote independently. He noted that the September primary election was the first time he had been able to cast his ballot alone and in privacy.

#### PETITIONS AND REQUESTS

Tour de Prince George's Bike Race and Festival: Beltway Plaza Mall was a sponsor of this event on Saturday, September 28, and Kap Kapastin, Quantum Companies, reported that it was very successful. He thanked the City for its cooperation, particularly noting the assistance of the Police Department. Fundraising from the event will result in a contribution to the Scholarship Fund of the Advisory Committee on Education.

Eleanor and Franklin Roosevelt Democratic Club: Kurt Walters presented a check for \$100 from the Club's membership for the City's Emergency Assistance Fund. Mayor Davis thanked him for this annual contribution.

#### MINUTES OF MEETINGS

Executive Session of September 18, 2002: Mr. Roberts moved that the minutes of the executive session of the City Council held Wednesday, September 18, 2002, be approved as presented. He further requested that the minutes of this meeting reflect that the Council met in executive session at 9:35 p.m. in the Senior Classroom of the

Community Center, following a work session. Council held this closed meeting in accordance with Section 10-508 (a)(3) of the State Government Article of the Annotated Code of Public General Laws of Maryland to consider the acquisition of real property for a public purpose and matters directly related thereto. The topic of the meeting was the Jaeger Tract. Mr. Turnbull seconded the motion.

ROLL CALL Mr. Putens - yes

Mr. Roberts - yes

Mr. Turnbull - yes

Mr. White - yes

Mayor Davis - yes

Executive Session of October 2, 2002: Mr. Roberts moved that the minutes of the executive session of the City Council held Wednesday, October 2, 2002, be approved as presented. He further requested that the minutes of this meeting reflect that the Council met in executive session at 8:45 p.m. in the Senior Classroom of the Community Center, following a work session. Council held this closed meeting in accordance with Section 10-508 (a)(3) of the State Government Article of the Annotated Code of Public General Laws of Maryland to consider the acquisition of real property for a public purpose and matters directly related thereto. The topic of the meeting was the Jaeger Tract. Mr. Turnbull seconded the motion.

ROLL CALL Mr. Putens - yes

Mr. Roberts - yes

Mr. Turnbull - yes

Mr. White - yes

Mayor Davis - yes

#### ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

Lt. Thomas Kemp updated Council on the response of the Greenbelt Police Department to the shooting at Tasker Middle School in Bowie, as well as their cooperation with the county police on what has become a regional problem.

David Moran, Assistant to the City Manager, updated Council on Peace Month activities.

Mr. White reported on the final Greenbelt Road Neighborhood Conservation Project Task Force meeting at the end of last month. In response to questions from Mr. Turnbull, he clarified that public comment will be sought during the next phase of activity. He and Mayor Davis described issues involving defining bicycle routes, including the part of

Greenbelt Road that passes over Kenilworth Avenue and the area near Beltway Plaza, which might be routed through Berwyn Heights.

Mayor Davis reported on attending, with the other Maryland mayors, a September 25 luncheon with the federal delegation at the Capitol. She attended the opening of the new animal biotechnology facility at BARC, which is a University of Maryland-U.S. Department of Agriculture partnership. Mayor Davis, Mr. White, Mr. Putens, Mr. McLaughlin, and Mr. Moran attended the Maryland Municipal League Legislative Conference in Annapolis.

## LEGISLATION

A Resolution of the City of Greenbelt, Maryland, to Authorize Acceptance of a Historic Preservation Grant from the Maryland Historical Trust and Acceptance of the Requirement for a Preservation Easement on the Property and to Authorize the City Manager to Execute All Necessary Documents: Mayor Davis read the agenda comments. Mr. Roberts introduced the resolution for first reading.

LETTER TO SEARCH COMMITTEE RE: PRINCE GEORGE=S COUNTY SCHOOLS CEO: Mayor Davis read the agenda comments. Leta Mach, chair of the Advisory Committee on Education (ACE), told Council that the School Board has stated three requirements for the position: a master=s degree, with a doctorate preferred; residence in the county; and at least five years of senior executive experience with oversight for at least 500 employees. She noted that virtually all of ACE=s recommendations have been brought up by others at the public sessions held by the search committee.

Mayor Davis said she would make two additions to the ACE recommendations: include teachers on the list of employees the new CEO should have the ability to recruit and retain; and add skills and knowledge in the areas of financial management and grantsmanship.

Mr. Turnbull said he did not think Council should endorse the statement included in the report that comments directly on the incumbent. Noting that people have a wide range of opinions on this, he said that while ACE had apparently come to consensus on it, he saw no need for Council to attempt to do so or, for that matter, to voice any opinions at all on specific candidates. Mayor Davis agreed, saying Council should limit itself to endorsing the qualifications put forward by ACE.

Mr. White said he agreed with ACE=s opinion and would support a statement from Council affirming the report. Mr. Putens said he would not alter the ACE report and would leave the comment on the CEO in. Mr. White moved, and Mr. Putens seconded, that a letter be sent on Council=s behalf that included the Mayor=s suggestions and that reiterated the ACE statement on the interim CEO.

Mr. Turnbull clarified that it was not his intention to debate the interim CEO=s merits; rather, he thought there was neither any reason for Council to express an opinion on any candidate at this time nor any benefit to the City in so doing. Mr. Roberts suggested that perhaps such comment was premature and that it might be more timely to express comment on specific candidates in the spring, when the public interviews are held. With Mr. Putens= concurrence, Mr. White amended his motion to include only the

qualification and the revisions suggested by the Mayor. It was understood that these revisions would be to the statement made in a letter to the search committee that would be specific to the qualifications to be sought and that the report itself would stand as written and submitted by ACE. The motion passed 5-0.

**BELTWAY PLAZA BUILDING PERMIT APPLICATION:** Mayor Davis read the agenda comments. Terri Hruby, Community Planner, commented that this application was not subject to county approval. She said Kap Kapastin and David Sullivan, representing Beltway Plaza, had been very cooperative with the City in working on this project.

Regarding storm-water management, Mr. Sullivan said since the existing site is all impervious, the county has waived any additional requirements.

Regarding the ongoing landscaping problems at the CVS Drug Store, Mr. Sullivan commented that with the new building constructed, Beltway Plaza will maintain that area. Mr. Roberts said he strongly encouraged them to look into irrigation and that it would prove cost-effective in the long run.

There was considerable discussion of access in and out of this part of Beltway Plaza from Cherrywood Lane and the extent to which it would prove possible to limit left-turns, both in and out. Mr. Kapastin expressed a strong aversion to use of bollards in this location on Cherrywood, noting their unattractive appearance on Hanover Parkway. Mr. Turnbull was in favor of eliminating the entrance from the southbound side of Cherrywood, considering it to be a hazard to pedestrians crossing from the stores to the parking lot on the Greenbelt Road side. Mr. Kapastin said they were confident they could design safe access for both cars and pedestrians. He said they were in the business of serving customers and, while they would take into account all the issues Council raised, it would clearly not be to their advantage to put anything in place that would be hazardous or that would deter customer use. Mr. Manzi expressed his conviction that Council could not compel this existing entrance to be closed. In light of Mr. Manzi's opinion, Mr. Roberts said he would support the permit, but he agreed with Mr. Turnbull that this entrance was dangerous and asked Mr. Kapastin to consider it further. It was moved by Mr. White and seconded by Mr. Putens that Council approve a building permit for Beltway Plaza to proceed with the proposed retail development with the following conditions, to which Beltway Plaza had already agreed:

1. Building signs to be referred to the City for review and approval;
2. The applicant to install the access drive improvements, as agreed on October 2, 2002;
3. The applicant to install a landscaped island (minimum 9' wide) in the existing parking lot on Parcel H; and
4. The applicant to submit an official revised plan to the City incorporating all redline revisions as shown on the plan submitted by the applicant, dated October 2001.

Council also requested that Mr. Kapastin keep staff apprised of any revisions to be made to the plan. The motion passed 4-1 (Turnbull).

ENVIRONMENTAL SYSTEMS ANALYSIS, INC. - CONTRACT FOR GREENBELT LAKE STUDY: The Mayor read the agenda comments. Mr. White made a motion that the City contract with Environmental Systems Analysis, Inc., to complete the Greenbelt Lake Study at a cost not to exceed \$25,000. Mr. Putens seconded. Mr. Turnbull asked that there be included a requirement for the consultants to participate in a briefing or work session with Council on the findings of the study, which he thought would be valuable in addition to the written study. Ms. Hruby said it was understood that one or two presentations would be included. The motion passed 5-0.

BRIEFING ON INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY: Stephen Robinson, Director of Information Technology, briefed Council on changes underway, including the installation of the fiber optic network that was part of past cable television negotiations, the upgrading of the City=s technology infrastructure as called for in the FY 2003 budget, including upgrading the City=s phone service, with projected savings of at least \$40,000, and plans to expand the City=s use of the Internet to allow for its interactive use by citizens. He said in FY 2004 he would be looking at automation software for functions in Public Works and Community Development. Council thanked Mr. Robinson for the report and for the work he had been doing.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT (CDBG) APPLICATION FOR PY 29: Mayor Davis read the agenda comments. Mayor Davis suggested strengthening the narrative of the proposal by emphasizing that the Recreation Department expansion in Springhill Lake would 1) increase safety for children in the area, 2) enhance educational opportunities by providing computer access and training, and 3) support the economic development of the area. Mr. White asked about the timing of this cycle of proposals in relationship to the calendar for the General Assembly. Mr. McLaughlin said he would expect this to be high on the list of legislative items regardless, and Mayor Davis agreed that it was beneficial to pursue both and attempt to leverage the funding. Mr. Roberts asked whether the City would have to compensate for the loss of CDBG funds to pay for necessary street, curb, and gutter work by adjusting the budget. Mr. McLaughlin said that might prove to be the case, but his assumption would be that this change might be limited to the phasing out of the current county administration. It was moved by Mr. Roberts and seconded by Mr. White that the City apply for \$300,000 in CDBG money for PY 29 in support of the Springhill Lake Recreation Center project. The motion passed 5-0.

ADVISORY GROUP RESIGNATION AND APPOINTMENTS: Mr. Putens moved, with Mr. White seconding, that Council accept with regret the resignation of Diane Ronchi from the Public Safety Advisory Committee. Mr. Putens moved, and Mr. Roberts seconded, that Council appoint Erica Linden to the Park & Recreation Advisory Board and Scott Legendre to the Public Safety Advisory Committee. The motion passed 5-0.

MEETINGS: Council reviewed the schedule of meetings. Mr. Turnbull seconded a motion from Mr. Putens that the first meeting in November be held on Monday, November 4, rather than Tuesday, November 12. The motion passed 5-0.

It was agreed that when a stakeholder meeting with the School Board can be scheduled, all members of the board should be invited.

There was discussion of scheduling the tour of the space above Beijing and the theater projection room. Mr. McLaughlin will check with Paul Sánchez about whether this can be done during hours when films are being shown or not.

ADJOURNMENT: A motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Turnbull and seconded by Mr. White. The motion carried 5-0. The Mayor adjourned the regular meeting of October 7, 2002, at 10:55 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 October 7, 2002.@

Judith F. Davis

Mayor