



REGULAR MEETING OF GREENBELT CITY COUNCIL held  
Monday, November 27, 2000.

Mayor Davis called the meeting to order at 8:06 p.m.

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

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

Mayor Davis observed a moment of silence for resident Adeline Hinson. She then led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

CONSENT AGENDA: Mr. Roberts requested that item #15 (Appointment to Advisory Group) be removed from the consent agenda; Mr. Turnbull requested that under item #8, the work session minutes for November 15, 2000, be removed. Mr. Putens then moved approval of the consent agenda, so amended. Mr. Turnbull seconded the motion, which passed 5 to 0.

Council thereby took the following actions:

#### MINUTES

- Work Session, November 1, 2000
- Work Session, November 8, 2000
- Interview, November 20, 2000

Approved as presented.

#### COMMITTEE REPORTS

- Youth Advisory Committee, Report #2000-1 (Sidewalk along Hanover Parkway): Council accepted this report and directed that it be forwarded to the Planning and Community Development Department to be taken into account in the department's current study of Hanover Parkway.
- Senior Citizens Advisory Committee, Open Forum Report: Council accepted this report and referred it to staff for response and for eventual scheduling for review in a work session.

**APPROVAL OF EMPLOYEE SPECIAL HOLIDAY:** Council approved the granting of an extra holiday to City employees on Tuesday, December 26, 2000.

**REAPPOINTMENT TO ADVISORY GROUP:** Council approved the reappointment of James F. Drake to the Advisory Planning Board and directed staff to prepare the appropriate letter.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND ADDITIONS:** Mayor Davis asked to add to the agenda as #16 Council approval of a letter to County Council regarding the City's position on CB-80. Mr. Putens moved that the amended agenda be approved. Mr. Turnbull seconded. The motion passed 5-0.

## PRESENTATIONS

**Update on Greenbelt Park:** Mayor Davis introduced Superintendent John Hale of National Capital Parks-East, who introduced Frederick Cunningham from the National Park Service and Major Horsey, who is the site manager for Greenbelt Park. Superintendent Hale attended the meeting to update Council on current activities and plans at Greenbelt Park. He first addressed the subject of the Jaeger property, which he said they still want to acquire for the Park but did not yet have the funding for. Nonetheless, this is now their second priority after the Butler property in Oxon Hill. He suggested that Greenbelt should join with the Park Service in a resolve to acquire the property through a "friends' agreement" or similar vehicle, which he believes is useful in talking to elected officials and others about the significance of this piece of land and the importance of acquiring it. Supt. Hale would be pleased to work with the City on this. He said National Capitol Parks-East has land rather than monuments and that they see the park as a wonderful oasis they intend to maintain.

Mr. Turnbull asked if the friends' agreement is the same kind of mechanism as a "friends of" organization; Supt. Hale said that while they are similar, he would not view the primary purpose in this case as fund-raising but rather working together to encourage funding or appropriations from elsewhere. He promised to send a copy of a standard form used for this purpose.

Mayor Davis and Mr. Turnbull both complimented Supt. Hale on the improvement in the quality of the interpretive materials available at the park, particularly as they relate to the history of the City. The Mayor presented him with a copy of Greenbelt: History of a New Town 1937-1987.

**Local Government Insurance Trust (LGIT) - Claims Practices Award FY 2000:** The Mayor read the agenda comments and displayed the plaque awarded to the City at the annual meeting of the Local Government Insurance Trust (LGIT) last week. Michael McLaughlin, Theresa Scaggs, Jim Craze, and Dan O'Neil attended the meeting and accepted on behalf of the City. Mr. McLaughlin said that Ms. Scaggs and Lt. O'Neil are the two staff members who "handle the claims and do the good work."

**Maryland's 157:** Mayor Davis presented copies of the Maryland Municipal League's book to Mr. Turnbull and Mr. Roberts.

## PETITIONS AND REQUESTS

Electrical Power Outages: Stephen Jascourt, 122 Westway, and Aaron Johns, 16-Y Ridge Road, presented information to Council regarding the frequent, short power outages—called "momentary outages" by PEPCO—that are experienced in Greenbelt. A letter from Mr. Johns was recently published in the Greenbelt News Review on this subject, and he has written two letters to PEPCO that have not been responded to. Mr. Jascourt had a complaint with the Maryland Public Service Commission about it, which was closed at one time because PEPCO had done some work to address it but which is now open again because the problems have persisted. He said although animals on the wire have been cited as a problem, the primary issue seems to be that brief outages are tripped at a low level to discourage more major outages; however, Mr. Johns and Mr. Jascourt wonder if this could not be adjusted. Although for the most part the outages represent a fairly minor annoyance, they are a real problem for people working on computers, and Mr. Johns has also read that they can damage compressors on refrigeration equipment. They asked if the City could help. Mayor Davis said that it might be possible for Council to request a work session or even a public hearing with PEPCO. Mr. Putens suggested raising it with the City's county and state representatives at tomorrow night's legislative dinner as well, both to see if there have been similar complaints elsewhere and to register PEPCO's lack of responsiveness. Mr. White suggested checking with other older communities nearby. Mr. McLaughlin had other suggestions of agencies to contact. Mayor Davis asked him to bring recommendations back to the next meeting for how to proceed.

## MINUTES OF MEETINGS

Work Session, November 15, 2000

Mr. Turnbull said the above minutes should be corrected to show that he was not in attendance. He moved that the minutes be accepted so amended. Mr. Putens seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Executive Session, November 15, 2000

Mr. Roberts moved that the minutes of the Executive Meeting of the City Council held Wednesday, November 15, 2000, be approved as presented.

He further requested that the minutes of this meeting reflect that the Council met in Executive Session at 8:09 p.m. in the Municipal Building Library and that 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. Mr. Putens seconded the motion.

ROLL CALL: Mr. Putens - yes

Mr. Roberts - yes

Mr. Turnbull - yes

Mr. White - yes

Mayor Davis - yes

**ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS:** Mr. McLaughlin announced that Sidney Brown, former owner of Beltway Plaza, died on Saturday.

Mr. Putens said he has received numerous calls from residents saying Comcast's customer service has not been good during cable outages. Of particular concern was the experience of a deaf individual who said no one was answering the TDD phone. Mr. Putens has discussed these matters with Beverly Palau, and he hopes the City can get some response from Comcast.

Mr. White asked for clarification, which Mr. McLaughlin said he would get, on an item in a departmental weekly report indicating City staff worked with WSSC on a trail, presumably near Capital Office Park. He would like to know why the City has an interest in this, given that it is private property.

Mr. Turnbull attended the State Highway Administration presentation on its capital project plans. He had the opportunity to speak with Senator Leo Green after the meeting about Greenbelt's unsuccessful attempts to get a pedestrian overpass, in light of Bowie's success in getting one for new development.

The Mayor said she represented the City at the ninth annual holiday parade at Beltway Plaza on November 18. She said the Lions Club is doing its annual toy drive again, with collection points at the Coop and Beltway Plaza. On November 20, she attended the annual County Executive's prayer breakfast. On November 21, she attended the Board of Trade's annual meeting luncheon and the opening ceremony of the Watkins Regional Park Festival of Lights. She noted Greenbelt's own Festival of Lights is coming up this weekend, and Council will be able to come this year, since it will not conflict with the National League of Cities meeting.

## LEGISLATION

**A Resolution to Amend Resolution Number 854 to Establish a Public Safety Advisory Committee:** The Mayor read the agenda comments. Mr. Putens introduced the resolution for first reading.

**RECOMMENDED JOB RECLASSIFICATIONS:** The Mayor read the agenda comments. Mr. Turnbull asked why promotion decisions were coming to Council. Mayor Davis explained that Council was not being asked to approve the promotion of individuals but rather to authorize the implied change in the staffing schedule and budget. Mr. McLaughlin added that had these been identified properly as promotions last year, they would have come to Council as part of the budget proposal. He said this will not happen in the future. Mr. Turnbull said that he nevertheless did not think Council should have to look at staffing issues of this type. Mr. Putens said he agreed with Mr. Turnbull that Council should not have to approve reclassifications, promotions, and job descriptions but that he has been told the City Charter requires it.

Mr. Roberts moved that Council approve the job descriptions for the reclassifications and authorize the adjustments in the staffing schedule and the budget for the reclassifications and

promotions. He said he would be willing to consider the change being suggested in the Charter later but that the employees who have been working within the existing system should not be held back while Council gets a grasp of the bigger picture. Mr. Putens seconded the motion.

Mr. White questioned how we could know that this type of reclassification had not contributed to the disparities that were identified in the compensation and benefits study. He said he would maintain the position he expressed at the last meeting, namely, that Council should deal with these matters on a piecemeal basis since that may only add to the inequities. Mayor Davis asked the City Manager if Council should be concerned that further requests of this sort are already being generated for next year. Mr. McLaughlin assured her that there is a temporary hold on any such actions, awaiting the pay and benefits study. He added that he anticipates having information for Council on the study within the next few weeks.

Mr. Turnbull agreed with Mr. White that the greater injustice was not to deal with the compensation issues overall.

Mayor Davis said she agreed with Mr. Roberts that we shouldn't penalize people in an existing system because we want to change it.

Council briefly discussed proceeding with a possible Charter amendment to change the review process for personnel reclassifications and job descriptions. Mr. Roberts asked that there be further discussion prior to any motion, and Council agreed that would be preferable. Mr. Putens asked that the matter be placed on an agenda in the near future for discussion.

The motion passed 3-2 (Turnbull, White). The motion referred to the following positions:

#### Current Position Recommendation

Community Planner, GC-16, reclass Community Planner, GC-20

Supervisory Inspector, GC-16, reclass Supervisory Inspector, GC-20

Crewman V, GC-8, promotion Crewman VI, GC-9

Equipment Operator, GC-11, promotion Crew Leader, GC-12

Crewman V, GC-8, promotion Crew Leader, GC-12

Crew Leader-Driver, GC-8, promotion Building Maintenance Mechanic, GC-10

Office Assistant, GC-9, promotion Executive Secretary I, GC-11

Executive Secretary, GC-11, promotion Administrative Assistant, GC-14

**APPOINTMENTS TO ADVISORY GROUPS:** Mr. Roberts moved that Silke Pope be appointed to the Public Safety Advisory Committee, that Walter Moody be transferred from the Recycling

and Environment Advisory Committee to the Public Safety Advisory Committee and that staff be directed to send the appropriate letters. Mr. Putens seconded the motion, which passed 5-0.

APPROVAL OF COUNCIL POSITION LETTER ON CB-80-2000: Mr. Putens moved, with Mr. Roberts seconding, that Council formally approve the position taken on this issue in Mayor Davis's letter of November 15 to the County Council. Mayor Davis asked Mr. Moran to follow up on the fate of this bill and inform Council.

REIMBURSEMENT OF SNOW EMERGENCY EXPENSES: Mr. McLaughlin announced that the County will reimburse the City \$27,000 for snow-related expenses from last winter. David Jacobs, Director of the Office of Emergency Preparedness, had been expected at tonight's meeting to present the check, which represents funds from the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

MEETINGS: Council agreed to schedule an Executive Session next Thursday, November 30, at 8 p.m.; it was also agreed to postpone the work session on commercial licensing fees and instead schedule the review of City goals and the CAR report for December 20. There was brief discussion of when to schedule the public hearing on the curfew. If possible, it will be scheduled as part of one of the regular meetings in January. Mr. White noted that the work session proposed at the last meeting with Bertram Dunn had not been added to the meetings list.

ADJOURNMENT: Mr. Putens moved that the meeting be adjourned. Mr. White seconded the motion, which carried 5-0. Mayor Davis adjourned the regular meeting of November 27, 2000, at 9:50 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 27, 2000."

Judith F. Davis

Mayor