



**REGULAR MEETING OF CITY COUNCIL HELD
MONDAY, October 12, 1998**

Mayor Davis called the meeting to order at 8:13 p.m.

ROLL CALL was answered by Council Members Edward V.J. Putens, Rodney M. Roberts, Alan Turnbull, and by Judith F. Davis, Mayor. Thomas White had previously advised Council of his inability to attend.

ALSO PRESENT were Michael P. McLaughlin, City Manager; Robert Manzi, City Solicitor; W. Bowman Ferguson, Management Analyst and David E. Moran, City Clerk.

Mayor Davis observed a moment of silence for Paul Strickler, Frances Henegar Gresham and Irene Kaye. Then, she led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

CONSENT AGENDA: Mr. Putens moved approval of the consent agenda. Mr. Turnbull seconded. The motion passed 5 to 0.

COUNCIL THEREBY TOOK THE FOLLOWING ACTIONS:

MINUTES: :

Regular Meeting, September 14, 1998
Approved as presented.

COMMITTEE REPORTS: COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Advisory Planning Board Report No. 98-08: Council accepted this report and placed this item on the next agenda.

Advisory Planning Board Report No. 98-09: Council accepted this report and placed this item on the next agenda

Advisory Planning Board Report No. 98-10: Council accepted this report and placed this item on the next agenda.

NOMINATION TO MWCOG CHESAPEAKE BAY POLICY COMMITTEE: Council appointed Mayor Davis as the member, and Mr. White as the alternate to the Chesapeake Bay Policy Committee.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: Mr. Putens moved that the agenda be approved. Mr. Roberts seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

PRESENTATIONS:

Prince George's County Beautification Award: Mayor Davis read the award and presented it to Bill Phelan, the City Horticulturalist. Mr. Phelan noted that it was pleasure to work in a community like Greenbelt that values the environment. He also complimented his crew and read their names: Brian Townsend, Danny Kellaher, Tony Holmes & Curtis Dudley. They also received a City Manager's award.

PETITIONS AND REQUESTS: Sylvia Lewis, of 2-C Gardenway, reported on the progress of the petition for a referendum on the recently approved annexation resolution and noted that to date they had collected 882 signatures.

MINUTES:

Executive Session, September 28, 1998: Mr. Roberts moved that the minutes of the Executive Meeting of the City Council held Monday, September 28, 1998 be approved as presented. He further requested that the minutes of this meeting reflect that the Council met in Executive Session at 7:05 p.m. in the Library of the Municipal Building, and that Council held this closed meeting in accordance with Section 10-508 (a)(1)(ii) & (4) of the State Government Article of the Annotated Code of Public General Laws of Maryland (1995 Replacement Volume) to discuss personnel matters and consider a preliminary matter that concerns the proposal for a business or industrial organization to locate, expand or remain in the State. Mr. Putens seconded.

ROLL CALL:

Mr. Putens - yes
Mr. Roberts - yes
Mr. Turnbull - yes
Mayor Davis - yes

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS: Mr. McLaughlin noted that Jeanne Jones had passed away. Mr. McLaughlin referenced the updated goals plan distributed to each Council Member. Mr. McLaughlin also mentioned the press conference at the Metro site on Thursday. Mr. Putens indicated he would attend. Mr. McLaughlin noted the upcoming MML Fall Legislative Conference and that Mr. Putens, Mr. Moran & himself would attend. Mr. McLaughlin advised that Chief Craze would be Acting City Manager during his absence for the ICMA Conference.

Mayor Davis reported on the study circles being done by the Human Relations Commission.

AN ORDINANCE TO AUTHORIZE AND EMPOWER THE CITY OF GREENBELT, MARYLAND, TO CONTRACT WITH CRESTAR TO BORROW NOT MORE THAN TWO HUNDRED TWENTY-FIVE THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$225,000) FOR THE PUBLIC PURPOSE OF ACQUIRING COMPUTER HARDWARE AND SOFTWARE FOR FINANCIAL REPORTING PURPOSES DESCRIBED HEREIN PURSUANT TO THE AUTHORITY OF SECTION 59, CONTRACTS OVER ONE YEAR, OF THE CITY CHARTER

Mayor Davis read the agenda comments. Mr. Roberts introduced the above titled ordinance for second reading and adoption. Mr. Turnbull seconded.

ROLL CALL:

Mr. Putens - yes

Mr. Roberts - yes

Mr. Turnbull - yes

Mayor Davis - yes

TRANSPORTATION ISSUES: Mayor Davis read the agenda comments. Mr. McLaughlin recommended that the City send Senator Green another copy of the city's previous letter outlining priorities. He noted that bike lanes were being included in upcoming street resurfacing projects. He advised that either Ms. Craze or Ms. Hruby would attend the meeting.

Mr. Putens hoped the city would oppose any expenditure of funds associated with the proposed ICC. Mr. Turnbull expressed concern about Safety Improvement #4. He noted that Council had opposed the addition of third lanes to MD 201. Mr. McLaughlin suggested adding that concern to the letter.

USDA'S PROPOSAL TO IMPACT NONTIDAL WETLANDS TO WIDEN EDMONSTON ROAD PREPARATION FOR UPCOMING HEARING: Mayor Davis read the agenda comments. Mr. Manzi reported that the City's consultants were not present. He noted that both he and Kevin Kelly of Environmental Systems Associates, the city's consultant, recommended that the city obtain a copy of the alternatives study. Mr. Manzi also suggested that staff determine how long the record will be kept open and that Council evaluate information they receive at the hearing.

Mayor Davis asked if there was a public comment opportunity and asked staff to register the city's attendance and prepare a brief statement. Mr. Roberts expressed concern about the location of the mitigation site because it wouldn't help Beavercreek at all. He also suggested that intersection improvements alone may address the needs of the USDA project.

Mr. Putens wanted to comment at the Public Hearing and suggested that the city reiterate its previous position and that the city request more opportunity to review the information.

Mayor Davis summarized the items that would be included in the city's statement as follows: pursue alternative locations/solutions, not enough time to review, inappropriate location for the mitigation area and continue to oppose the project.

Mayor Davis reported that the hearing was Wednesday at 7:00 p.m. at the Beltsville Public Library.

BRIEFING ON CABLE TELEVISION FRANCHISE RENEWAL NEGOTIATIONS: Mayor Davis read the agenda comments. Beverly Palau, Public Information and Communications Coordinator, briefed Council on the status of negotiations to date.

Mr. Roberts asked if discussions with Jones Communications were ongoing. Ms. Palau responded yes and noted that COMCAST. The anticipated purchaser of Jones, would have to comply with any of the negotiated changes.

Mr. Putens expressed concern about a resident having to wait for over 40 minutes on phone line. He noted that he had called to check and waited for 52 minutes on the phone and referenced a resident that waited for 3 hours. Mr. Putens stated he was tired of the problems with Cable TV. He asked if the city could pursue another vendor. Ms. Palau responded that the city could put out an RFP.

Mayor Davis asked if there was another option for the city other than Cable TV. Ms. Palau noted that people could purchase a satellite dish. Mr. Roberts suggested that people dissatisfied with the service cancel their cable service.

Sheldon Goldberg of 7848 Jacobs Drive, hoped that the new company would provide additional channels instead of computer service. Mr. Putens thanked Ms. Palau for her efforts on behalf of the citizens.

MEETINGS: Council decided to hold an Executive Session at 7:00 p.m. and a work session with New Deal Cafe at 8:30 p.m. on October 21. Council rescheduled the work session with ACE and the Greenbelt Cluster for 11/4. Council agreed to schedule a work session with the MD National Guard on either 11/12 or 11/18 pending hearing from Judge Kratovil. Council added a work session with GEAC for 11/30.

ADJOURNMENT: Mr. Turnbull moved to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Putens seconded. The motion carried 5 to 0. Mayor Davis adjourned the regular meeting of October 12, 1998, at 9:29 p.m

Respectfully Submitted,
David E. Moran, CMC
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 Monday, October 12, 1998."

Judith F. Davis
Mayor