

BUDGET WORK SESSION OF THE GREENBELT CITY COUNCIL held May 5, 2010, for the purpose of reviewing the Public Works section of the Proposed FY 2011 Budget.

Mayor Davis started the meeting at 8:05 p.m. It was held in the MultiPurpose Room of the Community Center.

PRESENT WERE: Councilmembers Konrad E. Herling, Emmett V. Jordan, Edward V.J. Putens, Rodney M. Roberts and Mayor Judith F. Davis. Councilmember Leta M. Mach was out of town and Councilmember Silke I. Pope was unable to attend.

STAFF PRESENT WERE: Michael P. McLaughlin, City Manager; Jeff Williams, City Treasurer; Kenny Hall, Director of Public Works; Carolyn Clemens, Assistant Director of Operations; Lesley Riddle, Assistant Director of Parks; Luisa Robles, Recycling Coordinator; and Cindy Murray, City Clerk.

ALSO PRESENT WERE: Tom White, News Review; and Bill Orleans.

Mr. Hall provided a PowerPoint presentation on the Department's accomplishments and events over the past year.

Council then reviewed the budget page by page.

Administration

Mr. Hall reported on the loss of two positions this year and said some restructuring of the crews was proposed. He also discussed the plan to cross-train personnel.

There was discussion regarding the use of LED lights. Mr. Hall reported he hopes to convert some parking lot lights to LED next year but said the traffic signal bulbs could not be converted because the technology was not available at this time.

Ms. Riddle reported Public Works is running out of space for benches under the Adopt-A-Bench program. She said she is working with Mr. Moran to identify other options to honor individuals.

Mr. Hall reported the new Public Works Administration building had been experiencing drainage problems and the entire drainage system is now being replaced at the builder's expense. He estimated the work would be complete in a few weeks.

Maintenance of Multi-Purpose Equipment

Mr. McLaughlin said that since compressed natural gas vehicles are no longer available for purchase, staff is now considering the use of biodiesel fuel again as an alternative fuel.

Street Maintenance

There was discussion regarding the use of volunteers for landscaping work. Ms. Riddle said she supports volunteer efforts for events such as Earth Day planting projects, Lake Cleanups, etc., but has concerns regarding the level of staff time that would be required to train volunteers for other landscape activities, such as routine landscape work.

Ms. Riddle said approximately 20-30 acres of landscaping are currently outsourced to a

contractor. She noted that if the work was done in house, it would take an additional three to four employees along with additional equipment.

Mayor Davis noted that City crews remove snow from sidewalks on Hanover Parkway by Eleanor Roosevelt High School and Springhill Lane by Springhill Lake Elementary School because the sidewalks are not cleared by the school system. She requested this issue be included on the after-snow report. Mayor Davis also requested a map of City sidewalks.

Mr. McLaughlin noted that the reduction in highway user revenues has not caused the City to cut back on planned street repair projects.

There was discussion regarding the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) reimbursement for the winter snowstorms. Mr. McLaughlin reported staff is waiting for the FEMA meeting to be scheduled to receive more detail on the reimbursement process.

Waste Collection and Disposal

Mayor Davis and Mr. Putens provided information on a waste to energy incinerator program in Pennsylvania. They reported that the Town of Ocean City has a contractor transport their waste to this facility and is currently paid for their waste and also receive a reduction in their energy costs.

Ms. Robles said that small styrofoam items such as cups and plates cannot be recycled. She said the Greenbelt Advisory Committee on Environmental Sustainability (Green ACES) would like to stop the use of styrofoam products by the City and for community events, such as Labor Day. Ms. Robles said large styrofoam packaging can be recycled at Electronics Recycling events.

City Cemetery

Ms. Riddle reported on the loss of Leyland Cyprus trees in the back of the cemetery during the winter snowstorms. She said mixed hedges would be planted this year.

Roosevelt Center

Mr. White reported that the trees in the Center block the marquee sign for the theater. Ms. Riddle said some work will be done to reduce the tree canopy this year, but noted that this can only be done every three years without harming the tree.

Traffic Control

Mr. McLaughlin said staff is monitoring use of the crosswalk at St. Hugh School by students attending Greenbelt Elementary School to determine if the crossing lights should remain in service after St. Hugh School closes.

Mr. Herling requested a crosswalk be considered on South Ora Drive near the area of the bus stop.

Parks

Mr. Putens reported on leaning trees in the circle areas of Greenbelt East. Ms. Riddle said she would check on the situation. Mayor Davis also reported the trees in the mitigation area were in poor condition. Noting that the developer had already replaced these trees once, Ms. Riddle said she would discuss the situation with Celia Craze and Terri Hruby.

Mayor Davis asked if the Advisory Committee on Trees (ACT) had discussed developing a tree ordinance. Ms. Riddle said that ACT had discussed the idea. She said writing the ordinance is not an issue, but the problem would be the staffing required to enforce the ordinance.

Mr. Putens reported that the Greenbelt East Advisory Committee had recommended a Three Sisters Project site be considered in the vacant area along Hanover Parkway between Greenspring I and Greenspring II. Ms. Riddle said she would check this area for a garden site.

Mayor Davis and Mr. Jordan requested that the right-of-way property at the end of Mandan Road be graded and seeded. They also requested staff determine if this area could be used for a free play area.

Informational Items

Mayor Davis reported on the results of the City of New Carrollton Council election.

Council discussed a recent incident involving the issuance of a parking violation to a resident for suspended vehicle registration.

Mr. Jordan asked if more detail on the specific area of crime occurrence was available for the weekly report on crime information. Mr. McLaughlin said he will check with the Police Department to determine if this could be provided.

The meeting ended at 10:46 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

*Cindy Murray
City Clerk*