

WORK SESSION OF THE GREENBELT CITY COUNCIL/LEGISLATIVE DINNER held Thursday, February 25, 2010, at Reynolds Tavern in Annapolis, for the purpose of discussing the status of the City's legislative priorities and other legislative matters.

Mayor Davis called the meeting to order at 7:40 p.m.

PRESENT WERE: Councilmembers Konrad E. Herling, Emmett V. Jordan, Leta M. Mach, Silke I. Pope, Edward V. J. Putens, Rodney M. Roberts and Mayor Judith F. Davis.

STAFF PRESENT WERE: Michael McLaughlin, City Manager; David E. Moran, Assistant City Manager; John Shay, City Solicitor; and Cindy Murray, City Clerk.

ALSO PRESENT WERE: State Senator Paul Pinsky, State Delegates Anne Healey, Tawanna Gaines and Justin Ross; and County Councilmember Thomas E. Dernoga.

Mayor Davis welcomed the legislators. She said the purpose of the gathering was for the City to receive an update on the status of pending legislation, including the priorities presented at the December legislative dinner.

The following City priority issues were reviewed and commented on.

State Issues

Middle School Funding: The delegation indicated they expect funding for the project to remain in place for construction of the new school.

Protect Municipal Funding Sources: Senator Pinsky said the economic situation of the State had not changed since the December meeting and the reductions to Highway User revenues and Police Aid would not be restored next fiscal year.

Public Safety Funding – Radio Upgrade: Council requested State assistance with funding \$200,000 to replace/upgrade the police dispatch consoles in order to participate in the County upgrade to a new radio system.

Encourage/Require Gas Stations to Offer Alternative Fuels: Senator Pinsky noted the costs associated with this action prevents it from moving forward.

County Issues

Greenbelt Middle School: Councilmember Dernoga said he expected construction of the school to continue as planned.

Protect Municipal Funding Sources: Council requested protection of municipal funding sources including: M-NCPPC grants, School Resource Officer contribution, CDBG funding and Landfill Disposal rebate.

Enable Additional Planning Authority: Council requested support of CB 41-2009 to enable additional planning authority granted to municipalities via HB 657 in 2005. Councilmember Dernoga said he was ready to move forward with the bill and would be meeting with Celia Craze, Director of Planning and Community Development, in the next few weeks.

New Greenbelt Fire Station: Council requested the County continue to pursue funding for land acquisition and construction of a new Greenbelt Fire Station.

City Supported Legislation

Council noted their support of the following bills.

PG/MC 108: Creation of a Task Force to Study the Maryland National Capital Park and Planning Commission

HB 28/SB 345: Condominiums and Homeowners Associations – Reserves & Reserve Studies

HB 29 & HB 842: Condominiums and Homeowners Associations – Priority of Liens

HB 216: Unauthorized Signs on State Highway Administration Rights-of-Way

HB 282: Funding and Reporting of Bicycle and Pedestrian Transportation Projects

HB 786: State Highway Administration – Sidewalk Construction in Priority Funding Areas

HB 829/SB 560: Traffic Citations – Options to Request Trial

SB 156: Recycling Requirement for Apartment Buildings and Condominiums

Mayor Davis and Ms. Mach suggested SB 156 be amended to require “adequate” recycling locations for apartments and condominiums.

Other Legislative Items

Delegate Gaines said she has requested HB 537/SB 598 be amended to permit the use of University of Maryland shuttle service for residents of local municipalities, not just for residents of College Park.

Delegate Healey provided information on HB 1062 which would allow a property tax credit for urban agricultural activities. She requested the City review the bill and indicate support or opposition.

The legislators thanked the City for its hospitality. Council thanked the legislators for attending.

The meeting ended at 8:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

*Cindy Murray
City Clerk*