

REGULAR MEETING OF THE GREENBELT CITY COUNCIL held Monday, January 11, 2010.

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

ROLL CALL was answered by 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.

ALSO PRESENT were Michael McLaughlin, City Manager; David E. Moran, Assistant City Manager; John Shay, City Solicitor; and Cindy Murray, City Clerk.

Mayor Davis asked for a moment of silence in memory of Greenbelt residents Frances Belk, Kathleen Hamby, Georgiana Green and Lorraine Siegel, and former residents Theresa Manuel and Marsha Summers. She then led the pledge of allegiance to the flag.

CONSENT AGENDA: Mayor Davis asked to remove Item #10 “Greenbelt Advisory Committee on Environmental Sustainability Report #2010-01 (Three Sisters Demonstration Garden Project)” from the consent agenda. It was moved by Mr. Putens and seconded by Mr. Jordan that the consent agenda be approved as amended. The motion passed 7-0.

Council thereby took the following actions:

MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETINGS

Work Session, October 14, 2009
Interviews, November 23, 2009
Regular Meeting, November 23, 2009
Work Session, December 9, 2009
Interviews, December 14, 2009
Regular Meeting, December 14, 2009
Approved as presented.

REQUEST FOR USE OF FACILITIES: Council approved waiving the facility rental fees as requested in the letter from the Eleanor Roosevelt High School Grad Night Committee. The committee remains responsible for costs incurred for City personnel.

REAPPOINTMENT TO ADVISORY GROUPS: Council appointed the following individuals to new terms on their respective advisory groups:

Dorothy Lauber	Board of Elections
Elizabeth Gaines	Employee Relations Board
Kathleen Bucco	Forest Preserve Advisory Board
Mary Chapman	Greenbelt Advisory Committee on Environmental Sustainability

RESIGNATION FROM ADVISORY GROUP: Council accepted the resignations of the following individuals from their respective advisory groups:

Allen Lo	Public Safety Advisory Committee
Edward Hickey	Public Safety Advisory Committee
Darcy Howe	Arts Advisory Board

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: Ms. Mach requested “Appointment to Committees” be added to the agenda. Mr. Roberts requested “Federal Transit Administration Livability Bus Program” be added to the agenda. It was moved by Mr. Putens and seconded by Mr. Jordan that the agenda be approved as amended. The motion passed 7-0.

PRESENTATIONS: None

PETITIONS AND REQUESTS: None

MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETINGS:

Executive Session of December 9, 2009: Mr. Jordan moved that the minutes of the executive session of the City Council held Wednesday, December 9, 2009, be approved as presented. He further requested that the minutes of this meeting reflect that the Council met in executive session at 8:02 p.m. in the Senior Classroom of the Community Center. Council held this closed meeting in accordance with Section 10-508 (a)(7) of the State Government Article of the *Annotated Code of Public General Laws of Maryland* to consult with legal counsel regarding the South Core of Greenbelt Station. Mr. Putens seconded the motion.

ROLL CALL:	Mr. Herling	-	yes
	Mr. Jordan	-	yes
	Ms. Mach	-	yes
	Ms. Pope	-	yes
	Mr. Putens	-	yes
	Mr. Roberts	-	yes
	Mayor Davis	-	yes

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

Ms. Herling asked for an update on the structural repairs at Springhill Lake Elementary School and the status of the physical education program for the students. Mr. McLaughlin said the most recent communication from the County indicated the repairs would be made during the summer. He also reported that students are receiving physical education in their classrooms and outside, as weather permits.

Mr. Herling and Mr. Jordan asked if there was an inventory of businesses in the City and what the current office vacancy rate. Mr. McLaughlin said it was difficult to accurately determine this information without having an economic development office/person, but staff would have a reading on the information as tax receipts are received.

Mayor Davis commented on the graduation program for the CARES Strengthening Families Program, the visit by Chinese Mayors and officials to the City, and the Greenbelt Community Foundation awards ceremony. She also thanked the Public Works Department for snow removal efforts during the storm on December 18-19th.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Greenbelt Advisory Committee on Environmental Sustainability Report #2010-01 (Three Sisters Demonstration Garden Project): Mayor Davis said that she had asked to remove this item from the consent agenda because Council would like additional information from the Chesapeake Education Arts Research Society (CHEARS) on the Three Sisters Demonstration Project prior to the report being considered at a future meeting. She noted that CHEARS had recently been awarded a grant from the Greenbelt Community Foundation for the project. Mayor Davis requested the CHEARS provide the details on the following: size of gardens; how the gardens will be organized; how end products will be dispersed; use of volunteers for establishing and maintaining the gardens; method for obtaining water; security; and a plan to restore plots to original condition if project is not successful. She also requested that an additional area in Greenbelt East be considered in place of the reforested areas along Hanover Parkway, which was left open intentionally for use as a free play/open space area. Mr. Putens stressed the need to have good locations for the gardens and suggested open areas behind Green Ridge House, by the new restrooms at Buddy Attick Park, and by Fountain Lodge also be considered.

Margaret Cahalan, member of the Greenbelt Advisory Committee on Environmental Sustainability (Green ACES) and the Chesapeake Education Arts Research Society (CHEARS), was present and described the preliminary plans for the project. Ms. Cahalan said CHEARS will meet with staff from the Public Works Department regarding locations for the gardens, and will provide Council with the information requested.

Mayor Davis moved that Council accept the report and place it on the agenda of a future meeting. Mr. Herling seconded. The motion passed 5-0. (Mr. Jordan and Ms. Mach abstained, noting their positions on the Greenbelt Community Foundation Board)

LEGISLATION

A Resolution to Negotiate the Purchase and Installation of a Security Gate, Access Control System, and Fencing at the Greenbelt Police Station by Long Fence of Capitol Heights, Maryland, at a Cost of \$23,058

Mayor Davis read the agenda comments. Mr. Putens introduced the resolution for second reading and moved its adoption. Ms. Mach seconded the motion.

ROLL CALL:	Mr. Herling	-	yes
	Mr. Jordan	-	yes
	Ms. Mach	-	yes
	Ms. Pope	-	yes
	Mr. Putens	-	yes
	Mr. Roberts	-	yes
	Mayor Davis	-	yes

Mayor Davis asked whether a covered parking area for police specialty vehicles had been considered. Mr. McLaughlin said this has been considered but funds are not currently available.

The resolution was declared adopted (Resolution No. 1057, Book 8)

A Resolution to Negotiate the Purchase of Utopia Community Development Software for the Department of Planning and Community Development from Perconti Data Systems, Incorporated, of St. Petersburg, Florida, at a cost not to exceed \$21,000

Mayor Davis read the agenda comments. Ms. Mach introduced the resolution for first reading.

BREIFING ON COUNTY PROPOSED MIXED USE ZONE LEGISLATION: Mayor Davis read the agenda comments.

Terri Hruby, Assistant Director of Planning, provided an update on a number of changes to the proposed Mixed Use Zone Legislation (CB-42, CB-54 and CB-55-2009). She noted staff's concerns regarding the disregard for direct municipal involvement throughout the planning and zoning process, the involvement of the Zoning Hearing Examiner in the permit site plan approval process and the applicability of the Zoning Map Amendment process. Ms. Hruby also questioned the consideration of adopting new mixed use zones at this time, when the Prince George's County Planning Department has initiated a comprehensive review to its Zoning Ordinance and Subdivision Regulations. She noted the amended bills have been introduced and the Planning Zoning and Economic Development (PZED) Committee is scheduled to consider the bills tomorrow.

After discussion, Council noted concern that the legislation did not include a process for updating and/revising a regulating plan once it has been approved. Ms. Hruby said she would voice this concern at the PZED hearing tomorrow.

Mr. Roberts moved Council submit a letter to the Chair of the PZED Committee expressing the concerns noted by Ms. Hruby. Mr. Herling seconded. The motion passed 7-0.

Mayor Davis asked the status of the County preliminary Historic Sites and District Plan and the Preliminary Water Resources Functional Master Plan. Ms. Hruby said staff was currently reviewing both plans. Mayor Davis suggested sending the Preliminary Water Resources Functional Master Plan to local watershed groups for their review.

Mr. Putens moved to consider agenda item "Federal Transit Administration Livability Bus Program" as the next item of business while Ms. Hruby was still present. Mr. Herling seconded. The motion passed 7-0.

FEDERAL TRANSIT ADMINISTRATION (FTA) LIVABILITY BUS PROGRAM: Ms. Hruby explained the National Capital Region Transportation Planning Board and the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority are assembling a regional package of bus stop improvements to compete for an FTA Livability Bus Program grant. She said staff is currently looking into the program to determine if it would provide any benefits to the City, but noted the challenges of obtaining the required cost estimate for projects by the Wednesday, January 13th deadline.

Ms. Hruby stressed that any resident experiencing challenges at bus stop locations should notify the City. She said the City has done modifications to bus stop locations in the past to accommodate riders, and will continue to do so in the future.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT APPLICATION FOR PY 36: Mayor Davis read the agenda comments.

Mr. Putens moved that Council approve submission of the CDBG PY 36 Application for Empirian Village Street & Safety Improvements as the City's top priority and a Youth and Family Empowerment Program for the Empirian Village Apartments as the City's second priority. Ms. Pope seconded. The motion passed 7-0.

Mr. Jordan suggested the ESOL classes proposed under the Youth and Family Empowerment Program be marketed throughout the City, not just in Empirian Village. Ms. Mach noted many families may qualify for the program based on income. Mr. Moran said CDBG funding requires the funds be used for programs directed either to low-moderate income areas (neighborhoods) or to low-moderate income clientele, but not both. He suggested a future program could be directed to low-moderate income clientele.

STATE LEGISLATION: Mayor Davis read the agenda comments.

Mr. Putens moved that Council support PG/MC 108, proposed legislation that would establish a task force to study the Maryland-National Capital Park & Planning Commission in Prince George's County. Ms. Mach seconded. The motion passed 7-0.

REFERRAL TO COMMUNITY RELATIONS ADVISORY BOARD AND PUBLIC SAFETY ADVISORY COMMITTEE – NEIGHBORHOOD ISSUES IN EMPIRIAN VILLAGE: Mayor Davis read the agenda comments.

Mr. Putens moved to send a Council referral to the Community Relations Advisory Board and the Public Safety Advisory Committee requesting the committees review neighborhood issues in Empirian Village, solicit input from the residents, determine what types of actions or services are needed, and report back to Council. Mr. Roberts seconded. The motion passed 7-0.

Mayor Davis and Mr. Jordan reported on a meeting they had attended earlier today with Principal Jenkins and Ms. Mendosa of Springhill Lake Elementary School, Rosemary Pezzuto of Camp Fire USA, representatives of Prince George's County Social Services, and a number of Empirian Village residents. Mayor Davis said that Empirian Village had to relocate 59 families, including 20-25 students from Springhill Lake Elementary, to hotels in College Park when the buildings they had been residing in were declared uninhabitable due to electrical problems. She said that many families were unable to provide transportation from College Park for their children to attend school. The County has now declared these children "homeless" which will allow them to receive transportation to school. Mayor Davis also noted the displaced families have no kitchen facilities in their hotels and are in need of non-perishable food items. Mr. Jordan commented on the lack of communication between the residents and Empirian Village management, and the trauma the situation has caused for the displaced residents.

APPOINTMENT TO BOARDS AND COMMITTEES: Ms. Mach moved to appoint Darrin Washington to the Public Safety Advisory Committee and Ava Williams to the Youth Advisory Committee. Ms. Pope seconded. The motion passed 7-0.

MEETINGS: Council reviewed the meeting schedule.

ADJOURNMENT: A motion to adjourn the regular meeting was made by Ms. Mach and seconded by Mr. Putens. The motion passed 7-0.

Mayor Davis adjourned the regular meeting of Monday, January 11, 2010, at 9:58 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Cindy Murray
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 January 11, 2010."

Judith F. Davis
Mayor