

WORK SESSION OF THE GREENBELT CITY COUNCIL held Wednesday, January 20, 2010, for the purpose of receiving a City Manager Update.

Mayor Davis called the meeting to order at 8:10 p.m. It was held in the MultiPurpose Room of the Community Center.

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, Jeff Williams, City Treasurer; James Craze, Police Chief; and Carl Schinner, Acting Police Captain. Cindy Murray, City Clerk, joined the meeting at 9:10 p.m.

ALSO PRESENT WAS: Tom White, Greenbelt News Review.

Council reviewed the FY 2010 Management Objectives and Council Action Request Report

Under Police: Chief Craze said officers have participated in community meetings with various homeowners associations and are continuing to reach out to other associations to schedule additional meetings.

Greenbelt Connection: Mr. McLaughlin provided Council with an update of current usage of the Greenbelt Connection.

Traffic Control: Ms. Mach suggested a crosswalk on Southway by the Rt. 295 light should be considered.

Roosevelt Center: Ms. Mach suggested dumpster screening for the trash/recycling areas should be considered to maintain the area as an attractive gathering location.

Council also received a budget update. Mr. McLaughlin noted it appeared that the City was on target with the FY 2010 budget. He then summarized his FY 2011 budget update memo dated January 13th. Mr. McLaughlin advised that the State has not released the total assessment data, but a sampling of property assessments indicates residential property values have declined. He said that "big ticket" changes may be needed to yield the amount of savings/reductions that may be needed to balance the FY 2011 budget.

There was discussion regarding the following ideas:

- 1. Increase the tax rate to offset lost revenue from declining assessments.*
- 2. Reduce the city's compensation package*
 - a. Suspend funding of the deferred compensation contribution program*
 - b. Eliminate positions that are currently open*
 - c. Suspend the Annual Leave Buy Back Program.*
 - d. Furloughs*
 - e. Change city's health insurance premium payment*
- 3. Defer the theater project for two to three years.*
- 4. Change projects in the Capital and Other Funds*
- 5. Reductions or cuts in program*

Council noted it was difficult to provide specific guidance regarding the FY 2011 budget with the limited information currently available regarding the property assessments. Mr. McLaughlin said he expects to have the State's total assessment report by the end of January and suggested meeting again next month to discuss the issue.

Informational Items

Mayor Davis reported the University of Maryland has purchased the Washington Post facility in College Park.

Mayor Davis requested "Council Reports" be included as an agenda item for the meeting on January 25, 2010.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:22 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

*Cindy Murray
City Clerk*