

WORK SESSION OF THE GREENBELT CITY COUNCIL held Monday, March 1, 2010, for the purpose of meeting with the Board of Elections.

Mayor Davis called the meeting to order at 7:33 p.m. It was held in the Council Room of the Municipal Building.

PRESENT WERE: Councilmembers Konrad E. Herling, Emmett V. Jordan, Leta M. Mach, Rodney M. Roberts and Mayor Judith F. Davis. Councilmember Silke I. Pope arrived at 7:45 p.m. Councilmember Edward V.J. Putens was unable to attend.

STAFF PRESENT WERE: Michael McLaughlin, City Manager, and Cindy Murray, City Clerk.

ALSO PRESENT WERE: Jean Cook, Steven Gilbert, Pamela Gregory, Dorothy Lauber and Judy Ott, Board of Elections.

Mayor Davis explained the purpose of the meeting was to review the 2009 election process.

Promotion/Advertising: Ms. Gregory said the Board was very pleased with the promotion of the election, including new signage, informational newsletters and sample ballots. Ms. Ott noted that the large response to early voting was due to the good promotion.

New Precinct 18: Ms. Gregory said that the use of Trinity Assembly of God/Turning Point Academy for the new precinct had worked out very well. She mentioned that the judges and clerks at the precinct had expressed concern regarding the lack of adequate lighting in the parking area during evening hours. Ms. Gregory suggested exterior lighting at all voting locations be reviewed prior to the next election.

Early Voting: Ms. Gregory mentioned the large number of residents who had participated in early voting in 2009 and the expected increase in the number of early voters for the 2011 election. There was discussion regarding the use of voting machines for early voting in place of the paper scannable ballots used in the past election. The Board expressed concern regarding security of opening and closing of voting machines over a multiple day period, and leaving the machines unattended overnight.

The Board said they were confident in the accuracy of the early voting and absentee voting methods in place using the scannable paper ballots. They indicated they would monitor the use of e-poll books by the County in the upcoming election and determine if the use of these books would be beneficial to the City, both for early voting and on election day.

Clerks/Judges: Ms. Murray said it was necessary to use several clerks living outside the City to staff the precincts since there were not enough resident applicants. Mayor Davis suggested the Board obtain the list of local clerks and judges used by the County for their elections. There was discussion regarding providing food for clerks and judges for the next election.

Other Issues: Mr. Jordan questioned if there was a need to provide ballots in additional languages. After discussion, it was agreed that it would be very difficult to handle all the languages in the City. Ms. Ott said that if there was a specific request for language services during the election, there are many language resources available in the City that could be utilized.

Mayor Davis expressed concern with an advertising flyer distributed by a candidate during the 2009 election that contained the wording “official ballot” and asked the Board their thoughts on this type of advertising. She added that Mr. Manzi’s opinion was that the advertisement was not in violation of any current law, but he had advised Council they could take legislative action to prevent the use of the words on future advertisements. Ms. Ott said the Board deals with running the election only and does not get involved in campaign issues such as this.

Council thanked the Board for a very well organized and well run election.

Informational Items

Ms. Mach requested SB835 Equity in State Aid to Counties Act of 2010 be included on the agenda of the next meeting. She said that this bill would be helpful to the Prince George’s County schools.

Mayor Davis announced that anyone planning to attend the Envision Prince George’s County Town Hall meeting on March 20 should register online.

Mayor Davis announced the nomination of David Byrd as Chairman of the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission for Prince George’s County was on the agenda for the Prince George’s County Council meeting tomorrow.

Mayor Davis provided information received from the Council of Governments regarding the Transportation Planning Board meeting in February and the upcoming meeting on March 17.

The meeting ended at 9:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

*Cindy Murray
City Clerk*