

REGULAR MEETING OF THE GREENBELT CITY COUNCIL held Monday, March 22, 2010.

Mayor Davis called the meeting to order at 8:03 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; Terri Hruby, Assistant Director of Planning; Amy Hofstra, Community Planner; John Shay, City Solicitor; and Cindy Murray, City Clerk.

Mayor Davis asked for a moment of silence in memory of Greenbelt residents Donald J. Nagle, Greta Corbin-Horton, Benjamin E. Boyd and Henry Hartwick, and former resident Rev. Edward H. Birner. She then led the pledge of allegiance to the flag.

CONSENT AGENDA: Ms. Mach asked to remove the minutes from the February 22, 2010 meeting. It was moved by Mr. Putens and seconded by Ms. Pope that the consent agenda be approved as amended. The motion passed 7-0.

Council thereby took the following actions:

MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETINGS

Interviews, February 22, 2010
Legislative Dinner, February 25, 2010
Work Session, March 1, 2010
Interviews, March 10, 2010
Interviews, March 15, 2010

APPOINTMENTS TO ADVISORY GROUPS: Council appointed the following individuals to terms on advisory groups:

Jeremiah Hammett	Youth Advisory Committee
Sean Flanagan	Youth Advisory Committee
Trina Coore	75 th Anniversary Committee
(Amitiyah) Elayne Hyman	Arts Advisory Board

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: Ms. Mach requested "Appointments to Advisory Groups" be added to the agenda. Mayor Davis requested "State Proposed Permanent Cuts to Highway User Funds" 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:

Census 2010 Briefing: Celia Craze, Director of Planning and Community Development, briefed Council on Census 2010. She reported GHI residents received census forms with the court number on the mailing but no unit designation. Ms. Craze said the Census Bureau has been notified of the problem, but she has not yet received a response.

Ms. Craze stressed the importance of obtaining an accurate census count, not only for legislative districting purposes, but for the distribution of resources to each community. She encouraged residents with questions regarding the census to visit one of the four Census Assistance Centers in the City.

PETITIONS AND REQUESTS:

Mayor Davis reported Council had received the Forest Preserve Advisory Board Report #2010-01 (Encroachment of Northway mulch piles into the Forest Preserve) as a petition request. Mr. Roberts moved the report be referred to staff for review. Mr. Herling seconded. The motion passed 7-0.

MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETINGS:

Minutes of Regular Meeting February 22, 2010: Under “Newspaper Deliveries – Opt-Out Provision,” Ms. Mach noted that Council requested letters be sent to both the *Gazette* and the *Examiner* noting the existing “opt-out” provision. With this change, Ms. Mach moved that the minutes be accepted. Mr. Putens seconded. The motion passed 7-0.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS:

Mr. McLaughlin announced that Earth Hour will be celebrated Saturday, March 27th, and the Egg Hunt and Artful Afternoon program will be held on Saturday, April 3.

Mayor Davis reported that the Council of Governments is being asked to support HR 2986/ S1525, the National Capital Region Land Conservation Act. She asked Mr. Moran to review the bill.

COUNCIL REPORTS:

Ms. Mach commented on the Women’s History Month Luncheon at Springhill Lake Elementary School, which she attended with Mayor Davis, and the Prince George’s County Municipal Association meeting which she attended with Mr. Herling and Mr. Jordan.

Mr. Jordan reported on the Envision Prince George’s 21st Century Town Meeting, which he attended with Mayor Davis, Mr. Herling and Ms. Mach.

Mayor Davis commented on the American Legion Post 136 banquet in honor of the National Commander, the Prince George’s County Women’s History Month luncheon, the 2010 Greenbelt Youth Musical, and the “If I Were Mayor” presentation to students at Springhill Lake Elementary School. She also noted she had attended the annual residents meeting at the Lakes of Greenbelt Village with Mr. Putens and Mr. Jordan.

COMMITTEE REPORTS: None

LEGISLATION:

A Resolution to Amend Resolution 1050, a Resolution to Purchase Certain Goods and Services from Various Vendors as Enumerated Herein When Total Fiscal Year Purchases from Each Vendor Exceed Ten Thousand Dollars (\$10,000)

Ms. Pope introduced the ordinance for second reading and moved that it be adopted. Mr.

Putens seconded the motion.

Mr. McLaughlin said details on the exact location and costs for the emergency call boxes and security cameras would be brought back to Council when the final plan is complete.

Mr. Orleans, Greenbelt, expressed his opposition to the installation of security cameras and suggested a work session on the issue be scheduled. Mayor Davis and Ms. Pope said the project was recommended by the Neighborhood Improvement Team and the Public Safety Advisory Committee, and added that the public had expressed support for the project at open public forums.

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

The resolution was declared adopted (Resolution No. 1061, Book 8)

A Resolution to Amend Resolution 743, a Resolution to Establish a Youth Advisory Committee

Mayor Davis read the agenda comments. Mr. Roberts introduced the resolution for first reading.

TRANSIT RIDERS UNITED – ADDITIONAL STATE FUNDING FOR WASHINGTON METROPOLITAN AREA TRANSIT AUTHORITY: Mayor Davis read the agenda comments.

Anna Socrates, 14 Ridge Road, speaking on behalf of Transit Riders United of Greenbelt (TRUG), expressed concern that Metrorail, Metrobus and Metro Access service will be reduced unless additional state funding of \$29 million is provided to the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (WMATA).

Mayor Davis moved that Council send a letter to Governor O’Malley and the State delegation requesting additional state funding of \$29 million for the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority. Mr. Putens seconded.

Council discussed several sources for this funding including the use of existing funds slated for state transportation projects and an increase in the gas tax. Mr. Roberts noted his opposition to an increase in the gas tax.

LeAnne Irwin, 13 Ridge Road, said she had written a letter to Governor O’Malley requesting increased WMATA funding.

Jane Hopkins, resident of College Park, reported the free bus ridership program that provided transportation for students during after-school hours had been cut in Prince George’s County last year. She commented that this cut has created a dangerous situation with more teen drivers on the road.

The motion passed 7-0.

WMATA'S Proposed FY 2011 Service Changes: Mayor Davis read the agenda comments.

Mr. Putens moved that Council transmit a letter to WMATA and the County opposing the elimination of Metrobus Route R3 and opposing any reduction in service levels associated with the restructuring of Metrobus Routes R12 and T16 & 17. Mr. Jordan seconded. The motion passed 7-0.

Ms. Hruby said WMATA provided a proposed plan on Friday and staff is starting to review the plan in detail to determine the impacts on public transportation in the City. She said she will meet with Prince George's County and TRU-G on Wednesday.

John Stith, 2-G Laurel Hill Road, expressed concern about how quickly WMATA's process may move regarding the proposed service cuts.

Greenbelt Federal Courthouse Expansion - Environmental Assessment: Mayor Davis read the agenda comments.

Mr. Putens moved that Council authorize staff to send a letter to the General Services Administration (GSA) requesting GSA implement green building techniques, traffic management plans, and consider using existing vacant office space in the area. Ms. Pope seconded. The motion passed 7-0.

Mayor Davis suggested the following requests be included with those identified in Ms. Hofstra's draft letter: staging areas for construction off-site or near site; tiered parking structure on top of existing parking; bicycle rider accommodations, such as lockers and showers; sustainable features such as low impact development and pervious pavement; and bus service or shuttle service to supplement or replace threatened bus routes servicing the courthouse.

Verizon Cell Tower - NASA Goddard Space Flight Center: Mayor Davis read the agenda comments.

Mr. Roberts said he was opposed to the proposed location of the tower since it is located in the middle of the buffer area and suggested a better location would be in open space area. Mr. Herling mentioned the location may have been chosen for engineering reasons.

Mr. Putens questioned how many trees would be lost in the proposed location. Ms. Hofstra said approximately seven trees.

Mr. Jordan moved that Council send a letter to the National Capital Planning Commission (NCPC) stating Council has reviewed the project, understands the need for the tower, but will not take an official position in support or opposition. Ms. Mach seconded. Council requested the letter express their concern that the proposal is in contrast to previous plans regarding protection of the buffer area and a request to determine if an open space location on the property could be used for the tower. Council also requested the City be notified of any future plans for similar projects.

Mr. Roberts moved that Council oppose the location of the Verizon cell tower on NASA property. The motion failed.

Mr. Orleans, Greenbelt, said the tower should be located in an area that didn't require the removal of any trees.

The original motion passed 6-1. (Roberts)

Letter of Congratulations to Camp Fire Patuxent:

Mayor Davis moved that Council send a congratulatory letter to Camp Fire Patuxent on the 100th anniversary of the Camp Fire program, noting the programs and services offered in Greenbelt, the good working relationship with the City Recreation Department, and also their assistance during emergency situations. Ms. Mach seconded. The motion passed 7-0. Mayor Davis requested copies of the letter be sent to Rosemary Pezzuto and her supervisor.

Mayor Davis said she had attended the 100th Anniversary Celebration of Camp Fire USA, along with Mr. Jordan and Ms. Mach.

Ms. Mach move that Council send a letter to Empirian Village to thank them for donating space in their building for the Camp Fire USA program and for offering the coordination services of Nicey Lowndes, and noting the benefit the Camp Fire USA program has provided to residents. Mr. Jordan seconded. The motion passed 7-0.

OTHER REPORTS: Council provided information from the following meetings and conferences they had recently attended.

- Mr. Jordan
 - National League of Cities (NLC) Congressional City Conference
 - NLC Community and Economic Development Committee Meeting
- Ms. Pope
 - NLC Congressional City Conference
 - NLC Public Safety and Crime Prevention Committee Meeting
- Mr. Putens
 - NLC Congressional City Conference
 - NLC Public Safety and Crime Prevention Committee Meeting
 - NLC Small Cities Council Meeting
- Mr. Roberts
 - Council of Governments (COG) Transportation Planning Board Meeting
- Mr. Herling
 - NLC Congressional City Conference
 - NLC Transportation Infrastructure and Services Committee Meeting
 - COG Metropolitan Development Policy Committee Meeting

- Ms. Mach - NLC Congressional City Conference
 - NLC Human Development Committee Meeting
 - Childhood Obesity Forum sponsored by Prince George's County Councilmember Turner
- Mayor Davis - NLC Congressional City Conference
 - NLC Energy, Environment and Natural Resources Committee Meeting
 - COG Board of Directors meeting
 - Childhood Obesity Forum sponsored by Prince George's County Councilmember Turner

Ms. Mach advised other municipalities have ordinances that prohibit the use of cell phones by public employees operating vehicles while working, even if they are operating their own vehicles. She asked Mr. McLaughlin to review this idea and consider whether it would be beneficial to the city to have a similar policy.

APPOINTMENTS TO ADVISORY GROUPS: Ms. Mach moved to appoint Thelma Loret De Moia to the 75th Anniversary Committee. Mr. Jordan seconded. The motion passed 7-0.

STATE PROPOSED CUTS TO HIGHWAY USER FUNDS: Mayor Davis reported the Senate Budget and Taxation Committee approved recommending to the Senate that the 90% Highway User Revenue cut to municipalities become permanent.

Mayor Davis moved the Council send an immediate letter to the State opposing the proposed permanent cut to HUR funds. Ms. Mach seconded, and requested the letter emphasize the need to maintain the City's road infrastructure. The motion passed 7-0.

MEETINGS: Council reviewed the meeting schedule. Council requested TGI Friday's be added to the "Ready to be Scheduled" list and Empirian Village be added to the "Later Scheduling" list.

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, March 22, 2010, at 10:30 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 March 22, 2010."

Judith F. Davis
 Mayor