



WORK SESSION of the Greenbelt City Council held Monday, August 24, 2009, on New Mixed Use Zone.

Mayor Davis started the meeting at 8:52 p.m. It was held in the Council Room of the Municipal Building.

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

STAFF PRESENT WERE: Michael P. McLaughlin, City Manager; Terri Hruby, Assistant Director of Planning and Community Development; and Cindy Murray, City Clerk.

ALSO PRESENT WERE: Chad Williams and Lindsay Smith, Maryland National Capital Park and Planning Commission; Silke Pope and Laura Kressler, Public Safety Advisory Committee; Sheldon Goldberg, Advisory Planning Board; Allen Lo and Bill Orleans.

Mr. Williams presented a powerpoint presentation explaining the proposed New Mixed Zone legislation. He explained that the legislation was drafted to promote high quality mixed-use development in designated areas of the County by addressing the existing inconsistency and uncertainty in the County's development process.

Mr. Williams noted that the new mixed use zone will facilitate transit oriented and pedestrian friendly mixed-use communities where individuals can work, live, play and shop. Areas in Greenbelt include Greenbelt Station, Empirian Village, Beltway Plaza, as well as the North and South Cores.

Mr. Williams reported that public meetings had been held in the central, north and south county in early May and the proposed legislation was sent to the County Council on May 14, 2009. A meeting of the Council's Planning, Zoning and Economic Development Committee (PZED) was held on June 3, 2009, where it was decided to continue work on the legislation to respond to concerns that had been raised. It is expected that the revised legislation will be available for review in the fall.

Mayor Davis and Ms. Mach commented that input from the public and municipalities was only included at the front end of the process. Mr. Putens expressed concern about the affordability of housing in the mixed use zone areas.

Mr. Herling asked who could file amendments. Mr. Williams said amendments could be filed by developers but could not be requested by municipalities.

Ms. Hruby noted that the existing master plan is over 20 years old and asked if the city is slated to be updated. Mr. Williams said portions of the plan are being amended, but not the Greenbelt portion.

After discussion, Council stated the legislation needs to provide opportunities for the public and municipalities to participate throughout the entire review process, not just at the front end. Mr. Roberts requested Mr. Manzi review the legislation to determine how it will affect the pursuit of City planning and zoning authority.

Mayor Davis requested all changes in the legislation be referred to Ms. Hruby. Ms. Hruby said she would review the updated legislation and brief Council prior to the County meeting in September.

Council thanked Mr. Williams and Ms. Smith for the presentation.

Informational Items

Mayor Davis distributed the Maryland Municipal League legislative action request for this year.

Mayor Davis also asked Council to review the City Internet Usage Policy.

The meeting ended at 10:48 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

*Cindy Murray
City Clerk*