



MINUTES OF THE CITY COUNCIL WORK SESSION/LEGISLATIVE DINNER
held Tuesday, February 24, 2009, at the Lowes Annapolis Hotel for the purpose of discussing the status of the City's legislative priorities and other legislative matters.
Mayor Davis convened the meeting at 7:55 p.m.

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; John Shay, City Solicitor; David E. Moran, Assistant City Manager; and Cindy Murray, City Clerk.*

ALSO PRESENT WERE: *State Senator Paul Pinsky; State Delegates Anne Healey, Tawanna Gaines and Justin Ross; and County Councilmember Thomas E. Dernoga. County Councilmember Ingrid M. Turner was unable to attend due to scheduling conflict. Mayor Davis welcomed the legislators and thanked them for attending. She said the purpose of the gathering was for the City to be updated on the status of pending legislation, including the priorities presented at the December dinner.*

The following City priority issues were reviewed and commented on.

State Issues

Enable New Site Plan Authority: *This bill was defeated in both the Bi-County Committee and Delegation. Councilmember Dernoga said he would put the bill forth at the County level but was unsure if there was enough support. He suggested Council discuss the bill with Councilmembers Ingrid Turner and Andrea Harrison.*

Public Safety Funding – Radio Upgrade: *Delegate Gaines said she was looking for a way to get Federal money to the municipalities for this upgrade.*

Funding for Greenbelt Lake Dredging: *Delegate Gaines said there were no State funding sources for this project. Delegate Gaines suggested checking with other local governments who may have had a lake drained within the past few years and inquire how they funded the project.*

Encourage/Require Gas Stations to Offer Alternative Fuels: *There was discussion regarding the need for the State to promote the use of alternative fuels. Senator Pinsky thought it was unlikely this priority would go anywhere this year.*

Alert Items

Update on State and County Budgets: Senator Pinsky commented that the Federal money will assist the State financial situation, and expects the proposed State cuts will not have to be made. Delegate Gaines mentioned Federal funding would be available for state road projects but was doubtful funding would be available for county or municipal road projects.

HB 1282- Soccer Stadium Financing: There was discussion regarding this bill. Senator Pinsky and Delegate Gaines said Greenbelt was no longer being considered as a location for the stadium, noting the required infrastructure was not in place.

County Issues

Greenbelt Middle School: Councilmember Dernoga said he didn't see any reason this project wouldn't proceed forward. There was discussion regarding the need for renovation of the existing Middle School building.

Reestablish County Landlord-Tenant Commission: Councilmember Dernoga said this priority is moving forward. Mayor Davis noted the issues with Empirian Village and the need for the commission to be reestablished.

Increase M-NCPPC Funds Provided to Greenbelt: Councilmember Dernoga said he expected an announcement to be made soon regarding M-NCPPC funding.

New Greenbelt Fire Station: It was noted this item was still in the budget and the County was looking for a piece of property.

Other Issues

Heritage Tax Credit: Delegate Ross noted the State's Heritage Tax Credit program has been amended to allow it to be applied to cooperative housing. As a result, Greenbelt Homes and individual residents of Greenbelt Homes can apply for the Heritage Tax Credit.

The meeting ended at 9:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Cindy Murray
City Clerk