



REGULAR MEETING OF THE GREENBELT CITY COUNCIL held April 14, 2008.

Mayor Davis called the meeting to order at 8:04 p.m.

ROLL CALL was answered by Councilmembers Konrad E. Herling, Edward V. J. Putens, Rodney M. Roberts, and Mayor Judith F. Davis. Councilmember Leta M. Mach was out of town.

ALSO PRESENT were Michael P. McLaughlin, City Manager; John F. Shay, Jr., City Solicitor; David E. Moran, Assistant City Manager; and Kathleen Gallagher, City Clerk.

Mayor Davis asked for a moment of silence in memory of Greenbelt resident Robert James Rice, as well as four Greenbelt residents who lived at Green Ridge House: Eleanor Faris, Milton Kibler, Vera McGaha, and James Joseph Cassels. Mr. Cassels was Greenbelt's 1978 Outstanding Citizen and was well-known for his work with others to establish the Twin Pines Savings & Loan, Greenbelt CARES, the current Co-op Supermarket, and Green Ridge House. The Mayor then led the pledge of allegiance to the flag.

CONSENT AGENDA: Mayor Davis asked to remove the minutes from the March 24, 2008, regular meeting from the consent agenda. Mr. Roberts asked to remove #15, Appointment to Advisory Group. It was moved by Mr. Putens and seconded by Mr. Herling that the consent agenda be approved as amended. The motion passed 4-0.

Council thereby took the following actions:

MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETINGS

- Work Session, March 31, 2008
- Work Session, April 2, 2008
- Work Session, April 7, 2008
Approved as presented.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT INSURANCE TRUST (LGIT) – BOARD OF TRUSTEES

BALLOT: The City Council authorized the City Clerk to respond affirmatively on LGIT's three candidates for nomination to the board to serve three-year terms beginning July 1: Stewart B. Cumbo, David J. Deutsch, and Roger L. Fink.

RESIGNATIONS FROM ADVISORY GROUPS: Council accepted with regret the resignations of Lawrence Hilliard from the Park & Recreation Advisory Board and James Bowles from the Senior Citizens Advisory Committee.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: It was moved by Mr. Putens and seconded by Mr. Herling that the agenda be approved as presented. The motion carried 4-0.

PRESENTATIONS

Arbor Day – Proclamation: In keeping with its designation as a “Tree City USA,” Greenbelt issued its annual proclamation in recognition of Arbor Day. Charles Jackman, chair of the Advisory Committee on Trees, and Lesley Riddle, Superintendent of Parks & Grounds, received the proclamation, and Mr. Jackman gave an overview of this year’s Arbor Day plans, which will be conducted by the City in conjunction with its Earth Day events near the Library underpass on Saturday, April 19.

City Clerk – Proclamation: The Mayor announced that the City Clerk would be leaving to take another position and read a proclamation in her honor. Council thanked her for her service.

PETITIONS AND REQUESTS: None.

MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETINGS

Regular Meeting, March 24, 2008: Mayor Davis asked to make a correction to show that HB 1604/SB 1000 funding would be dedicated to urban parks, whereas previous funding had gone to county parks. It was moved by Mr. Putens and seconded by Mr. Herling that the minutes be approved with that change. The motion carried 4-0.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

Mr. McLaughlin said he had forwarded an e-mail from the Mayor giving a link to a contest of photos from the Potomac Watershed Clean-up activities. One of the photos, taken by the City’s Recycling Coordinator Cindy Murray, portrays Springhill Lake children working together, and everyone was encouraged to go on line and vote for the photo. He distributed a postcard advertising Celebration of Spring on April 26, and he announced that there would also be an electronics recycling day on April 26 from 9 to noon.

Mr. Herling praised the postcard and reported statistics from the clean-up.

Mayor Davis said that at MML’s request, she had attended an orientation for new members of Council in Upper Marlboro. She also attended a presentation by animal control staff on a plan to deal with feral cats, a resident interest meeting at Springhill Lake, a Greater Washington 2050 meeting presented by COG, and the clean-up at Springhill Lake. She listed many local groups who participated in the Potomac Watershed Clean-up. She attended a pedestrian safety workshop, which was presented by the University of North Carolina and the National Highway Transportation Safety Committee and sponsored by the Senior Citizens Advisory Committee, a conference in Alexandria on climate change and, with other Councilmembers, the Little League Opening Day parade.

COMMITTEE REPORTS: None.

LEGISLATION

A Resolution of the City of Greenbelt Adopted Pursuant to the Authority of Article XI-E of the Constitution of Maryland and Section 13 of Article 23a of the Annotated Code of Maryland, (1957 Edition as Amended), Title, "Corporation-Municipal," Subtitle "Home Rule" to Amend the Charter of the City of Greenbelt Found, in Whole or in Part, in the Compilation of Municipal Charters of Maryland (1983 Edition as Amended), as Prepared by the Department of Legislative Reference Pursuant to Chapter 77 of the Acts of the General Assembly of Maryland of 1983, by Amending Paragraph (d), "Powers," of Section 12, Titled "Employee Relations Board" (Charter Amendment Resolution No. 2008-1)

Mayor Davis read the agenda comments. Mr. Herling introduced the resolution for first reading. Mr. Putens asked if it had not at one time been planned to have a separate group hear these grievances. Everyone agreed that although that was one of the options discussed at the time, the agreement reached prior to adoption of the Labor Code was that it would be the existing Employee Relations Board.

RENAMING OF SERVICE ROAD IN CAPITAL OFFICE PARK: The Mayor read the agenda comments. Mayor Davis said she had suggested using the Turner family name since their farm had included that area. Mr. Putens suggested Turner Farm Road. Mr. Roberts said that name should not be used unless the name of the farm was actually "Turner Farm." When Mr. Moran produced evidence from the Greenbelt history book that the farm was called "Wild Cat," it was agreed to take another tack. The Mayor moved that the City notify the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission of its desire to change the name of Service Road to Turner Place. Mr. Putens seconded, and the motion carried 4-0.

REAPPOINTMENTS TO ADVISORY GROUP: Mr. Roberts moved that Christopher Husker and Rachel McMullin be appointed to new three-year terms on the Park & Recreation Advisory Board. Mr. Herling seconded the motion, which carried 4-0.

MEETINGS: Council reviewed the schedule of upcoming meetings. It was agreed to propose meeting with the Fire Department at 7:30 p.m. on either April 21 or April 23. It was agreed to start the executive session on April 28 at 7:00 p.m. rather than 7:30 p.m. and to add a pending lawsuit by To God Be the Glory to the existing topic. Mayor Davis asked Ms. Gallagher to check with GHI to be sure they were willing to meet at 8 p.m. rather than at 7:30 p.m. on June 4. She also noted executive sessions for the City Manager's review on May 19 and May 27.

ADJOURNMENT: A motion to adjourn the meeting was then made by Mr. Putens and seconded by Mr. Herling. The motion carried 4-0. The Mayor adjourned the regular meeting of April 14, 2008, at 9:02 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Kathleen Gallagher
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 April 14, 2008."

Judith F. Davis
Mayor