



BUDGET WORK SESSION OF THE GREENBELT CITY COUNCIL held Wednesday, May 21, 2008 , for the purpose of undertaking a final review of the FY 2009 budget.

Mayor Davis called the meeting to order at 8:31p.m. It was held in the Multipurpose Room of the Community Center.

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 McLaughlin , City Manager; Jeff Williams , City Treasurer; David Moran , Assistant City Manager; Celia Craze , Director, Planning & Community Development; Joe McNeal , Assistant Director, Recreation; Kenny Hall , Director, Public Works; Carolyn Clemens, Assistant Director, Public Works; Liz Park , Director of CARES; Chief Jim Craze , Capts. Dan O'Neil and Tom Kemp, Lt. David Buerger , and Sgt. Jim Parker , Police Department.

ALSO PRESENT WERE: Sheldon Goldberg, Joan Falcoa, Chris Husker, Rachel McMullin, and Bill Orleans, residents and Jim Giese , Greenbelt News Review.

Mayor Davis thanked everyone for waiting. She first asked Council to share any changes in management objectives for the Budget or general questions on the Budget.

Mr. Putens asked that the Assisted Living on housing management objective be carried over. He also requested a plan (costs, description, feasibility, etc.) for the use of a reserve officer program. Mr. Herling asked that staff explore the cost and benefits for a marketing director.

Mayor Davis asked for a list of the Civic Groups. She also asked about the status of three recognition group requests. Mr. McLaughlin replied that staff was working on both items. Mayor

Davis asked about the status of the Recreation Department proposal to provide memberships for fire fighters. She asked several police car questions based on the vehicle inventory report.

Ms. Mach asked about providing additional forms of appreciation to City Advisory groups. Council liked the option of extending the employee pass rate at the Aquatic & Fitness Center to advisory groups. Mr. Roberts was not in favor of this approach.

Mayor Davis presented a proposal for revenue and expenditure changes (see attached). Ms. Mach favored an additional \$15,000 to make the Springhill Lake (SHL) inspector a nine month position. Mr. Roberts expressed concern about the additional positions and noted that this would likely require a tax increase in the future. There was discussion about the need for an additional SHL inspector. Mr. Roberts stated that a SHL inspector had been hired previously and then reassigned. He believed staff could perform this function with existing resources. Ms. Craze noted that there were only a limited number of inspection hours, and that if Council directed concentrated enforcement in SHL, then other inspection areas would suffer. Mr. Roberts stated that Council needed to hold the line like the residents are holding the line. Mayor Davis stated that the City had needs that required positions. Mr. Herling believed a new inspector would generate increased revenues through fines.

Mayor Davis asked if staff had any concerns with her proposal. Mr. McLaughlin expressed concern about the reduction of one police car. He reported that the Department does a good job of managing the fleet and believed replacing 8 cars was necessary. Mr. McLaughlin requested flexibility (Toughbook laptop computers vs. police car) to modify which items are selected while holding to the total allocation. Council agreed to this flexibility. Mayor Davis hoped funding could be found other than reducing the 10 Toughbooks. Mr. Roberts again expressed concern about the new positions believing this would necessitate tax increases in the future. There was Council consensus to proceed with the Mayor's proposal as amended by Ms. Mach.

Mr. Herling asked about a DVD Projector for the Greenbelt Theater proposed by GATE. Mr. McLaughlin responded that this would be considered in conjunction with the budget for the theater renovation project.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

David E. Moran

Acting City Clerk