*City of Greenbelt, Maryland*

***GREENBELT CITYLINK***

 WORK SESSION OF THE GREENBELT CITY COUNCIL held Monday, November 20, 2006, for the purpose of receiving a quarterly update from the City Manager.

Mayor Davis called the meeting to order at 8:40 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 McLaughlin, City Manager; and Kathleen Gallagher, City Clerk.

Mr. McLaughlin reviewed the following items with Council:

Preliminary FY 2006 Financial Report: A memo from Jeff Williams, City Treasurer, dated October 24, 2006, was presented, indicating that the City ended the fiscal year in good shape, with expenditures down, revenues up, and a slight increase in the undesignated fund balance. The final report will be available by the end of the calendar year. In response to a question from the Mayor, Mr. McLaughlin explained that the funding from the state police grant is not a set amount; rather, it varies relative to expenses at both the state and county levels.

September 2006 Financial Report: The City Treasurer’s monthly report for September was provided in a memo. Mr. McLaughlin said that the October report would be out soon.

FY 2007Management Objectives and Capital Projects: Under “Administration,” Mr. McLaughlin said he had expected further action on the draft Labor Code by now. It was agreed that he should convey to the F.O.P. that bargaining negotiations could begin concurrent with the continued discussion of the Labor Code. Ms. Mach asked whether the bond issue identified in the City’s legislative program for the Greenbelt Theatre had any effect on the planning of the theater capital project. Mr. McLaughlin said until there was clarification on the current delegation’s interest in capital projects, he did not think pursuit of the one should affect continuing efforts on the other.

Public Information: Ms. Mach asked how many citizens had asked to be added to the Roam Secure emergency notification system. Mr. McLaughlin said, so far, about 50. The status of negotiations on Verizon cable was briefly discussed.

Police: There was a good deal of discussion regarding reprogramming the funding that had been received to place video cameras in some police cruisers to replacing cruiser laptops with Panasonic Toughbooks. Mr. McLaughlin said the proposal is to use these funds in addition to existing funds to purchase the more durable Toughbooks. Regarding moving ahead on the cameras, he said there is concern about introducing yet another new technology before the laptop issues is completely resolved. The Mayor expressed concern that the camera project, which is really intended to protect our officers, keeps being delayed. Mr. Putens shared the concern. Mr. Herling asked what the Chief’s position was. Mr. McLaughlin said the Police Department would prefer to get the laptops taken care of before introducing a new technology. Mr. Roberts said he would prefer to stick with the cameras. The Mayor asked Mr. McLaughlin to continue discussing options with the department. It was noted that this issue would eventually come before Council.

Arts: Noting that Recreation was pursuing providing arts opportunities for the Friends Community School, Ms. Mach suggested that the City should also be working with the Turning Point Academy Public Charter School, which is located in Greenbelt at the Trinity Assembly of God.

Capital Projects: Mr. McLaughlin noted that getting to the street work is dependent on the weather. Mr. Putens said there was a continued problem with residents not being notified when they could piggy-back on City concrete work to have other work done. He said there was no notification of recent work on Mathew Street and Megan Lane. Ms. Mach said there had not been notification in Boxwood either. Mr. McLaughlin said he would see that this was corrected.

Plans for Fall 2007 MML Conference in Greenbelt – October 18-20: Mr. McLaughlin had provided a number of suggestions in a memo dated November 16. Ms. Mach agreed that a tour of BARC would be timely, since it would help in getting the word out about the alliance that has been formed to preserve and protect BARC. Mayor Davis suggested finding out if a Star Party could be held if the Observatory was in place by then. She also suggested seeing if FONDCA could hold one of its Roosevelt Center concerts that weekend. It was agreed that pursuing the idea of holding the Thursday night reception at the visitor center at the GSFC, as was done in 1987, was a good one. It was mentioned that the Marriott is the MML conference headquarters. The Mayor asked if staff could try to assure that their deal would include a Saturday night stay-over at the conference price. Mr. Herling was asked to try to see that the International Festival and Film Festival would not occur on this weekend since the competition for space could be a problem. There was also discussion of asking Eleanor Roosevelt High School groups to entertain at the banquet.

**Other Business:** Among other informational announcements,Ms. Mach said that she had been nominated to be vice-chair from Maryland for the Metropolitan Washington Air Quality Committee.

Mr. Roberts said that a member of the Park & Recreation Advisory Board had called him to say that the board had been told that it was to be briefed on the Preliminary Plan of Subdivision for Springhill Lake but that it had not been a referral from Council requesting comment from the board. He said that he had wanted it referred to PRAB. There was discussion of how this had evolved. Council asked that it be relayed to the board that members were welcome to forward individual opinions if it was not possible to determine a consensus opinion at this point.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:58 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Kathleen Gallagher City Clerk