

WORK SESSION OF THE GREENBELT CITY COUNCIL held Wednesday, April 6, 2016, to discuss the Grants & Contributions, Museum, Police and Greenbelt Volunteer Fire Department & Rescue Squad FY 2017 Proposed Budgets.

Mayor Jordan started the meeting at 7:35 p.m. The meeting was held in Room 201 of the Greenbelt Community Center.

PRESENT WERE: Councilmembers Judith F. Davis, Konrad E. Herling, Silke I. Pope, Edward V. J. Putens, Rodney M. Roberts and Mayor Emmett V. Jordan. Councilmember Leta M. Mach was attending the meeting of the National League of Cities and National Association of Counties Joint Task Force on the Opioid and Heroin Crisis.

STAFF PRESENT WERE: Michael McLaughlin, City Manager; Jeffrey Williams, City Treasurer; Megan Searing-Young, Museum Curator; Cindy Murray, City Clerk; Chief Jim Craze, Capts. Tom Kemp and Marie Triesky, Acting Captain Tom Moreland, and Lt. Gordon Pracht, Police Department.

ALSO PRESENT WERE: Neally Opplinger, Washington Ear; Lauren Silberman, Friends of the Greenbelt Museum; Chief Tom Ray and Vice President John Wynkoop, Greenbelt Volunteer Fire Department and Rescue Squad; Chris White, Lisa Hegwood and Ken Theodos, Citizens Emergency Response Team; Jim Giese, Greenbelt News Review; Laura Kressler, Molly Lester and Bill Orleans.

Grants & Contributions

Ms. Opplinger, Washington Ear, discussed the wide range of free programming provided by the Washington Ear for blind, visually impaired, and physically disabled people who cannot effectively read print. She said many Greenbelt residents utilize the services and four Greenbelt residents volunteer as readers. She thanked Council for its contribution to the Washington Ear in past years.

Council suggested a \$1,000 grant for the Anacostia Trails Heritage Area "Heritage Center Fund" be included under Grants and Contributions.

Greenbelt Museum

Megan Searing-Young reviewed the Museum's accomplishments over the past year.

Ms. Silberman thanked Council for its support in acquiring 10-A Crescent Road for the Greenbelt Museum this year. Ms. Young and Ms. Silberman said the goal is to have a grand opening in June or July of 2017 but commented that was all dependent on the grants received. Ms. Silberman said FOGM will also be launching a capital campaign.

Greenbelt Volunteer Fire Department and Rescue Squad

Chief Ray reviewed the Greenbelt Volunteer Fire Department and Rescue Squad (GVFDRS) Apparatus Replacement Schedule. He noted the next scheduled apparatus replacement is for the 2008 Ford ambulance in 2018.

Vice President Wynkoop said GVFDRS is requesting an additional \$5,000 to fund a volunteer Paramedic Training program. He explained that GVFDRS is losing volunteers to the Branchville, College Park and Berwyn Heights Fire Departments because they currently provide this training to volunteers.

Mayor Jordan asked about communications to the City regarding fire or emergency events. Chief Ray said notification is sent to Mr. McLaughlin and Council when an event occurs.

Council requested \$5,000 be added to the Budget Update List.

Citizens Emergency Response Team (CERT)

Ms. White, Ms. Hegwood and Mr. Theodis reported on Citizens Emergency Response Team (CERT) activities over the past year and discussed its goals for FY 2017. Ms. White said CERT now has 23 active members.

Council requested another \$1,000 be added to the Budget Update List to fund CERT's budget of \$1,500.

Ms. White said the generator used by CERT is not working and is scheduled to be looked at for repair. She noted that the generator has a pull start and is very difficult for some members to operate. Depending on the mechanical diagnosis of the generator, Ms. White said CERT may recommend the purchase of a new push start generator at a cost of approximately \$800. If the current generator can be repaired, Mr. Putens suggested it be converted from a pull start to a push start. He added that it wouldn't hurt to have two generators available for CERT.

Public Safety

Council reviewed the Public Safety section of the proposed budget page by page.

Chief Craze reported that the Department had a turnover of 35% of its sworn personnel in the last three to four years due to retirements. He explained that recruitment and selection continues to be a priority. Chief Craze said one officer testing was held this past year and 267 applicants were invited to participate. From this group, 54 applicants showed for the testing and six were eventually hired as Police Officer Candidates. Chief Craze said the Department has 53 Police officer positions and currently has 2 vacancies.

There was a discussion of the opioid and heroin epidemic. Chief Craze said the current problem is a national health care crisis.

Mr. Roberts expressed concern regarding a lack of training for Police officers to deal with people with special needs. Lt. Pracht explained scenario based training which is required of all Police officers twice a year by the Maryland Police and Correctional Training Commissions (MPCTC).

There was discussion of the security cameras not working in Roosevelt Center. Mr. McLaughlin said the City became aware of the problem in January and repairs are taking longer than

anticipated. He explained there is a problem with the signal from the cameras going to the communications hub in the Municipal Building.

Capt. Kemp said the Department plans to establish the first Police Explorers Program for young people wishing to serve in law enforcement in their adult lives. He explained that the Explorers Program is part of the Boy Scouts of America and will consist of youths 14 to 20 years of age.

Mr. Putens and Mr. Herling stressed the need for officers to walk and bike through the community and become familiar with residents and business owners. Chief Craze agreed, noting that officers do so as manpower and time allows.

Lt. Pracht said the Department hopes to implement a pilot body camera program by the end of June which will allow a test period in order to determine the resources and commitment needed for Department wide deployment in FY 2017. Chief Craze said since funds were allocated to purchase Department wide body cameras in FY 2016, it is recommended that this funding be reallocated to the purchase of 17 Panasonic Toughbook in-car computers for the use of officers on patrol.

Council reviewed the vehicle inventory. Ms. Davis commented that many vehicles had over 100,000 miles and requested the purchase of one (1) additional police vehicle (in addition to the seven new vehicles proposed) be included on the Budget Update List.

Informational Items

Several informational items were discussed.

The meeting ended at 11:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

*Cindy Murray
City Clerk*