

WORK SESSION OF THE GREENBELT CITY COUNCIL held Wednesday, August 3, 2011, for the purpose of receiving a briefing from the City Solicitor on the New State Ethics Law and to discuss Advisory Group Recommendations regarding a Roosevelt Center Smoking Policy.

Mayor Pro Tem Jordan called the meeting to order at 8:00 p.m. It was held in the MultiPurpose Room of the Community Center.

PRESENT WERE: Councilmembers Konrad E. Herling, Leta M. Mach, Silke I. Pope, Edward V. J. Putens, Rodney M. Roberts and Mayor Pro Tem Emmett V. Jordan. Mayor Davis was out of state attending to family matters.

STAFF PRESENT WERE: Michael P. McLaughlin, City Manager; Robert Manzi, City Solicitor; David Moran, Assistant City Manager; and Cindy Murray, City Clerk.

ALSO PRESENT WERE: Pam Gregory, Board of Elections; and Kathleen Gallagher, News Review.

New State Ethics Law

Mr. Manzi explained that legislation passed by the General Assembly in 2010 requires that ethics ordinances in Maryland cities, towns and counties be upgraded to be at least “as stringent” as the State code. He noted that the previous requirement was that ethics ordinances only had to be “similar” to the state.

Mr. Manzi reviewed the following changes that are now required for the City:

- 1. Registration of Lobbyists*
- 2. Creation of an Ethics Commission*
- 3. Upgraded financial disclosure forms which must be submitted by members of Council, candidates for Council, the City Manager and members of various advisory boards*
- 4. Financial disclosure forms must now be submitted by the Assistant City Manager, City Clerk, all Department Directors and Assistant Directors, and Police Command Staff at the rank of Captain and above.*

Mr. Manzi commented that the financial disclosure forms required for employees are essentially the same forms as those required of State employees and the forms required for members of Council and candidates for Council are even more stringent.

Mr. Manzi advised that the City of Laurel’s ethics ordinance had been upgraded and had been recently approved by the State. He noted that two additional items, related to nepotism and abuse of power, were included in Laurel’s ordinance.

There was discussion regarding the registration of lobbyists. Mr. Manzi explained that an attorney or business owner, or other individuals advocating on behalf of a group for City approval of an item could be considered as a lobbyist. He said an individual citizen or group providing information to Council, speaking on their own behalf or lobbying for the public good would likely not be considered a lobbyist.

Noting the new ethics ordinance needed to be approved by October 1, 2011, Council directed Mr. Manzi to proceed with drafting new legislation for the City similar to the legislation recently approved for Laurel.

Smoking at Roosevelt Center

Council reviewed the recommendations from the Community Relations Advisory Board, Park and Recreation Advisory Board, and the Youth Advisory Committee regarding smoking in Roosevelt Center. It was noted that the consensus of the three committees was that Roosevelt Center should be smoke free but the three groups recommended different locations where smoking area(s) should be designated.

After discussion, Council recommended the item be included on the agenda of the August 22nd work session with Roosevelt Center Merchants.

Informational Items

Mr. Manzi provided an update on the Citizens United Case.

Several other informational items were discussed.

The meeting ended at 9:44 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted

*Cindy Murray
City Clerk*