

REGULAR MEETING OF THE GREENBELT CITY COUNCIL held Monday, December 12, 2011.

Mayor Davis called the meeting to order at 8:12 p.m.

ROLL CALL was answered by Councilmembers Emmett V. Jordan, Leta M. Mach, Silke I. Pope, Rodney M. Roberts and Mayor Judith F. Davis. Councilmember Konrad E. Herling was unable to attend due to illness and Councilmember Edward V.J. Putens was unable to attend due to family illness.

ALSO PRESENT were Michael McLaughlin, City Manager; David E. Moran, Assistant City Manager; John Shay, City Solicitor; and Cindy Murray, City Clerk.

Mayor Davis asked for a moment of silence in memory of Greenbelt resident Martha Kaufman and former residents Sue Ivy Namur, Brother James Sommers, Benjamin Abramowitz and William McCloskey. She then led the pledge of allegiance to the flag.

CONSENT AGENDA: Mayor Davis requested the minutes of the regular meeting of September 12, 2011 be removed from the consent agenda. Ms. Mach requested Item #23 "Appointments to Advisory Groups" be removed from the agenda. With these changes, it was moved by Mr. Jordan and seconded by Ms. Pope that the consent agenda be approved. The motion passed 5-0.

Council thereby took the following action:

MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETINGS:

Regular Meeting, September 26, 2011
Four Cities Meeting, October 26, 2011
Regular Meeting, November 28, 2011
Work Session, November 30, 2011
Approved as presented.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Park and Recreation Advisory Board, Report #1105 (Recognition Group Application for Greenbelt Community Development Corporation): Council accepted the report and will consider it on the agenda of a future meeting.

COMMUNITY EMERGENCY RESPONSE TEAM (CERT) REPORT: Council accepted the report.

EMPLOYEE SPECIAL HOLIDAY: Council granted a floating holiday to employees for use in FY 2012.

RESIGNATION FROM ADVISORY GROUP: Council accepted the resignation of James Johnson from the Public Safety Advisory Committee.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: It was moved by Ms. Pope and seconded by Mr. Jordan that the agenda be approved. The motion passed 5-0.

PRESENTATIONS: None

PETITIONS AND REQUESTS: None

MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETINGS:

Regular Meeting of September 12, 2011: Under Council Reports, Mayor Davis requested the minutes indicate that she had attended the 50th anniversary celebration of the Youth Center. With this change, she moved that the minutes be approved. Mr. Jordan seconded. The motion passed 5-0.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS: None

COUNCIL REPORTS:

Ms. Pope, Mr. Jordan, Ms. Mach and Mayor Davis commented on the various holiday events including the Festival of Lights Tree Lighting and Craft Show, American Legion Breakfast with Santa, Senator Pinsky's Open House, St. Hugh's Pancake Breakfast, Greenbelt East Advisory Committee Tree Lighting, Meals on Wheels Holiday Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon, Greenway Center Holiday Party, Greenbelt Animal Shelter Holiday Volunteer Appreciation reception, and the Greenbelt Combined Choir Concert.

Mr. Jordan noted his attendance at the Council of Governments Region Forward Task Force meeting. Mayor Davis noted her attendance at former College Park Councilmember Jack Perry's retirement reception.

COMMITTEE REPORTS: None

LEGISLATION:

An Ordinance to Amend Chapter 17 "Solid Waste" of the Greenbelt City Code for the Purpose of Adding Specific Penalties for Dumping and to Increase Penalties for General Violations

Mayor Davis read the agenda comments.

Ms. Pope introduced the ordinance for first reading.

MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION - MARYLAND BIKESHARE PROGRAM

Mayor Davis read the agenda comments.

Mr. McLaughlin advised that the Maryland Department of Transportation Maryland Bikeshare Program will allow for in-kind services to be included as part of the City's match of funds.

Ms. Pope questioned where the bike stations would be located in the City. Jaime Fearer, Community Planner, said that approximately ten sites would be identified with the feasibility study, with connectivity to College Park being a consideration.

Ms. Mach said she could see a bikeshare site at the Metro Station being successful but expressed

concern regarding usage at bikeshare sites in other areas of the City, as most residents who bike already own their bicycles. She asked whether the study will determine potential usage. Ms. Fearer said the study will specifically look at the demographics of the area, and build off information from other bike share programs.

Mr. Jordan suggested that since Greenbelt is part of the University of Maryland (UM) community, perhaps UM would be open to contributing funds to the program. Ms. Fearer said she would look into the possibility of partnering with UM.

Mayor Davis explained the grant application is only for a study to determine whether a bikeshare program in the City is feasible, and how such a program might operate.

Mr. Orleans, Greenbelt, asked and was provided answers to several questions.

Mr. Roberts moved that Council approve submission of the grant application for a feasibility study to the Maryland Department of Transportation's Maryland Bikeshare Program stating the City's commitment to the 20% local match. Ms. Mach seconded. The motion passed 5-0.

WMATA RAILCAR COMMISSIONING FACILITY

Mayor Davis read the agenda comments.

Mr. Roberts expressed concern regarding the appearance of the parking garage and suggested some landscape screening be considered.

Mr. Jordan moved that Council submit a letter to the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority that takes no position on the Documented Categorical Exclusion for the proposed construction of a railcar commissioning facility at the current Greenbelt Service and Inspection Yard, located at 5801 Sunnyside Avenue, but that offers comments on the following points concerning Water Quality:

- The City would like to review the Erosion and Sediment Control Plan for construction as soon as it is available
- The City would like to review the conceptual design and approval for its Stormwater Management Plan as soon as both are available
- Ask WMATA to include pervious surfaces in its design and consider utilizing green roof technology on the roof of the commissioning facility component of the proposed project, and, if possible, attempt LEED certification.

Ms. Pope seconded. The motion passed 5-0.

MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION/CSX INTERMODAL FACILITY LETTER

Mayor Davis read the agenda comments. She suggested a second letter be sent to the Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT) in opposition to consideration of the property east of the Camden Line and west of MD 201 between Sunnyside Avenue and Powder Mill Road for

construction of a rail intermodal facility. Mayor Davis requested the following points be included in the second letter.

1. Air quality concerns - Beltsville is furthest site
2. At-grade railroad crossing at Sunnyside Avenue
3. Traffic study inaccurate for Beltsville site
4. CSX currently owns property adjacent to Rt. 32, by the Jessup proposed site
5. Beltsville Agricultural Research Center letter

Mr. Roberts said Council should oppose all four proposed sites (Beltsville, Jessup, Montevideo and Hanover) currently under consideration for the construction of the rail intermodal facility as they are all located in floodplains. He stated that the original proposed site list identified 17 sites but had been narrowed down to the four proposed sites. Mr. Roberts stated the letter should encourage the State to consider addressing the Howard Street Tunnel issue so a rail intermodal facility would not be necessary. He suggested all four communities (Beltsville, Jessup, Montevideo and Hanover) work together to block construction of the facility on these four proposed sites.

Mayor Davis disagreed with the idea of the four communities working together, noting the other communities are pushing for the Beltsville site. She stressed the need to focus opposition to the Beltsville site specifically.

Ms. Mach agreed the optimal solution would be to fix the tunnel but acknowledged this was not realistic in the short term. She requested the letter note Council's support that the long range plan address the tunnel issue.

Mayor Davis moved that Council send a letter to the MDOT focused on the opposition to the construction of an intermodal facility on the Beltsville site with the additional points she noted, specify the environmental concerns that all four sites are located in floodplains, and request addressing the Howard Street tunnel be included in the long range plan, She also requested a list of the 17 original proposed sites be provided to the City with information on why 13 of these sites had been eliminated from further consideration. Mr. Jordan seconded.

After further discussion, Mayor Davis called the question.

The motion passed 5-0.

GATEWAY SIGN PROJECT

Mayor Davis read the agenda comments.

Ms. Mach questioned the anticipated life expectancy of the new sign. Ms. Hruby said they were looking for a high quality sign with a long life expectancy and low maintenance issues. She advised she will be looking at examples of signage that has worked in other areas.

Mr. Jordan noted the urgent need to address the current Southway sign that is in poor condition, but said he didn't want to delay moving on new signage in other areas of the City also.

Mayor Davis mentioned that some community organizations, such as the Lions Club or Greenbelt Community Foundation, may be willing to contribute funds to the signage project.

There was discussion regarding the content of the new sign. Ms. Hruby explained she was working with Beverly Palau, the City's Public Information and Communication Coordinator, and Megan Searing Young, the Museum Curator and staff liaison for the 75th Anniversary Committee, along with the appropriate boards and committees to develop an exhibit for City Council's consideration and approval. It is anticipated that Public Works will be able to do the necessary carpentry work, landscaping and masonry.

Ms. Pope moved that Council direct staff to proceed with the Southway gateway sign project in time for the 75th anniversary celebrations, and move forward with other gateway signs elsewhere in the future. The motion passed 5-0.

GREENBELT DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION LETTER – COUNCIL RESPONSE

Mayor Davis moved that Council schedule a work session with the Greenbelt Community Development Corporation (GCDC) as soon as possible. Ms. Mach seconded.

Molly Lester, 6 Hillside Road, said she believed it was premature for Council to meet with GCDC as the City has not yet established a course/plan for economic development. She also expressed concern regarding the number of upcoming work sessions that need to be scheduled.

Mayor Davis thanked Ms. Lester for expressing her concerns but said this would be a get-acquainted work session with Council and GCDC.

Mr. Jordan requested staff do a quick survey to determine all the economic development corporations in Prince George's County.

The motion passed 5-0.

VISIONING EXERCISE

Mayor Davis read the agenda comments.

After discussion, Ms. Mach, Ms. Pope, Mr. Jordan and Mayor Davis agreed a second community-wide visioning exercise should be held again in 2012.

Mr. Jordan noted the need for Council to review their goals every three years and suggested a work session be scheduled in early 2012 prior to beginning the budget process for fiscal year 2013. Mr. Roberts said he believed three years was too short a time frame.

After further discussion, Mr. McLaughlin summarized that he would search for a facilitator, then schedule a Saturday goals setting session in early 2012, and work towards a community visioning exercise to be held later in 2012.

Mr. Roberts said he didn't feel there was a need for a facilitator for the first session. Mayor Davis noted the benefits of having a facilitator.

Mr. Orleans asked and was provided answers to several questions.

REFERRAL TO YOUTH ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Mayor Davis read the agenda comments.

Ms. Mach reported she had attended a session at the National League of Cities conference and had learned about issues being addressed by and the activities of local youth advisory groups throughout the country. Some of these issues included curfews, social media, and bullying. She suggested a referral be sent to the Youth Advisory Committee (YAC) asking them to discuss these issues and ask for their input on ways they may become more active.

After discussion, it was also suggested the YAC be asked to determine a way to collect names of young people who are willing to do odd jobs, such as shovel snow, rake leaves, etc.

Council commented on the valuable work currently done by the YAC and how much they appreciated their efforts. Mayor Davis asked Mr. Roberts, as Council liaison to the YAC, to convey these referrals to committee members as an opportunity to enliven the YAC activities.

Ms. Mach moved that Council send the following referrals to the YAC:

1. Ideas on ways the YAC can become a more active and involved committee such as addressing issues such as curfews, social media, and bullying
2. Establish a listing of youth/young adults who are willing to do odd jobs, such as shovel snow, rake leaves, etc.

Ms. Pope seconded. The motion passed 5-0.

APPOINTMENT OF COUNCILMEMBERS TO CITY BOARDS AND COMMITTEES

Mayor Davis read the agenda comments.

Ms. Pope requested that that the proposed Council appointments to the Advisory Planning Board and the Community Relations Advisory Board be postponed until the next meeting. Mr. Jordan suggested all the appointments be deferred until that time.

Ms. Pope moved that Council defer this item until the regular meeting on January 9, 2012. Ms. Mach seconded. The motion passed 5-0.

OTHER REPORTS: The following Councilmembers presented brief reports on conferences, meetings and training they had recently attended.

Mayor Davis – Sustainable Maryland Green Team Training Session Report

APPOINTMENTS TO ADVISORY GROUPS: Ms. Mach moved that Council appoint the following individuals to advisory groups:

Elsie Waynes

- Advisory Committee on Education

Matthew Johnson	- Advisory Planning Board
Kathleen Gallagher	- Board of Elections
Steven Kane	- Greenbelt Middle School Task Force
Paula Clinedinst	- Park & Recreation Advisory Board
Donna Blanger-Edwards	- 75 th Anniversary Committee
Jason Flanagan	- Youth Advisory Committee

Ms. Pope seconded. The motion passed 5-0.

MEETINGS: Council reviewed the upcoming meeting schedule.

ADJOURNMENT: A motion to adjourn the regular meeting was made by Ms. Mach and seconded by Ms. Pope. Mayor Davis adjourned the regular meeting of Monday, December 12, 2011, at 10:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Cindy Murray
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 December 12, 2011."

Judith F. Davis
Mayor