

REGULAR MEETING OF THE GREENBELT CITY COUNCIL held Monday, January 10, 2011.

Mayor Davis called the meeting to order at 8:00 p.m.

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

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

Mayor Davis asked for a moment of silence in memory of Greenbelt residents Sheldon Abraham Goldberg and Carroll Chester Skinner, former residents Jean Ewald Whitney, Frances Lastner Arnold, Christine Elliott, Richard Pilski Jr. and Kenneth Stair Sr., and for the victims of the Tucson Arizona tragedy. She then led the pledge of allegiance to the flag.

CONSENT AGENDA: Ms. Mach requested the minutes of the October 11, 2010, regular meeting and the Park and Recreation Advisory Board Report #10-3 be removed from the agenda. With this change, it was moved by Mr. Putens and seconded by Mr. Jordan that the consent agenda be approved. The motion passed 7-0.

Council thereby took the following actions:

MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETINGS:

Regular Meeting, September 27, 2010
Work Session, November 17, 2010
Regular Meeting, November 22, 2010
Regular Meeting, December 13, 2010
Approved as presented.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Advisory Committee on Education, Report #1-11 (2011 Grant Proposals): Council accepted the report and will consider it on the agenda of the next meeting.

Park and Recreation Advisory Board, Report #10-4 (Recognition Group Application for Greenbelt Soccer Alliance, Inc.): Council accepted the report and referred it to staff for review and comment.

Senior Citizens Advisory Committee, Report #10-1 (Annual Open Forum Report): Council accepted the report.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: Ms. Mach requested "Greenbelt Middle School Funding" be added to the agenda. Mayor Davis requested "Four Cities Agenda" be added to the agenda. With these additions, it was moved by Mr. Putens and seconded by Mr. Jordan that the agenda be approved as amended. The motion passed 7-0.

PRESENTATIONS: None

PETITIONS AND REQUESTS: None

MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETINGS:

Minutes of Regular Meeting on October 11, 2010: Under Presentations, Ms. Mach requested the minutes be corrected to reflect that October is “Cooperative Month”, and under Greenbelt Place Conceptual Site Plan, sixth paragraph, she requested the following sentence be added, “Ms. Mach noted her concern was that there was not a vision for the entire property.” With these corrections, Ms. Mach moved the minutes be approved. Mr. Herling seconded. The motion passed 7-0.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS: None

COUNCIL REPORTS:

Ms. Mach reported on the American Legion’s National High School Oratorical Contest, which she had judged with Mr. Jordan. She also commented on the Greenbelt Intergenerational Volunteer Exchange Service quarterly meeting which she attended with Mayor Davis and Mr. Jordan.

Ms. Pope reported she had attended the Maryland Municipal League Convention Planning Committee meeting with Mr. Putens.

Mayor Davis, Ms. Mach and Ms. Pope commented on the Police and Fire Department Shop with a Cop/Firefighter event. Mayor Davis thanked both the Police and Fire Departments for their contributions. Mayor Davis reported that she and Mr. Herling had attended the Reel and Meal presentation of games, sports equipment and electronics to the Springhill Lake Recreation Center. She thanked the organization for their contribution.

COMMITTEE REPORTS: None

LEGISLATION: None

PROPOSED CHANGES TO THEBUS ROUTE 11: Mayor Davis read the agenda comments.

Terri Hruby, Assistant Director of Planning, reported she had recently met with staff from the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (WMATA) and the Department of Public Works and Transportation (DPW&T) to address the lack of time schedule coordination between the new Metrobus and TheBus service, particularly as it relates to TheBus Route 11 and the Metrobus G12. She explained the modifications to the existing schedule the DPW&T had proposed to TheBus Route 11 schedule to better coordinate with the Metrobus G12, revisions to the span of service, as well as consideration of additional bus stops for the Route 15x and continued evaluation of potential additional stops.

Mayor Davis thanked Ms. Hruby and Transit Riders United of Greenbelt (TRU-G) for their work on the recent transit service changes. She noted that TRU-G supports the changes proposed by DPW&T, with continued monitoring.

Mayor Davis said she had received complaints regarding the DPW&T bus drivers being rude to riders and ignoring service to parts of their routes due to confusion or possibly laziness, the stacking of busses on Crescent by Roosevelt Center, out of date brochures at the Metro Station, and drivers not changing their bus route signage. She commented that more training and supervision of the drivers is needed, as well as education for transit riders on the process of time transfers.

Mr. Jordan mentioned the difficulties with using the transit service websites to determine routes, the reduction in operating hours during holiday periods, and the need to monitor the speed and attention to traffic signs of busses on Lastner Lane. He also expressed concern about the reduction in service for residents of Greenbelt East to the New Carrollton Metro station.

Mr. Herling moved that Council support the DPW&T proposed changes to TheBus Route 11, as well as the additional bus stops being considered for the 15x, and continued evaluation of other potential new stops. Mr. Jordan seconded. The motion passed 7-0.

Mr. Love, 3-D Plateau, mentioned the difficulties with the replacement process for broken Smart Trip cards.

APPOINTMENT OF COUNCILMEMBERS TO THE METROPOLITAN WASHINGTON COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS (COG) POLICY BOARDS AND COMMITTEES: Mayor Davis read the agenda comments.

Mr. Putens moved to approve the following assignments to the COG Policy Boards and Committees.

Board of Directors	- Mayor Davis
Alternate	- Mr. Jordan
Transportation Planning Board	- Mr. Roberts
Alternate	- Mr. Jordan
Metropolitan Washington Air Quality Comm.	- Ms. Mach
Alternate	- Mr. Herling
Metropolitan Development Policy Committee	- Mr. Jordan
Alternate	- Mr. Herling
Human Services and Public Safety Policy Committee	- Mr. Putens
Alternate	- Ms. Pope
Climate, Energy and Environment Policy Committee	- Mayor Davis
Alternate	- Ms. Mach
Chesapeake Bay Policy Committee	- Mayor Davis
Alternate	- Mr. Herling

Ms. Pope seconded. The motion passed 7-0.

APPOINTMENT OF COUNCILMEMBERS TO CITY ADVISORY BOARDS AND COMMITTEES: Mayor Davis read the agenda comments.

Mr. Putens moved to approve the following liaison assignments to the City advisory boards and Committees.

Advisory Committee on Education	- Ms. Mach
Advisory Planning Board	- Mr. Putens
Arts Advisory Board	- Mr. Herling
Community Relations Advisory Board	- Mr. Jordan
Forest Preserve Advisory Board	- Mayor Davis
Greenbelt Advisory Committee on Environmental Sustainability	- Mr. Herling
Park and Recreation Advisory Board	- Ms. Mach
Public Safety Advisory Committee	- Mr. Putens
Senior Citizens Advisory Committee	- Ms. Pope
Youth Advisory Committee	- Mr. Roberts
Friends of the Greenbelt Museum Board	- Mayor Davis
Greenbelt Access Television Board	- Mr. Jordan
Greenbelt Middle School Task Force	- Ms. Mach

Mr. Jordan seconded. The motion passed 7-0.

OTHER REPORTS: None

PARK AND RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD REPORT #10-3 (PROPOSED VOLUNTEER BACKGROUND CHECKS):

Ms. Mach said she supports the Volunteer Background Check proposal but expressed concern that the proposal only addresses volunteer background checks for volunteers serving in groups designated as City contribution groups and did not address those volunteers serving in groups designated as City recognition groups. She suggested staff and PRAB review whether the proposal should also include recognition groups.

Ms. Mach moved that Council adopt the Volunteer Background Check proposal as submitted by Mr. McNeal. Mr. Putens seconded. The motion passed 7-0.

Ms. Mach also moved that Council direct staff and PRAB to consider whether a volunteer background check should be required of volunteers serving in groups designated as City recognition groups also. Mr. Putens seconded. The motion passed 7-0.

GREENBELT MIDDLE SCHOOL FUNDING: Ms. Mach said at the last meeting of the Advisory Committee on Education it was noted that Prince George's County School Board had recently transferred about \$3.5 million from the Greenbelt Middle School project, possibly due to construction contracts being lower than anticipated. She moved that staff contact the School Board to determine why the funds were transferred, if the funds were County or State funds, and whether these funds impact monies available for the renovation of the historic portion of the existing building. Mr. Herling seconded. The motion passed 7-0.

FOUR CITIES AGENDA: Mayor Davis announced that County Executive Rushern Baker will be attending the Four Cities meeting on Wednesday, January 26, 2011, which will be hosted by the City of College Park. She said the City had been asked to provide agenda items for the meeting.

After discussion, it was recommended the following items be included on the Four Cities meeting agenda.

1. Status of Foreclosures
2. Support for Mass Transit
 - a. Seek to match the level of funding and support in Prince George's County as provided to Montgomery County
 - b. Feasibility of obtaining State funding to operate municipal bus service
3. Thoughts on Economic Development
4. Addressing Homelessness
5. Need to reestablish the Landlord-Tenant Commission

MEETINGS: Council reviewed the meeting schedule.

ADJOURNMENT: A motion to adjourn the regular meeting was made by Ms. Mach and seconded by Mr. Putens. The motion passed 7-0.

Mayor Davis adjourned the regular meeting of Monday, January 10, 2011, at 9:12 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 January 10, 2011."

Judith F. Davis
Mayor