



WORK SESSION OF THE GREENBELT CITY COUNCIL held Wednesday, December 8, 2004, for the purpose of receiving a quarterly update from the City Manager.

The meeting began at 8:05 p.m. in the Senior Classroom of the Community Center.

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 P. McLaughlin, City Manager; and Kathleen Gallagher, City Clerk.

The Top Ten List: Council complimented Mr. McLaughlin on the Top Ten list, saying it worked well as an update. The Mayor asked if the crosswalk work should be on it. Mr. McLaughlin said that could be added if Council wished, but the work is already under way. Mr. Putens asked to add the red light cameras. Mr. McLaughlin noted the playground agreement is on the agenda of the next regular meeting and, if approved by Council, would likely come off the list.

FY 2005 Management Objectives: Under Finance, in response to a question from Ms. Mach, Mr. McLaughlin clarified the process of soliciting bids for the City's banking services. Under Public Information, there was brief discussion of moving to DVD from videotape for recording Council meetings; Mr. McLaughlin commented that since it is possible to copy from disc to tape, there is really no down side to this. Under Planning and Community Development, internship programs to help with staffing were discussed, as was the apparent bogging down of the permitting process in the county, which will be raised at the legislative dinner next week. In response to a query from Mr. Putens, Mr. McLaughlin said he did not think the problem was political, since everyone seemed to be having the same problem countywide. Regarding the traffic-calming plan, Mr. McLaughlin said there were some revisions to be made following a recent meeting of staff with Greenbriar. Following a query from Mr. Herling, it was clarified that the City of Greenbelt Long-Range Plan is a land-use plan proposed because county Park and Planning has not kept current on the updating of the county's sector plans.

Mayor Davis asked about the plan to do community visioning. She acknowledged that in the past, not all members of Council had agreed there was a need for this; however, she thought there was a need for greater community involvement, and current thinking says it is necessary to go into communities and make it easy for people to come and participate (e.g., by providing childcare and/or food), rather than assuming people have no comment if they do not attend public meetings and hearings. Mr. Putens said he thought more of this visioning was done in Greenbelt than met the eye but at the level of other groups, such as civic and homeowner associations. Mr. McLaughlin commented that the City takes that approach with some of its CARES programs. Mayor Davis suggested starting the process with Greenbelt West. Mr. McLaughlin said if Council

wants to do this, it could be put into the FY 2006 budget, since it would require external planning and facilitation.

Under Roosevelt Center, Mr. Roberts said he had been hearing complaints about drug use and sales in the Center and the underpass. Mr. McLaughlin responded that he had not heard these complaints recently, though there were some during the summer; Mr. Roberts said he had heard the complaints recently. Under Greenbelt Connection, Mayor Davis said GIVES has suggested that the bus be used to make planned, consolidated trips to the supermarkets in lieu of the many smaller trips for which rides are requested. Under Greenbelt's Kids, Mayor Davis said she was glad to see interest in developing after-school programs for grades 6-8 in the wake of the termination of the GOAL program. Under Arts, the Mayor noted the great publicity the City had been receiving from the Washington Post in the "Weekend" section. Under Special Events, the Mayor suggested the possibility of separating the Earth/Arbor Day events from the Celebration of Spring events, perhaps combining the latter with a celebration of Cinque de Mayo, given the increasing Hispanic population in Springhill Lake.

FY 2005 Capital Projects: Mr. McLaughlin said that it appeared the Disabled American Veterans might decide against pursuing use of the JayCees Clubhouse because of the extent and cost of the renovation that would be required. He said there may be interest in meeting in the Community Center, though it is not clear that the City could meet the group's needs. Mayor Davis commented on how good the Cherrywood Lane improvements look.

CAR Report: The issues involving the Tugwell Room were reviewed – whether there is adequate oversight and the need for an agreement that materials would come to the City in the event that the county could not maintain the collection in the City. In response to a question from Mr. Putens, Mr. McLaughlin said the City Solicitor was still working on the panhandling issue but had paused on it because it had appeared for a while that Anne Arundel County had something in the works that might prove to be a model for other jurisdictions.

Council passed on to Mr. McLaughlin the prioritization of the management objectives.

Other Business

Mr. McLaughlin said the January 4, 2005, public hearing on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the Inter-County Connector would appear on the agenda of the next Council meeting and that three spots for speaking at the hearing had been reserved in the names of the Mayor and Councilmembers Roberts and Putens.

Mr. McLaughlin said he understood some members of Council were surprised at the last Council meeting at the mention of interest in reprogramming the bond money for the Springhill Lake Recreation Center to the completion of the window renovation at the Community Center. He said he had thought this had come up at the Capital Projects work session last summer and apologized for not having discussed it earlier.

Mr. McLaughlin told Council there would be an FY 2004 financial report forthcoming soon.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathleen Gallagher

City Clerk