



**BUDGET WORK SESSION OF THE GREENBELT CITY COUNCIL held Wednesday, April 23, 2003, for the purpose of reviewing the Public Works sections of the proposed FY 2004 budget.**

Mayor Pro Tem Roberts started the meeting at 8:02 p.m. It was held in the Senior Classroom of the Community Center.

PRESENT WERE: Council members Alan Turnbull and Thomas X. White, and Mayor Pro Tem Rodney M. Roberts. Councilmember Edward V.J. Putens arrived at 8:12 p.m. Mayor Judith F. Davis arrived from another meeting at 8:20 p.m.

STAFF PRESENT WERE: Michael P. McLaughlin, City Manager; Jeff Williams, City Treasurer; Kenny Hall, Director, Bill Phelan, Assistant Director, Carolyn Clemens, Superintendent of Operations, and Antoinette Conrad and Cindy Murray, Administrative Associates, Public Works; Deidre Allen, Accountant; and Kathleen Gallagher, City Clerk.

ALSO PRESENT WERE: Sheldon Goldberg, Advisory Planning Board; Diane Oberg, Greenbelt News Review, and resident Molly Lester.

Mr. Hall gave a brief introduction, saying that this year the goal of the proposed budget was to be able to continue to perform existing services. He mentioned some of the management objectives, and there was some discussion of alternative fuel vehicles.

Facility: Mr. White asked about the time line for the facility addition. Mr. Hall said there have been ongoing meetings, the drawings are 95-98% complete, and they are waiting for prices from three companies to do the work. He also noted that the line for the Buddy Attick restrooms will be run with the facility work. Mr. McLaughlin added that when all the bids are in, the project will return to Council with a staff recommendation.

Fast Fuel: Mr. McLaughlin said this looks promising. Staff learned NASA has numerous vehicles it has been taking to Beltsville for fueling that could come to a City pump, since the distance would be less and since the City could give them non-profit pricing so they would not have to seek reimbursement. Mr. Hall said the grant program that supports this wants to see public access to the pumps, and staff is looking at ways to make the facility available to the public after hours.

Northway: Mr. Hall said this work is going very well and would be complete in another 2-3 weeks. He said at least half the residents are repaving their driveways as part of the project.

Playgrounds: Mr. Turnbull praised the work that had been done on the playgrounds, especially at Buddy Attick Park.

Bio-Retention Facilities/Stormwater Management: In response to a query from Mr. Roberts, Mr. Phelan said it was disappointing that a grant the City had hoped for from

the Chesapeake Bay Trust for stormwater treatment had been turned down. He described the plans for rain gardens at the new Public Works facility.

**Return of the Beavers:** Commenting on the return of the beavers, Mayor Davis asked what our policy was on handling them. Mr. McLaughlin said the only policy was to co-exist.

**Personnel:** Mayor Davis asked about the potential need noted in the budget for increased cleaning and building maintenance personnel. Mr. Hall said as the City adds facilities at Public Works, Springhill Lake, and the restrooms at Buddy Attick Park, this will likely become a more pressing need.

**Part-Time vs. Overtime:** Mr. Hall said they will try establishing some part-time weekend shifts that will enable the department to stretch weekend coverage for the same dollars.

**New Department Structure:** Mr. White asked how the new organizational structure was working in the department. Mr. Hall responded that it was working well, but they are overloaded with work in facilities maintenance. He said adding another person there is his highest priority beyond the proposed budget.

**Vehicles:** Mr. Roberts asked if any replacement could be postponed; Mr. Hall said no. There was discussion of the merits of different alternative fuel vehicles. Since the decision on the fast-fill pumps may influence the City's thinking on this, it was concluded that more fruitful discussion might be had at the final budget work session.

**FEMA Reimbursement:** Mr. White asked when this would be credited. Mr. McLaughlin said it had already been estimated and budgeted for FY 2003.

**Street-Sweeping:** Problems with damage to the equipment have become an issue. The Public Works Directors are working on a solution, but Mr. Hall wished to make Council aware of it.

**Municipal Rebate on Landfill Charges:** Mr. White suggested reminding County Councilman Peters about this topic.

**Weekend Yard Debris Pick-Up:** The Mayor raised Mr. Putens' previously stated concern about losing Friday yard debris pick-up when a holiday falls during the week. Mr. McLaughlin said the cost of this would be about \$7,500 to be added to the budget. Mr. Hall noted it would be overtime. Mr. Putens asked to keep it on the consideration list.

**Recycling Education Programs:** Mr. White asked that the \$900 for these programs be added to the list of items that had not been funded.

**Damage to Ballfields:** Mr. Phelan said the bulk of the damage is done by unauthorized users, many of whom are not associated with an organization that could be held responsible. Mayor Davis asked about penalties, and Mr. McLaughlin said the City's regulations are not strong in this area.

Ms. Lester asked several questions regarding requirements for City residency for sports team members and about the status of the proposal to reorient Northway Fields.

Greenbelt Connection: The Mayor asked about the proposal to cut Sunday service. Ms. Conrad said the proposal is only to cut service back from 4 p.m. to 1 p.m. She said they are quite busy on Sunday mornings, serving up to 25 people. Council requested more information on how much money would be saved by making this reduction.

One-Way Markings: Mr. White noted the need to repaint "one-way" and "stop" markings on the roadways at Roosevelt Center.

#### Other Business

There was discussion of county-related items that had appeared in last week's Various Items.

The meeting ended at 10:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathleen Gallagher  
City Clerk