



WORK SESSION OF THE GREENBELT CITY COUNCIL held Monday, November 17, 2003, for the purpose of providing orientation information to the 35th City Council.

Mayor Davis called the meeting to order at 8:10 p.m. It was held in the Council Room of the Municipal Building.

PRESENT WERE: Councilmembers Konrad Herling, Leta Mach, Edward Putens, Rodney Roberts, and Mayor Judith F. Davis.

STAFF PRESENT WERE: Michael P. McLaughlin, City Manager; David E. Moran, Assistant to the City Manager; Robert A. Manzi, City Solicitor; and Kathleen Gallagher, City Clerk.

ALSO PRESENT WERE: David Robertson and George Rice, Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (COG); Scott Hancock and Linda Burrell, Maryland Municipal League, and a reporter from the Greenbelt News Review.

Mr. Robertson presented a slide show on the activities and functions of COG.

Mr. Hancock and Ms. Burrell talked about the functions of the Maryland Municipal League. They also addressed the open meetings law, noting that elected officials may meet only in six specific types of meetings (regular, work sessions, public hearings, executive sessions, organizational meetings, and special meetings). Mr. Hancock stated that councils may not vote within executive sessions. Mr. Hancock also spoke about MML's role in the state legislative process and the role of the National League of Cities in Washington at the federal level.

Following the presentations, a number of City matters were taken care of. Copies of the City Code and Council's Standing Rules were presented to the new members. It was confirmed that Mondays and Wednesdays would continue to be the nights of choice for regular meetings and work sessions. Committee appointments (COG and Council advisory groups) were discussed, as were Council Action Requests, the stakeholder process, legislative dinners, the role of the City Solicitor and of the process of Council's evaluation of the City Manager.

Returning to the open meetings law, Mr. Manzi emphasized that if a quorum of Council was present anywhere at the same time to discuss City business, including by conference call or simultaneous e-mail, then the open meetings law applied. There was further discussion of issues regarding e-mail or of the Mayor or other individual Council members meeting with groups.

Other Business

Mayor Davis said Patti Shwayder of AIMCO had asked to meet with Council while she was in town. Council agreed to do so at either 7:00 p.m. or 9:00 p.m. on Wednesday,

in order to allow the Mayor and any others to attend the combined PRAB-APB meeting at 8:00 p.m. The Mayor also announced that there would be discussion by the County Council on Thursday at 1:00 p.m. regarding the Patriot Act. She also attended a meeting at Charlestowne North yesterday and reported the tenants were very thankful to the City for its intervention on the rent increase.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Kathleen Gallagher, City Clerk