



MINUTES OF GREENBELT CITY COUNCIL WORK SESSION, held Monday, October 1, 2001, Greenbelt Municipal Building.

Mayor pro tem Turnbull called the meeting to order at 8:05 PM.

PRESENT were Mayor pro tem Alan Turnbull, Rodney Roberts and Thomas X. White. Mr. Edward Putens arrived at 8:20 PM. Mayor Davis arrived at 8:35 PM.

ALSO PRESENT were Michael McLaughlin, City Manager; Robert Manzi, City Solicitor; Celia Craze and Terri Hruby, Planning and Community Development; Kap Kapastin, Beltway Plaza; Sylvia Lewis; Sheldon Goldberg; Sandy Gallagher; Amy Boyes of the Gazette; and Betsy Likowski of the Greenbelt News Review.

Greenbelt Station - Strategy Session: Mr. Turnbull noted that the purpose of the meeting was to discuss the pros and cons of the City filing an appeal on the recent decisions on the Conceptual Site Plan and Preliminary Plan of Subdivision for Greenbelt Station. Mr. Turnbull also noted that steps had been taken to allow Council to enter executive session to discuss legal issues, if necessary. Mr. Manzi briefed Council on the pros and cons.

Mr. Manzi advised that the odds were not in the City's favor to succeed on either of these matters, because great leeway is often given to the deciding body. However, because the preliminary plan is more technically based, the chances are somewhat more in the City's favor than with the conceptual site plan. Mr. Manzi added it needed to be shown that there was a misapplication or misinterpretation of the law. In terms of timing, it would likely take 1 to 2 years to get completely through the Court of Special Appeals. He stressed that Courts are very reluctant to reverse administrative decisions.

Questions were raised about the intent of other groups that filed an appeal to the District Council. It was unknown what those groups were planning to do since the formal documents were just being released. Specifically, Mr. Kapastin noted that Beltway Plaza has not decided what it wants to do yet.

Ms. Craze advised that staff has scheduled meetings with representatives of Greenbelt Station to discuss the City's concerns. Council was comfortable with staff conducting these discussions, even while considering appealing the decisions.

It was decided that staff would prepare an assessment report in preparation for an executive session on October 17, 2001, to discuss Council's approach.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:40 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael McLaughlin,

City Manager