



REGULAR MEETING OF GREENBELT CITY COUNCIL held Monday, October 8, 2001.

Mayor Davis called the meeting to order at 8:02 p.m.

ROLL CALL was answered by Council members Rodney M. Roberts, Alan Turnbull, Thomas X. White, and Judith F. Davis, Mayor. Mr. Edward V. J. Putens arrived at about 8:10 p.m.

ALSO PRESENT were Michael P. McLaughlin, City Treasurer; Robert A. Manzi, City Solicitor; David E. Moran, Assistant to the City Manager; and Kathleen Gallagher, City Clerk.

Mayor Davis observed a moment of silence for resident Ruth Elizabeth Weyel, former resident Adelle Plummer, and the victims of the tornado that damaged College Park and other municipalities.

Mayor Davis then led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

CONSENT AGENDA: A motion to approve the consent agenda was made by Mr. Turnbull and seconded by Mr. Roberts. The motion passed 4-0.

Council thereby took the following actions:

MINUTES

- Regular Meeting, September 10, 2001
- Interviews for Advisory Group, September 25, 2001

Approved as presented.

DISSOLUTION OF THE ASSISTED LIVING TASK FORCE: Council disbanded the Assisted Living Task Force, which had completed its work.

APPOINTMENTS TO ADVISORY GROUP: Council appointed Douglas Mangum and Andrew Mangum to adult and youth positions, respectively, on the Youth Advisory Committee.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND ADDITIONS: Mayor Davis asked to add to "Presentations" a presentation by the president of the Eleanor and Franklin Roosevelt Democratic Club. Mr. Turnbull moved approval of the agenda as amended. Mr. Roberts seconded the motion, which passed 4-0.

PUBLIC HEARING - 2001 LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT BLOCK GRANT (LLEBG)

FUNDS: Mayor Davis read the agenda comments and declared the public hearing in session. Lt. Dan O'Neil described the ways in the proposed equipment would be used by the Police Department. In response to a question from Mr. White, he said the department's "unmet needs" list is substantially longer than this, but these items represent the top of it. Mr. McLaughlin commented that thought had been given to expanding the number of mobile data terminals that were previously funded through this program but that it was concluded that taking some time to acclimate to those currently in use was in order and the items proposed should take higher priority this year. Mr. Turnbull asked if the radar trailer would also have the capability of passively collecting and storing data while not making its presence known, should the City wish to use it that way, since the known presence of such a device or marked police car is likely to change driving behavior. Lt. O'Neil said he would look into that. Mayor Davis added that using it primarily to modify behavior by communicating might not be a bad thing. Mr. Roberts expressed strong support for the video cameras in patrol cars, which he felt would benefit both citizens and officers. Mayor Davis indicated that the public hearing was concluded and that Council would vote on this matter later on the agenda.

PRESENTATIONS

National Federation of the Blind - White Cane Safety Day - Proclamation: The Mayor read the agenda comments. She read the proclamation designating October 15 as White Cane Safety Day in Greenbelt and presented it to Kenneth Silberman, 4-B Southway, and Debbie Brown, representing the Southern Maryland Chapter of the National Federation of the Blind. Mr. Silberman described some of the services provided to the blind by the National Federation, including scholarships, rehabilitation services, social security matters, and adaptive technologies.

City of Greenbelt - Peace Month - Proclamation: The Mayor read the agenda comments. She said she had received a query regarding the appropriateness of proceeding with Peace Month in light of the military response to the events of September 11. She said she believed it was even more important now and that, far from implying any lack of support for the national effort, it dealt with a bigger and more long-term concern with peaceful solutions to problems and with cultural diversity. Mr. Putens and Mr. White spoke in support of what the Mayor had said. Mayor Davis then read a proclamation designating October as Peace Month in Greenbelt and presented it to Kevin Hammett, Konrad Herling, and Booker T. Hughes of the Community Relations Advisory Board (CRAB) and Bertram Donn of Woodland Way. Mr. Hammett described the activities planned for the month, including cooperation with Eleanor Roosevelt High School in celebrating Eleanor Roosevelt Week. He also presented the new community pledge, which Council, together with the members of CRAB, signed.

Eleanor Roosevelt High School - Eleanor Roosevelt Week - Proclamation: Mayor Davis read the agenda comments. She introduced Barbara Luther and Gary King from the high school, who in turn introduced students from the school's character education program. The students spoke about Eleanor Roosevelt and her significance to the school. Mayor Davis then read the proclamation declaring this week to be Eleanor Roosevelt week and presented it to the students.

Prince George's County - Beautification Award: The Mayor read the names of all the organizations that received a beautification award. She presented the City's award to Brian Townsend, Crew Leader of the Horticulture Crew in the Public Works Department, who played an important role in the work on the Hanover Parkway and Mandan Road medians that merited the award.

Eleanor and Franklin Roosevelt Democratic Club: Kirk Walter, president, presented Council with a donation from the club's "wish box" for the City's emergency fund. Mayor Davis also thanked the club for its donation to Eleanor Roosevelt High School in support of purchase of the banner for Eleanor Roosevelt Week. .

PETITIONS AND REQUESTS: There were none.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

Mr. McLaughlin reminded everyone that SchromFest was upcoming on Saturday, October 13, from 11-3.

Mr. White asked if there had been any progress in identifying a replacement bank for the Bank of America location in Roosevelt Center. Mr. McLaughlin said SunTrust had not worked out but that he had been in contact with several others.

Mayor Davis offered thanks from Council to the Public Works Department for its work in assisting College Park and Laurel following the tornado damage. She said she had attended the 10th Anniversary event at the Aquatic and Fitness Center. She and Mr. Putens attended an event at the American Legion Post to honor newly elected National Commander Ric Santos. And on October 6, Cathy Knepper had discussed her book on Greenbelt at the public library.

LEGISLATION

An Ordinance to Amend Chapter 13, "Personnel," of The Greenbelt City Code for the Purpose of Allowing the City to Update Certain Sections of the Code to Reflect the Adoption of a New Classification System and Pay Plan: The Mayor read the agenda comments. Mr. Turnbull introduced the ordinance for second reading and adoption. Mr. Putens seconded. Gordon Pracht of the F.O.P. Board asked whether the retroactive pay would include overtime pay. Mr. McLaughlin said he would check to be sure but that he thought it would include all hours worked since July 1.

ROLL CALL Mr. Putens - yes

Mr. Roberts - yes

Mr. Turnbull - yes

Mr. White - yes

Mayor Davis - yes

The ordinance was declared adopted (Ordinance No. 1206, Book No. 11).

Mr. McLaughlin thanked Council on behalf of the City staff, noting that this was the result of a complex effort that had required work and patience from all parties. Mayor Davis in turn thanked the employees for their patience.

A Resolution to Authorize the Payment of a Training Stipend for Judges and Clerks Who Work at the 2001 Regular Election: Mayor Davis read the agenda comments. Mr. Putens introduced the resolution for second reading and adoption. Mr. White seconded.

ROLL CALL Mr. Putens - yes

Mr. Roberts - yes

Mr. Turnbull - yes

Mr. White - yes

Mayor Davis - yes

The resolution was declared adopted (Resolution No. 938, Book No. 8).

A Resolution to Negotiate the Purchase of Street Reconstruction Work from NZI Construction of Beltsville, Maryland, in the Amount of \$165,000: Mayor Davis read the agenda comments. Mr. Roberts introduced the resolution for first reading and moved suspension of Council's standing rules. Mr. White seconded the motion. Mayor Davis asked if there would be traffic calming included. Mr. McLaughlin said that opportunities would be looked at in the field.

ROLL CALL Mr. Putens - yes

Mr. Roberts - yes

Mr. Turnbull - yes

Mr. White - yes

Mayor Davis - yes

Mr. Roberts introduced the resolution for second reading and adoption. Mr. White seconded. Mr. Turnbull asked that Council be apprized of whatever considerations are made of traffic-calming or pedestrian improvements.

ROLL CALL Mr. Putens - yes

Mr. Roberts - yes

Mr. Turnbull - yes

Mr. White - yes

Mayor Davis - yes

The resolution was declared adopted (Resolution No. 939, Book No. 8).

FRIENDS OF THE RESOURCE ADVOCATE - REQUEST FOR RECOGNITION GROUP STATUS: The Mayor read the agenda comments. Leonie Penney, 127 Northway, and Audrey Barnett, 7912 Charlestowne Village, appeared to answer questions. Mayor Davis said she wanted to be sure it was clear that this would not be a City committee but an independent volunteer group. Mr. McLaughlin recommended that Council refer the application to the Park & Recreation Advisory Group (PRAB) if Council wanted it considered as a recognition group. Mr. White suggested PRAB might need more information. Mr. Putens moved and Mr. White seconded that the application be referred to PRAB for consideration. Mr. Turnbull objected to the notion of its being submitted to PRAB, saying this was imposing unnecessary bureaucracy and that the City Manager should simply authorize the use of City meeting space. He said the group would be offering support to the administrative functions of the City rather than a recreation function and that having PRAB review it the application needlessly complicates the process. Mr. Roberts said if the group wants to apply to be a recognition group, the City should honor that request and refer it to PRAB. Mr. Putens raised questions about liability, and Mayor Davis suggested the group could be handled with a disclaimer similar to the way in which the City works with G.I.V.E.S. When the vote was taken, the motion passed 4-1 (Turnbull).

ALLOCATION OF LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT BLOCK GRANT FUNDS: The Mayor read the agenda comments. Mr. Putens moved and Mr. Turnbull seconded the authorization of the submission of the grant proposal for the purposes proposed by the Police Department and approved by the advisory board. The motion passed 5-0.

PROPOSAL TO EXPAND AUTO SALES AT GOLDEN TRIANGLE: Mayor Davis read the agenda comments. Mayor Davis asked if the City had received the site plan that was referenced. Mr. White said he thought the City should oppose this proposal and that he would by no means take it as a given that the City should support expansion by Capitol Cadillac. Mr. Roberts agreed, saying he thought the only conclusion to the prior work session had been that Council had agreed to look at a revised site plan, and he had not yet seen one. Mr. Putens said he also opposed it at this time. White asked whether the City was not still pursuing the property to keep as open space and why the City would simultaneously pursue it as green space and support its commercial development? Mr. Roberts said he was disturbed that staff seemed to have decided how Council should respond to this. He said this type of proposal attempts to by-pass the protections of the zoning laws, and he would not support it. Mr. Manzi described some of the current problems and delays with the zoning process.

Mr. Roberts moved that Council oppose CB 78-2001. Mr. White seconded. Mr. White suggested the state should continue to hold on to this property for potential transportation use, e.g., the purple line. Mr. Putens suggested that the problem with the county process be brought up to the City's delegation.

In further discussion, it evolved that Capitol Cadillac had sent a revised plan to the City. Since no urgency was indicated for response, the City Manager had forwarded to the Planning Department for review. Mr. Gingles said that the schedule changed in the meantime, and they found they had to file their legislation with the county by September 29. He apologized for the misunderstanding. He said it was because the zoning law had not been revamped in 15-20 years that many circumstances must be handled by special legislation and that this will continue to be the case. When the vote was taken, the motion passed 5-0.

MEETING WITH COUNTY EXECUTIVE - AGENDA: Mayor Davis read the agenda comments. Council agreed on the following topics as agenda items for the meeting with the County Executive on October 24. Mr. Roberts objected to the inclusion of COG dues as a topic, describing it as "a generator of hard feelings." Sheldon Goldberg, 7848 Jacobs Drive, requested the addition of the cable topic, saying the service provided to Prince George's County is inferior to that being offered by Comcast in Montgomery County.

1. Greenbelt Station
2. Goddard Master Plan
3. Enabling Planning and Zoning Authority (MML Initiative)
4. Economic Development - A Role for the City
5. School issues
6. Level of Cable Service
7. COG dues

Mr. Putens moved and Mr. Turnbull seconded approval of the above proposed agenda. The motion passed 5-0.

REDRAWING PRECINCT LINES - LETTER TO COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS Mayor Davis read the agenda comments. Council decided to take no action on this at the present time. Mr. White suggested waiting till the redistricting process was finished.

APPROVAL OF ELECTION QUESTIONNAIRE: The Mayor read the agenda comments. Mr. White noted that not all the revisions Council requested at the last meeting had been made. Several other changes were made to the section on arts programming. Mr. Turnbull moved Council approve the election questionnaire with these revisions. Mr. Putens seconded. The motion passed 5-0.

MEETINGS: The calendar was reviewed.

ADJOURNMENT: A motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Turnbull and seconded by Mr. Putens. The motion carried 5-0. Mayor Davis adjourned the regular meeting of October 8, 2001, at midnight.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathleen Gallagher

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 October 8, 2001."

Judith F. Davis

Mayor