



REGULAR MEETING OF GREENBELT CITY COUNCIL held  
Monday, October 23, 2000.

Mayor Davis called the meeting to order at 8:05 p.m.

ROLL CALL was answered by Council members Edward V.J. Putens, Rodney M. Roberts, Alan Turnbull, Thomas X. White, and Judith F. Davis, Mayor.

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

Mayor Davis observed a moment of silence for former resident Irma R. Edmunds. She then led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

CONSENT AGENDA: Three Council members requested that items be removed from the consent agenda: Mr. Turnbull, Item #10; Mr. White, Item #19; Mayor Davis, the minutes from the meeting and public hearing of October 11, 2000. Mr. Turnbull moved approval of the consent agenda as amended. Mr. White seconded the motion, which passed 5 to 0.

Council thereby took the following actions:

#### MINUTES

- Work Session, October 2, 2000
- Interviews for Advisory Groups, October 11, 2000
- Regular Meeting/Public Hearing, October 11, 2000
- Interviews for Advisory Groups, October 18, 2000

Approved as presented.

DESIGNATION OF REPRESENTATIVES TO THE ANACOSTIA TRAILS HERITAGE AREA (ATHA) BOARD: Council authorized the sending of the letter from Mayor Davis designating the Mayor as the primary representative to the ATHA board and the City Manager as the alternate. Others may be designated on an as needed basis.

RESPONSE TO DEMAND FOR PAYMENT TO GUNNER'S MATE FOR BUDDY ATTICK PARK CONCESSION STAND LEASE: Council approved the sending of the draft letter from the City Solicitor responding to Mr. Scott Little.

RESIGNATION FROM ADVISORY GROUP: Council accepted Susan Whitmore's resignation from the Arts Advisory Board with regret and directed that the appropriate letter of appreciation be prepared for the Mayor's signature.

**APPOINTMENTS TO ADVISORY GROUPS:** Council made the following appointments to advisory groups and directed staff to send out the appropriate appointment letters: Jackie Shabe-Rochefort to the Senior Citizens Advisory Committee; Pamela J. Gregory to the Board of Elections; and Mary X. Chapman to the Recycling & Environment Advisory Committee.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA:** Mr. Turnbull moved the approval of the agenda. Mr. Putens seconded. The motion passed 5-0.

## PRESENTATIONS

Mr. Sylvester Conyers, Principal, Eleanor Roosevelt High School: Mayor Davis welcomed Mr. Conyers, the new principal of Eleanor Roosevelt High School. She noted that Greenbelt had followed the selection process for the new principal with great concern and interest and was very pleased with the news it had been hearing from the high school. Mr. Conyers remarked on the constructive partnership that has always existed between the City and the high school and noted that the public safety program, including the school resource officers, had become a national model. He also introduced Mr. Allen Elliott, the PTSA president. Mr. Conyers expressed his pleasure in serving as the principal at Eleanor Roosevelt and his anticipation of working closely with the City and with its Advisory Committee on Education. Members of Council mentioned several areas in which the Council had worked cooperatively with the high school in the past, wished Mr. Conyers well, and expressed their enthusiasm about continuing the strong working relationship between the City and the school.

End-of-Year School Resource Officers' Report: Cpl. David Buerger and MPO Marty Parker presented the 1999-2000 School Year Report to Council. Cpl. Buerger said progress was being made at the high school, with arrests declining from 105 to 68 over the last year. He attributed the success to the good relationship between the high school administration and the Police Department. He mentioned the new Youth Academy that was implemented at the high school this year, the report that he and MPO Parker gave at the annual meeting of the Maryland Municipal League in June, and a program on teen use of alcohol that they anticipate introducing soon. MPO Parker described his experiences with the schools other than the high school, including the public and private safety programs instituted, the installation of a crossing guard at the intersection of Springhill Drive and Springhill Lane, and the successful running of the first DARE program at Greenbelt Elementary School. Council members expressed their appreciation for the report and for the work being done by the school resource officers.

**MINUTES OF MEETINGS:** Mr. Putens moved that the minutes of the October 11, 2000, meeting be accepted conditional upon a correction made by Mayor Davis. Mr. White seconded the motion, which then passed 5-0.

**PETITIONS AND REQUESTS:** The Mayor read the text of a petition sent by Toby Burch-Rates, 33-F Ridge Road, regarding the location and surfacing of playgrounds located at 31 and 39 Courts Ridge Road. Council agreed to take the petition under advisement at the next work session on the playgrounds.

## ADDITION OF AGENDA ITEM #24 - REMOVAL OF UNSAFE PLAYGROUND

EQUIPMENT: It was agreed that it would be preferable to place on the agenda for formal action the consensus of the playgrounds work session that the 12 pieces of equipment identified as being particularly dangerous be removed as quickly as possible. Mr. Turnbull moved that the agenda be so amended, with this item added as #24. Mr. Roberts seconded. The motion carried 5-0.

## ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

Mr. Moran announced that the deadline for receipt of applications for absentee ballots for the coming election is October 31. The application form is available on line at [www.elections.state.md.us](http://www.elections.state.md.us). Photocopies of the form are available at the City Manager's office. The Mayor noted that letters went out countywide describing access problems at polling places that are resulting in about 600 phone calls per day from concerned citizens. Mr. Moran said staff is looking into this and encouraged residents not to be unduly concerned if they received such letters.

Mr. Putens reported that some localities are using retired police officers, who are already trained and licensed to carry a gun, to supplement the police force on a part-time basis or for special needs. He suggested that the City may wish to look into this as a possibility.

Mr. Turnbull brought up the traffic situation exiting the Greenbelt Metro Station from Metro Lane to Cherrywood Lane in the evening. Not only is there a long wait to turn left onto Cherrywood, but the line of left-turning traffic becomes long enough to block the traffic turning right. Although the problem is limited to a specific time, the Police Department and Planning and Community Development should evaluate the situation.

Mr. Turnbull reported on the success of SchromFest and the dedication of the Memorial Garden.

Mr. Roberts thanked the members of CCRIC who spearheaded a watershed clean-up in Parcel One.

Mayor Davis reported on the recognition dinner for the advisory boards and committees. She also attended the memorial grove dedicated in Glen Dale by Mothers Against Drunk Driving. Forms will be available at the City Office for individuals to apply for memorial trees in the grove.

Mr. McLaughlin reported on the upcoming Health Fair on November 8, which in the afternoon from 2-4 p.m. will be open to the public in addition to City employees.

Along with other mayors, Mayor Davis attended a meeting with the Citizens Concerned with a Cleaner County. She will be sending some suggestions to the Recycling and Environment Advisory Committee. There was also information provided at the about recycling PCs, which Mayor Davis suggested as an agenda item for 4 Cities.

## COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Public Safety Advisory Committee Communication, 10/12/00 - Safety Issues Regarding Scooters and Skateboards. Mr. Turnbull suggested that in addition to complying with the committee's request to refer to it the question of safety issues involving skateboards and scooters, Council should also refer the matter to the Youth Advisory Committee and the Park and Recreation Advisory Board. Mr. Putens moved that Council accept the report and refer the issue to all three advisory groups. Mr. Turnbull seconded the motion, which passed 5-0.

## LEGISLATION

A Resolution to Negotiate the Purchase of Pool Mechanical Equipment for the Greenbelt Aquatic and Fitness Center from Pool Pak of York, Pennsylvania, in the Sum of \$18,500: Mayor Davis read the agenda comments. Mr. Putens moved the introduction of this resolution for second reading and adoption. Mr. Roberts seconded the motion.

Mr. White asked if this purchase would resolve the issues that have been raised regarding pool temperature, to which Mr. McLaughlin replied that although it would assist the staff in monitoring and controlling the temperature, it will not solve the dilemma of the temperature at which to keep the pool. Staff will bring that question back to Council for review. Mr. Roberts suggested that placement of a visible thermometer to display the pool temperature would at least resolve the problems created by the fact that people do not agree on what the temperature is at any given time.

ROLL CALL: Mr. Putens - yes

Mr. Roberts - yes

Mr. Turnbull - yes

Mr. White - yes

Mayor Davis - yes

The resolution was declared adopted (Resolution No. 920, Book No. 8).

Resolution to Authorize the Condemnation of Certain Real Property in the City of Greenbelt, Maryland, for the Purpose of Providing Property for the Construction of a United States Postal Service Post Office Facility for the Citizens of the City of Greenbelt: This is a revision of the draft resolution that was introduced for first reading on September 25th. The Mayor read the agenda comments. Mr. Roberts introduced the resolution for first reading.

Charles Hendricks, 7850 Emily's Way, reminded Council members of their previous assurance to residents, at the October 11th Public Hearing, that the City was proceeding cautiously in this matter. He suggested that pursuing a bifurcation between the condemnation of the property and the settlement of the value (if any) of the covenant is not in fact cautious because it effectively promises in advance to pay whatever amount is awarded at the jury trial. Mr. Manzi responded that Council would not be giving up its options since the decision to bifurcate the issues would be made further down the road. Council members thanked Mr. Hendricks for raising these cautions and emphasized that while the process would be kept as low-risk as possible, the potential benefits of keeping the new Post Office in Greenbelt, having a good neighbor in

Greenbelt East, and keeping a retail Post Office in Roosevelt Center weigh heavily on the other side of the scale.

A Resolution to Amend Resolution Number 916, to Authorize the Negotiated Purchase of Certain Goods and Services from Various Vendors as Enumerated Herein When Total Fiscal Year Purchases from Each Vendor Exceed Ten Thousand Dollars (\$10,000): The Mayor read the agenda comments. Mr. Turnbull introduced this resolution for first reading. Mr. White suggested that the component related to the costs of police training be further considered under agenda item on the City's legislative agenda (#17).

A Resolution to Negotiate the Purchase of Street Resurfacing Work from Maryland Paving and Sealant of Jessup, Maryland, in the Amount of \$67,712: Mayor Davis read the agenda comments. Mr. Putens introduced the resolution for first reading. Mr. White pointed out a typographical error to be corrected before second reading.

CONSOLIDATED TRANSPORTATION PROGRAM FY 2001-2006: The Mayor read the agenda comments. Mr. Putens moved the first part of the staff recommendation, namely, that Council restate to the Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT) its concerns and objections to the Kenilworth Avenue and Greenbelt Metro projects. Mr. Turnbull seconded the motion. There was discussion of prior requests that the City has made regarding sidewalks on Greenbelt Road. Council agreed that the City should remind them of these pending requests without requesting action on them now. Mr. Turnbull recommended that the City state to MDOT that a larger proportion of transportation funds be spent on public transportation and such other non-automobile purposes as bike lanes and improvements for pedestrians. Mr. Putens agreed to this modification to the motion. The motion passed 5-0.

Mr. Turnbull agreed to attend the Annual Consultation Meeting for elected officials at 10 a.m. on November 8, 2000.

CONSIDERATION OF THE ACQUISITION OF THE GREENBELT THEATRE: The Mayor read the agenda comments. She then noted that an article in the Journal said the current theater operator has indicated that enough funds have been raised to keep the theater open until the end of the calendar year. It was agreed that this information required confirmation. Mr. Turnbull asked for public clarification on the relationship among the Friends of the Old Greenbelt Theatre (FOGT), the City, and the theater operator. Mr. McLaughlin responded that the City simply provides a holding account for the funds, but the leadership of the FOGT makes decisions on their use.

Sheldon Goldberg 7848 Jacobs Drive, asked if a thorough engineering inspection of the building had been done at this time. Mayor Davis said our most highly qualified code enforcement inspectors had evaluated the building, but he indicated that environmental inspections (asbestos, lead, etc.) and evaluations of mechanical equipment (e.g., furnace) need to be done by others. Mr. McLaughlin confirmed that a more inspection is still needed.

PROPOSED 2001 LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM: The Mayor read the agenda comments. There was further discussion of the costs of police recruit training, which had been raised under

"Legislation," and Mr. McLaughlin said he would discuss with the Chief whether there was an appropriate way to package this item to request additional state or county support. Mayor Davis said the City should include under "items of concern" the issue of the .08 blood alcohol level as a determination of intoxication. She also asked about electric deregulation and modification of the method for distribution of income tax. It was agreed to place these items and the question of overpass funding on the "items of concern" list. Mr. Roberts moved and Mr. White seconded that the legislative initiatives listed in Council's packet be accepted as the City's priorities for 2001 and that the following be added under "other" or "items of concern": lowering the legal blood alcohol level to .08, increased share of the income tax, electric deregulation, and increased aid for police. The motion passed 5-0.

**STATE HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATION (SHA) FOCUS GROUP FOR I-95/I-495 METRO ACCESS STUDY:** Mayor Davis read the agenda comments. Staff had suggested representation from the following groups: a member of Council, a member of the Advisory Planning Board, a resident of Springhill Lake, and a member of Citizens to Conserve and Restore Indian Creek (CCRIC). Mr. Turnbull said there should also be public notice so that other individuals could register interest. Mr. Turnbull and Mr. Roberts both registered skepticism about the use of this process, however, which they considered to be ineffectual window-dressing in the past. Mr. Roberts questioned whether we should legitimize the process by participating at all. Mr. Turnbull suggested that we require that the State Highway Administration spell out up front what the timeline and the authorities of the committee will be. Mr. White agreed that even if the process is faulty, we should participate and keep the pressure on the SHA. Council agreed to return to this topic when we receive the letter and find out specifications.

**MARYLAND CHILDREN'S ACTION NETWORK/MARYLAND JUVENILE JUSTICE COALITION - LETTER OF SUPPORT FOR INCREASED STATE FUNDING FOR DEPARTMENT OF JUVENILE JUSTICE:** Mr. White made several suggestions for strengthening the draft letter. Subject to the incorporation of these revisions, Mr. White moved and Mr. Putens seconded approval of the draft letters to be signed by the Mayor and sent to the Governor and Lieutenant Governor, with copies to the City's State delegation. The motion passed 5-0.

**REMOVAL OF UNSAFE PLAYGROUND EQUIPMENT:** At the work session on the playgrounds, 12 pieces of equipment were identified as being particularly critical for removal. These all fall into "Category 1." Mr. Roberts asked about replacement of these pieces. Mr. McLaughlin said this would vary by playground, in terms of both the other equipment available there and also the long-term plan for the particular playground. He said he envisioned there being no more than a two months delay on replacement where that was to occur immediately. Notification to residents was also discussed. This will be done by notices on the playgrounds, since this notice will target actual users of the playground. There was also discussion of whether any of the equipment would be salvageable; it is assumed that this is unlikely. The museum will be consulted in the event that any of these items might actually be of historic interest. Mr. Roberts moved that the 12 pieces of equipment be removed, conditional upon appropriate notice to residents, quick replacement where the item is unique, the recycling of any materials possible, and the awareness of possible historical value. Mr. Putens seconded the motion, which then passed 5-0.

MEETINGS:

The calendar was reviewed. Council agreed to schedule an Executive Session for Wednesday, October 25, 2000, for two purposes: to consider pending litigation and to consider the acquisition of real property and matters related thereto.

ADJOURNMENT: Mr. Putens moved that the meeting be adjourned. Mr. Turnbull seconded the motion, which carried 5-0. Mayor Davis adjourned the regular meeting of October 23, 2000, at 11:08 p.m.

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 23, 2000."

Judith F. Davis

Mayor