



**REGULAR MEETING OF CITY COUNCIL
HELD MONDAY, Septmeber 25, 2000**

Mayor Davis called the meeting to order at 8:03 p.m.

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

ALSO PRESENT were Michael P. McLaughlin, City Manager; Robert Manzi, City Solicitor; and David E. Moran, Acting City Clerk.

Mayor Davis observed a moment of silence for Nat Shinderman, Linda Maffay and Miguel Angel Teran Encinas. Then, she led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

CONSENT AGENDA: Mr. Putens moved approval of the consent agenda. Mr. Turnbull seconded. The motion passed 4 to 0.

COUNCIL THEREBY TOOK THE FOLLOWING ACTIONS:

MINUTES:

- Regular Meeting, September 11, 2000

Approved as presented.

REFERRAL TO THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON TREES - TREES AT WOLFE RESIDENCE ON GREENWAY PLACE: Mr. Wolfe's request was referred to the Advisory Committee on Trees for consideration along with a request to give consideration to the development of guidance on the likely long-range need to remove and replace this substantial portion of the City's street tree population.

POSITION DESCRIPTION FOR MUSEUM CURATOR/DIRECTOR OF HISTORICAL PROGRAMS: Council adopted the revised job description.

NATIONAL LEAGUE OF CITIES - DESIGNATION OF VOTING AND ALTERNATE DELEGATES FOR DECEMBER CONGRESS OF CITIES: Council designated Mayor Davis as the voting delegate and Mr. White and Mr. Putens as the alternate voting delegates and directed staff to so notify the 2000 Congress of Cities.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: Mr. Putens moved that the agenda be approved. Mr. Roberts seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

PRESENTATIONS:

Induction of Richard R. Pilski and Gil Weidenfeld into the Maryland Municipal League's Municipal Officials Hall of Fame: Mayor Davis announced that in June of this year, at the annual meeting of the Maryland Municipal League, former Greenbelt Council members and Mayors Richard R. Pilski and Gil Weidenfeld were inducted into the Municipal Officials Hall of Fame. Mr. Pilski and Mr. Weidenfeld were each honored for their 22 years of service on the Greenbelt City Council.

Mayor Davis noted that Mr. Pilski served on the Council for six years as Mayor and 16 years as a member of Council—from 1961-1963, and then from 1965-1985—and that Mr. Weidenfeld served from 1971-1993, including 14 years as Mayor. Mr. Pilski and Mr. Weidenfeld were both active in the Maryland Municipal League and the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments.

Maryland Municipal League President and Ocean City Councilmember Glenn Steckman presented the League's certificates and congratulations.

City Manager's Award for James Craze, Chief of Police: Mr. McLaughlin read the agenda comments. Chief of Police James Craze was presented with a City Manager's award for his quick thinking and calm handling of a potentially very dangerous situation during a protest at the Maryland Trade Center.

Chief Craze thanked the Council and noted that the other officers had helped diffuse the situation.

PUBLIC HEARING - 1999 AND 2000 LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT BLOCK GRANT (LLEBG) FUNDS: Mayor Davis read the agenda comments.

There were no comments from the audience.

Mayor Davis declared the public hearing to have been held.

PETITIONS AND REQUESTS: There were none presented.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS: Mr. McLaughlin announced that David Moran was Acting City Clerk and Kathleen Gallagher was attending the Municipal Clerks Institute at Virginia Beach.

Mr. McLaughlin reported that he and Mr. Moran had attended the ICMA Conference in Cincinnati, Ohio. He also reported on a trip to Greenhills, Ohio, one of the other "green" towns. Mr. McLaughlin noted the "eerie" similarities to Greenbelt.

Chief Craze reported that Greenbelt had received an award from the Maryland Chief's Challenge for the City's seat belt educational enforcement effort. He also noted the Department's participation in the plane pull noting an 18th place finish out of 51 teams. Chief Craze also reported that the DARE car had received a first place award.

Mayor Davis reported her attendance at the Council of Governments meeting and the Maryland Municipal League Board of Directors retreat. She also attended a function at the Adult Care Center.

Mr. Turnbull thanked the Senior Citizens Advisory Committee for hosting the open forum. Mr. Putens noted comments about people running stop signs and suggested that the City look at a program similar to the "citizens borrowing radar guns and recording tags of violators" program.

A RESOLUTION TO REPEAL RESOLUTION 774 AND ESTABLISH NEW MEMORIAL GUIDELINES FOR THE PURPOSE OF COMMEMORATING AND HONORING INDIVIDUAL CITIZENS WHO HAVE MADE SIGNIFICANT CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE CITY OF GREENBELT AND TO PROVIDE FOR THEIR RECOGNITION ON THE GREENBELT WALL OF HONOR

Mayor Davis read the agenda comments. Mr. Roberts introduced the above titled resolution for second reading and adoption. Mr. Putens seconded.

Mr. Turnbull stated he would vote against the Resolution. He indicated he was troubled by the prospect of Council having to make decisions about honoring individuals and that who was the Council to pass this kind of judgement. Mr. Turnbull stressed it would be difficult for Council to vote against a nominee. He noted he would likely vote against individual nominees because he couldn't differentiate between who's worthy and who's not and there were not objective criteria to make this determination.

Mayor Davis noted that there was a nomination process and that nominations first went to the Community Relations Advisory Board for review. She stated that the nomination were not initiated by Council, but rather outside parties.

Mr. Putens stated that this resolution clarified the process for city recognition of individuals and that this process was fair.

Mr. Roberts expressed support for the motion, in part because this limited the options for nomination and made the process clear. He favored moving away from the past practice of naming streets, buildings or parks after specific individuals.

Mr. Turnbull reiterated his concern with the program. He believed the appropriate mechanism for this kind of recognition was through private organizations in Greenbelt. Mr. Turnbull noted that while he would likely be impressed with the nominees and efforts of their family and friends to go through the process, he didn't feel able to cast a meaningful vote.

ROLL CALL: Mr. Putens - yes

Mr. Roberts - yes

Mr. Turnbull - no

Mayor Davis - yes

The Resolution was declared adopted. (Resolution No. 919. Book No. 7)

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

Mayor Davis read the agenda comments. Mr. Putens introduced the above titled resolution.

APPROVAL OF USE OF RESERVE FOR COMPENSATION STUDY: Mayor Davis read the agenda comments.

Mr. Putens moved that Council approve the use of the \$125,000 reserve to grant a 2% pay increase to all classified employees retroactive to July 1, 2000. Mr. Roberts seconded.

Mayor Davis read the comments from Mr. White stating that he was opposed to using these funds for an across the board increase. In his comments, Mr. White believed that the survey showed wide disparities and urged his colleagues to vote against the City Manager's recommendation.

Mr. Turnbull thanked Council for deferring the item since he was out of town on business. He stated there had been a misunderstanding of his position on the issue. He noted that Council waited over a year for the study and then spent a couple of hours discussing the issue at a work session. Mr. Turnbull stated that the study showed that there were a small number of positions at or above the average and a good number of positions lagging behind by 10% or more. He believed the 2% across the board ignored the findings of the study, and depleted available funds to address the problem. He stressed that some positions are greatly underpaid and that the 2% should be used to address this issue.

Mr. Putens stated this was a drop in the bucket. He noted that the pay scale had problems and this would only begin to address the problem.

Mayor Davis stated that the problem was immense and agreed this would only begin to address the problem. She noted that the survey showed that almost all positions were at least 2% behind and some positions are a lot further behind. Mayor Davis referenced the other items that a majority of Council had agreed to at the work session. She noted that the employees deserved this raise as a start and indicated that the ultimate solution would be expensive, but necessary in order to be fair to employees.

Mr. Turnbull asked where the most pressing problems were in terms of recruitment and retention. Mr. McLaughlin reported he could provide an opinion but preferred to wait until the reports had been prepared and asked Council to wait until mid-October when he could present the facts. Mr. Turnbull reiterated that the \$125,000 included in the budget was there and would be applied retroactively regardless of when Council took this action. He suggested Council wait until all the facts are in before making any decisions.

Mayor Davis noted that holding off on a pay raise costs employees money in terms of lost interest.

Mike Lanier, 37 Ridge Road, spoke in favor of the increase. He believed this step would help make up for the missed COLA's in past years. Mr. Lanier reference \$300,000 in new revenue and asked that these funds be used to address the pay issue.

Craig Rich, President FOP, stated that this was the beginning step and this was needed now.

Mr. Turnbull stated that he had requested that the study consider benefits as well. He noted that the Council had not considered if it wants to be an organization with high salaries or an organization that rewards people in the end. Mr. Turnbull expressed concern that granting the 2% would take pressure off the City to take the next steps.

Sylvia Lewis, 2-C Gardenway, noted that with a finite amount of money, an across the board pay raise rewards the highest paid employees. She suggested that the City pool together with other jurisdictions to hire an outside consultant.

Mr. Putens stated that comparisons were challenging. He noted that some positions might require a reclassification. Mr. Putens stated that this would be a small step to bring the pay scale up.

Mayor Davis stated that Greenbelt would never be at the top of the scale but she wanted to make sure salaries were comparable. She did not want to make employees choose between salaries and benefits. She believed the City needed to keep working on this.

Mr. Lanier expressed opposition to hiring an outside consultant. He also noted that the benefits package may be expensive but noted that the State, County and MNCPPC Police had better retirement packages.

Mr. Roberts asked about other steps to continue the study. Mr. McLaughlin responded that there were three additional steps staff was working on:

- produce a report on retention and turnover
- create an employee advisory group
- In depth analysis of ten positions to validate the survey

Mr. Roberts wanted the motion to include these additional steps. Mr. Putens agreed to change the motion.

Mayor Davis asked for a complete plan with a dollar cost assigned to it.

Mr. McLaughlin agreed to provide this information to Council, but noted he wanted some consideration given to the value of the benefits package, particularly deferred compensation.

Mr. Roberts indicated he was going to vote for the motion and hoped this would move the process along.

Mr. Putens believed this action was equitable for all employees.

The motion passed 3 to 1 (Turnbull)

ALLOCATION OF LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT BLOCK GRANT FUNDS: Mayor Davis read the agenda comments.

Mr. Turnbull moved that Council accept the recommendation of the Police Department and the advisory board to commit a total of \$64,044 in Local Law Enforcement Block Grant (LLEBG) funding to the additional mobile computer hardware and software proposed in project budget. Mr. Roberts seconded.

Mr. Roberts commented on the County plan to put cameras and laptops in their cruisers and asked about the opportunity to get funds for cameras.

The motion passed 4 to 0.

SPRINGHILL LAKE RECREATION CENTER ADDITION - ARCHITECT PROPOSALS: Mayor David read the agenda comments.

Mr. Putens moved that Council approve the City contracting with Laurel Design Alliance, Inc. for design services for the expansion and renovation of the Springhill Lake Recreation Center in accord with their proposal dated September 8, 2000. Mr. Roberts seconded. The motion passed 4 to 0.

Mr. Turnbull asked about incorporating input from facility users. Ms. Craze responded that meetings with the community and facility users was included in the proposal.

APPLICATION FOR PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY FISCAL YEAR 2001-2002 COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT FUNDS: Mayor Davis read the agenda comments.

Mr. Putens moved that Council authorize staff to submit an application for "Springhill Drive Street Improvements" for CDBG Program Year 27 and that the application be sent to the Advisory Planning Board, Springhill Lake Neighborhood Improvement Team, and Springhill Lake management for their review and comment. Mr. Turnbull seconded.

Mr. Turnbull asked staff to investigate the possibility of undergrounding the utilities as part of this project..

The motion passed 4 to 0.

AWARD OF BID - CONTRACT 2000-4 "SPRINGHILL LANE STREET IMPROVEMENTS": Mayor David read the agenda comments.

Mr. Putens moved that the City award the contract to the lowest bidder, Trans Metro Construction, of Upper Marlboro, Maryland, in the amount of \$109,457. Mr. Roberts seconded. The motion passed 4 to 0.

4 CITIES MEETING, BERWYN HEIGHTS - AGENDA ITEMS: Mayor Davis read the agenda comments.

Mr. Roberts moved the following are some suggestions: Teleworking Presentation by Gil Weidenfeld; Metroland; and the Goddard Master Plan. In addition, College Park has informed us that they are suggesting the following items: the Purple Line; Greenbelt Middle School Overcrowding Issue; and the Berwyn Heights Elementary School Magnet Program. Mr. Putens seconded. The motion passed 4 to 0.

MEETINGS:

Sheldon Goldberg, 7848 Jacobs Drive, reported that his community was still in favor of the post office.

Council reviewed the list of meetings.

ADJOURNMENT: Mr. Turnbull moved to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Putens seconded. The motion carried 4 to 0. Mayor Davis adjourned the regular meeting of September 25, 2000, at 10:34 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

David E. Moran, Acting 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 September 25, 2000."

Judith F. Davis

Mayor