



**REGULAR MEETING OF CITY COUNCIL HELD
MONDAY, DECEMBER 14, 1998**

Mayor Davis called the meeting to order at 8:08 p.m.

ROLL CALL was answered by Rodney M. Roberts, Alan Turnbull, Thomas X. White and by Judith F. Davis, Mayor. Edward V. J. Putens arrived at 8:12 p.m.

ALSO PRESENT were Michael P. McLaughlin, City Manager; Robert Manzi, City Solicitor; W. Bowman Ferguson, Management Analyst and David E. Moran, City Clerk.

Mayor Davis observed a moment of silence for Ethel Marshall, Catherine Foster Shiflett, Jacqueline Moragne, Albert John Nuzzo, Sr., Miriam Cornelius, William Joseph Grennon, Sr., and Nora Belle Chandler. Then, she led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

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

COUNCIL THEREBY TOOK THE FOLLOWING ACTIONS:

MINUTES:

Work Session, November 23, 1998

Approved as presented.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Advisory Committee on Education Report #6-98: Council accepted this report and directed staff to prepare an appropriate letter to the City's representatives in Annapolis.

Advisory Planning Board Report #98-11: Council accepted this report and placed this item on the next Council agenda.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: Mr. McLaughlin requested that ACE Report #5-98 be added under Committee Reports and an item entitled "Information on Outside Attorney" be added to the agenda as item 17. With these changes, Mr. White moved that the agenda be approved. Mr. Roberts seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

PRESENTATIONS:

Council Presentation to Suzanne Plogman: Ms. Plogman, the city's School Board representative for District 2 which includes Greenbelt, stated that she decided to retire after 12 years so she could spend more time with her family. Senator Leo Green thanked Ms. Plogman for her efforts and presented her with a Maryland flag and a Proclamation.

Mayor Davis summarized Ms. Plogman's accomplishments during her tenure and thanked her for her efforts. Council presented a Mother & Child Statue to Ms. Plogman in appreciation for her 12 years of service as the city's school board representative.

Greenbelt New Year (GNY) Presentation to Council: Earl Keppler, GNY Chairman, thanked Council for their past support of the GNY program. Members of the GNY Committee presented t-shirts and posters to Council. Mr. Keppler explained the plans for this year's celebration. Greenbelt New Year (GNY) Presentation to Council: Earl Keppler, GNY Chairman, thanked Council for their past support of the GNY program. Members of the GNY Committee presented t-shirts and posters to Council. Mr. Keppler explained the plans for this year's celebration.

PETITIONS AND REQUESTS: Don Comis of 3-G Laurel Hill expressed concern that the Greenbelt crime reports were not being provided to the Washington Post. Mayor Davis explained the City's policy of providing information to the News Review, Gazette and Journal.

Mr. Turnbull stated that City doesn't serve itself by providing information to news organizations outside the city. Mr. Putens stressed that the News Review and the Gazette have a wider distribution than the Washington Post and noted that the Post was not treating the city fairly. Mayor Davis noted that the city was planning to meet with representatives of the media and hoped to discuss this issue.

Sheldon Goldberg of 7848 Jacobs Drive, asked about the status of the grooved pavement along Greenbelt Road. He believed the grooved pavement was unsafe. Mr. McLaughlin agreed to investigate and get a report back to Council and Mr. Goldberg.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS:

Introduction of New Human Resources Officer: Mr. McLaughlin introduced Consuella Harris, the city's new Human Resources Officer. He noted she was a 22-year resident of Greenbelt and lived in Greenwood Village. Council welcomed Ms. Harris to the city workforce. Introduction of New Human Resources Officer: Mr. McLaughlin introduced Consuella Harris, the city's new Human Resources Officer. He noted she was a 22-year resident of Greenbelt and lived in Greenwood Village. Council welcomed Ms. Harris to the city workforce.

Mr. Ferguson briefed Council on the film festival at the Greenbelt Theater and noted that there was a kick-off ribbon cutting with prize giveaways on Friday. He noted that the "Save the Theater" campaign was going very well.

Mr. Turnbull reported on the Prince George's Human Relations Commission Banquet and reported that it was a very positive event.

Mr. White reported on the NLC Conference and noted that next year's topic would be racism. He also stated that the Department of Justice unveiled a new program called "Police in Schools." Mr. McLaughlin agreed to pursue this opportunity.

Mayor Davis explained the NLC Conference and how it works. She noted that Greenbelt had gotten an amendment to the NLC National Municipal Policy. Mr. Putens explained that the amendment encouraged the Federal Government to share information at little or no cost to local governments. This issue had arisen from the BARC case. Mayor Davis reported on some of the other conference activities.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Advisory Committee on Education Report #5-98: Leta Mach, Chair of ACE, stressed that ACE hoped to get additional support for the Scholarship Fund. Council agreed to accept the report and divide the contacts. Advisory Committee on Education Report #5-98: Leta Mach, Chair of ACE, stressed that ACE hoped to get additional support for the Scholarship Fund. Council agreed to accept the report and divide the contacts.

A RESOLUTION EXTENDING THE TERMS OF THE CABLE FRANCHISE GRANTED TO JONES COMMUNICATIONS OF MARYLAND INC. AUTHORIZING THE CONSTRUCTION, OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE OF A CABLE TELEVISION SYSTEM IN THE CITY OF GREENBELT

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

Mr. White asked about the implications of not adopting the resolution. Ms. Palau responded that Jones would be operating without a franchise agreement. Mr. White asked about the sale of Jones. Ms. Palau noted that Comcast was buying out Jones and believed Comcast would be a better company.

ROLL CALL:

Mr. Putens - yes
Mr. Roberts - yes
Mr. Turnbull - yes
Mr. White - yes
Mayor Davis - yes

The Resolution was declared passed. (Resolution No. 882. Book No. 7)

A RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR A REFERENDUM TO BE HELD AT A SPECIAL ELECTION ON TUESDAY, MARCH 9, 1999, FOR THE PURPOSE OF SUBMITTING TO THE VOTERS OF THE CITY OF GREENBELT, MARYLAND THE QUESTION OF APPROVING THE ANNEXATION OF THE PARKSIDE COMMUNITY

Mayor Davis read the agenda comments.

Mr. White favored question number 5. Ms. Davis favored number 3 or 5. Mr. Roberts could live with number 5, but hoped the question would be kept as short as possible. Mr. Turnbull also favored being as brief as possible. He favored number 2.

Mr. White moved the language in number 5. Mr. Putens seconded. Mr. Turnbull moved to amend number 5 by striking "enlarge its existing corporate boundaries by annexing" and change it to "annex." Mr. Roberts seconded. In response to questions, Mr. Manzi stated that annexation was a process and enlarging the boundaries was the end result of that process.

Sylvia Lewis, of 2-C Gardenway, did not believe the City needed to describe the issue in as much detail as was proposed because people will already know when they enter the booth. Barry Schlesinger, 105 Westway, stated that legal requirements are notorious for not being clear. He believed the ballot format did not need to follow the legal format and believed a shorter form was preferable.

Mr. Turnbull asked about why the ballot question did not contain more information about Resolution 879 and asked why the current resolution was not as detailed and complicated as 879. Mr. Manzi responded that State law recognized a for/against answer to the referendum. He stated that assuming the referendum passed then Resolution 879 would go into effect and if the referendum failed then Resolution 879 would be negated.

The amendment failed 2 to 3 (Putens, Davis, & White).

Mr. White moved to amend his motion to add in small font style, the paragraph in Mr. McLaughlin's 12/14 memo with the deletion of the last sentence. Mr. Putens seconded.

Mr. Roberts believed the additional wording was totally inappropriate and that the question on the ballot should be short and to the point. He stated that wording not included in the original resolution should not be included on the ballot.

Mr. White stated that he was persuaded to add the information because it embellishes on number 5. Mr. Turnbull believed that anyone going to the voting booth would know what this issue is about. He stated that the question should be concise.

Ms. Lewis believed the electorate in Greenbelt was sophisticated. She stated that the electorate would remember any effort to obfuscate the issue. Mr. Roberts stated he would support number 5 as worded. He believed that the reference to "31 single family homes" in the memorandum was misleading.

Mr. Putens stated that Council was trying to make it very clear to the citizens. Mr. Roberts reiterated that the additional language was misleading and inappropriate. Mr. Roberts believed the public could be informed through advertisements and possibly a sample ballot.

Mayor Davis believed that there would be considerable awareness of the issue but wanted the question to be as clear as possible. Mr. Turnbull stated that the issue was to annex property not homes.

The amendment passed 3 to 2 (Roberts, Turnbull).

The main motion passed 3 to 2 (Roberts, Turnbull)

Mr. White introduced the above titled Resolution.

**A RESOLUTION FOR THE NEGOTIATED PURCHASE OF COMPUTER EQUIPMENT
FOR THE POLICE DEPARTMENT**

Mayor Davis read the agenda comments. Mr. Putens introduced the above titled Resolution for first reading and suspension of the rules. Mr. Roberts seconded.

ROLL CALL:

Mr. Putens - yes
Mr. Roberts - yes
Mr. Turnbull - yes
Mr. White - yes
Mayor Davis - yes

Mr. Putens introduced the above titled resolution for second reading and final passage. Mr. Roberts seconded.

ROLL CALL:

Mr. Putens - yes
Mr. Roberts - yes
Mr. Turnbull - yes
Mr. White - yes
Mayor Davis - yes

The Resolution was declared passed. (Resolution No. 883. Book No. 7)

HOMELESSNESS IN GREENBELT: Mayor Davis read the agenda comments. Mr. McLaughlin introduced Leslie Simms and Heather Hartman, the city's Crisis Intervention Counselors. Ms. Simms stressed that emergency housing was a great need. **HOMELESSNESS IN GREENBELT:** Mayor Davis read the agenda comments. Mr. McLaughlin introduced Leslie Simms and Heather Hartman, the city's Crisis Intervention Counselors. Ms. Simms stressed that emergency housing was a great need.

Mr. Roberts asked if there were numbers on permanent homeless in Prince George's County and Greenbelt. Ms. Hartman responded that they could get the numbers. Mr. Roberts asked what the city could do to help homeless in Greenbelt. Ms. Hartman responded that the city was good about helping its own through charitable programs. She stressed the need to lobby the County for more resources.

Mr. Putens found it strange that another County refused to admit a woman because she wasn't a resident of their County, when in fact she wasn't a resident of any County. Ms. Hartman responded that this was a strange situation but it was largely due to the lack of resources.

Mayor Davis stressed the need for donations to the Emergency Assistance Fund. She asked if the numbers of homeless were increasing. Ms. Hartman noted that in general in the County it was increasing particularly among children.

Mr. Turnbull agreed with the recommendation from the Crisis Intervention Counselors to lobby the County, but wasn't sure that the city was doing everything it could be doing. Mayor Davis suggested surveying other municipalities and possibly raising this as a 4-Cities issue.

Mr. McLaughlin agreed to produce a report that might indicate where the city could address the needs. Mr. Putens was particularly bothered by kids being homeless.

Mr. White moved the staff recommendation plus surveying other municipalities and raising this as a 4-cities issue and wanted to emphasize the lack of response to a published hotline. Mr. Roberts seconded. The motion passed 5 to 0.

AMENDMENT TO JOB DESCRIPTION - HUMAN RESOURCES OFFICER: Mayor Davis read the agenda comments. Mr. Putens hoped that the city would be consistent with all job descriptions. Mr. Putens moved that Council suspend the requirement for consideration at two meetings and approve the amended job description. Mr. Roberts seconded. The motion passed 5 to 0.

APPROVAL OF PURCHASE - FORD TAURUS: Mayor Davis read the agenda comments. Mr. Putens moved that Council approve the purchase of a Ford Taurus from Sheehy Ford of Marlow Heights through Anne Arundel County Bid #98-148 at a cost of \$14,268. Mr. Turnbull seconded. The motion passed 5 to 0.

INFORMATION ON OUTSIDE ATTORNEY: Mr. Manzi noted that he had been looking to find an attorney with experience in environmental issues and dealing with State Highway. Mr. Manzi was impressed with Mr. Liebesman's credentials and experience. Mr. Manzi indicated he was seeking authorization from Council for the city to retain Mr. Liebesman. Mr. Roberts moved that City engage the services of Mr. Liebesman. Mr. Putens seconded. The motion passed 5 to 0.

MEETINGS: Mr. Roberts moved that Council schedule an Executive Session under 10-508 (a) (7) to consult with on December 21 at 7:00 p.m. Mr. Turnbull seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Council scheduled work sessions on February 1 on Year 2000 issue and February 3 on Recycling Committee and New Deal Cafe.

Mayor Davis wished everyone a safe, wonderful holiday and new year. Mr. Roberts wished everyone happy holidays, which was echoed by Mr. Putens, Mr. White and Mr. Turnbull.

ADJOURNMENT: Mr. Putens moved to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Turnbull seconded. The motion carried 5 to 0. Mayor Davis adjourned the regular meeting of December 14, 1998, at 11:00 p.m ADJOURNMENT: Mr. Putens moved to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Turnbull seconded. The motion carried 5 to 0. Mayor Davis adjourned the regular meeting of December 14, 1998, at 11:00 p.m

Respectfully Submitted,
David E. Moran, CMC
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 Monday, December 14, 1998."

Judith F. Davis
Mayor