

WORK SESSION OF THE GREENBELT CITY COUNCIL held Wednesday, February 3, 2016.

Mayor Jordan started the meeting at 7:02 p.m. The meeting was held in Room 201 of the Greenbelt Community Center.

PRESENT WERE: Council Members Judith F. Davis, Konrad E. Herling, Leta M. Mach, Silke I. Pope, Edward V. J. Putens, Rodney M. Roberts, and Mayor Emmett V. Jordan.

STAFF PRESENT WERE: Michael McLaughlin, City Manager, and Cindy Murray, City Clerk.

ALSO PRESENT WERE: Todd Turner, Council Member – Prince George’s County; David Iannucci, Assistant Deputy Chief Administrative Officer for Economic Development – Prince George’s County; and Garth Beall and Paul Summers, Renard Development.

Executive Session

Ms. Davis moved that Council conduct an Executive Session in accordance with Section 3-305(b)(4) of the General Provisions Article of the Annotated Code of the Public General Laws of Maryland to consider a matter that concerns the proposal for a business to locate in the State. Ms. Pope seconded.

ROLL CALL:	Ms. Davis	-	Yes
	Mr. Herling	-	Yes
	Ms. Mach	-	Yes
	Ms. Pope	-	Yes
	Mr. Putens	-	Yes
	Mr. Roberts	-	No
	Mayor Jordan	-	Yes

Council moved into Executive Session at 7:05 p.m.

Council reconvened to open session at 8:10 p.m.

Transit Meeting

STAFF PRESENT WERE: Terri Hruby, Assistant Director of Planning, and Cindy Murray, City Clerk.

ALSO PRESENT WERE: Ginger Murphy and Julie Hershorn, Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (WMATA); Anthony Foster and Geralyn Bruce, Prince George’s County Department of Public Works and Transportation (DPW&T); Anna Socrates, Stephen Holland and Suzette Agans, Transit Riders United of Greenbelt (TRU-G); Jim Giese, Greenbelt News Review; and Bill Orleans.

Ms. Bruce provided an overview of the Prince George’s County Department of Public Works and Transportation. She indicated that transit trip planning capability will be available through the County’s website in approximately three (3) months.

Ms. Murphy provided an update on the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (WMATA). She advised that beginning March 27, 2016, Routes G12, G13, G14 and G16 will be simplified to Routes G12 and G14 and Sunday service will be added to Routes C2, G12 and G14. Ms. Murphy and Ms. Hruby discussed the promotion/advertising of the new service. Ms. Davis suggested providing the information to area churches also for their congregations.

Ms. Murphy advised that the old red, white and blue design busses are being removed from transit operations as new replacement transit busses arrive. Mr. Roberts asked how the new busses are fueled. Ms. Murphy said about half are fueled with Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) and the other half are fueled with clean diesel or diesel hybrid.

Council reviewed the WMATA and County ridership and performance data. They expressed concern regarding the on-time performance of County Routes 11, 16 and 15X. Stephen Holland, Tru-G, said he is a rider on Route 15X and it is nearly always on-time. Suzette Agans, TRU-G, reported that she is rider on Route 11 and said it has been arriving five to ten minutes late since October.

Ms. Murphy advised that although overall bus ridership was down 5% in the State and 3% in the County, Greenbelt ridership numbers have been increasing. In response to a request from Ms. Davis, Ms. Murphy said WMATA can provide comparison of ridership information for previous years also when the next meeting is held.

There was discussion regarding Customer Feedback, Greenbelt Area Routes. Ms. Mach suggested renaming the "Complaint Category" to "Customer Feedback" since this is the section that includes both complaints and commendations. Ms. Murphy said WMATA takes customer service very seriously and reviewed the steps taken when a complaint is filed against a driver.

Mayor Jordan mentioned some concerns with the bus staging areas at Metro. Ms. Murphy said WMATA is looking at possibly restructuring the bus bays with busses sharing bays.

Mr. Herling said the City has received complaints from residents regarding speeding busses. Ms. Murphy said WMATA had no record of any complaints regarding speeding busses. She asked that residents notify WMATA of any concerns and provide the date, time, location and bus number if possible.

There was discussion regarding bus routes during weather events. Ms. Bruce said TheBus stays only on major thoroughfares during snow events unless a decision is made to discontinue service. Ms. Murphy distributed Metro Bus Snow Detour Maps that are utilized during light and moderate snow events.

Mayor Jordan thanked the representatives for attending the work session. He suggested Council meet with WMATA and DPW&T in six months.

Informational Items

Several informational items were discussed.

The meeting ended at 10:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

*Cindy Murray
City Clerk*