

**Greenbelt City Council
Work Session**

Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission

**Monday, August 29, 2016
8:00 p.m.**

**Council Room
Greenbelt Municipal Building
25 Crescent Road**

Agenda

1. Welcome and Introductions
2. Updates:
 - Proposal to Remove and Relocate Water Lines – Greenbelt Homes, Inc. (GHI)
 - Status of Water Line Replacement Project – Lakeside Neighborhood
 - Water Line Relocation Project – Boxwood Village
 - Stream Channel Restoration – Hanover Parkway/ Sunrise Property
3. WSSC Position on Water Line Insurance
4. Problems with Temporary Restoration Work
5. Communications between WSSC & GHI
6. Other Items

WORK SESSION OF THE GREENBELT CITY COUNCIL held Wednesday, December 17, 2014, for the purpose of meeting with Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission.

Mayor Jordan started the meeting at 8:00 p.m. The meeting was held in Room 201 of the Greenbelt Community Center.

PRESENT WERE: Councilmembers 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 P. McLaughlin, City Manager; Terri Hruby, Assistant Planning Director; and Cindy Murray, City Clerk.

ALSO PRESENT WERE: Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission Representative - Scott Demler, Principal Civil Designer; Tracy Holmes, Senior Civil Engineer; Maurice Fitzgerald, Senior Environmental Analyst; Paul Gray, Property Acquisition Agent II; David Wilkins, Customer Advocate Utility Services; and Karen Wright, Systems Control Group Leader: David Jones Sr., Chrystal Jones, John McElhenny, Thomas Zeller, Matt Holland, Bill Orleans and others.

Proposal to Remove and Relocate Water Line: Terri Hruby said City staff had been meeting with the Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission (WSSC) staff regarding a proposed water main relocation/replacement project of a 20 inch water main that runs through the rear yards of some homes located on White Birch Court and Julian Court. She said three options had been proposed for the work, with WSSC indicating their preference for Option A. Option A would replace/relocate the pipe and install a new water main within the unimproved Ridge Road right-of-way that runs adjacent to residences within these two courts. This would allow WSSC to avoid construction impacts to private yards and would eliminate the need for WSSC to hold a utility easement on private property.

Ms. Hruby and Mr. Demler reviewed the three options – Option A, Option B and Option C. Mayor Jordan asked Ms. Hruby for her recommendation. Ms. Hruby said she had reviewed each option with Jim Sterling, Acting Director of Public Works. She said while each option had pros and cons, staff felt most comfortable with Option A which is the minimal impact option.

Ms. Davis asked the age of the water pipe being replaced and whether this pipe would be removed. Mr. Demler said the cast iron pipe is 78 years old and would not be removed. He explained there would be considerable environmental damage if the pipe was to be removed.

Ms. Davis asked if any private fences or bushes on homeowner's properties would have to be removed. Mr. Demler said Option B or C would require removal/replacement of fences and bushes, but with Option A there wouldn't be any disturbance.

In response to a question from Ms. Davis, Mr. Demler estimated 20 to 30 trees, 20 inches or larger, would have to be removed with Option A. Ms. Davis asked that the largest trees be flagged so that City staff could look at the trees. Mr. Fitzgerald said the WSSC arborist would flag the trees.

David Jones, Sr., 300 Ridge Road, said he does not think there would be significant environmental impacts with Option A.

Mr. Orleans, Greenbelt, asked and was provided answers to question.

Matt Holland, 115 Julian Court, asked about noise vibration. Mr. Demler said he was not aware of any hard rock in the area so noise vibration shouldn't be a large problem.

Thomas Zeller, 116 Julian Court, expressed his support for the project.

Chrystal Jones, 300 Ridge Road, requested a path be considered on Ridge Road extended to provide safe access for children walking to and from school. Ms. Davis and Mayor Jordan suggested pervious surface be considered for the path. Mayor Jordan asked if there was a way to incorporate the walkway within the City right-of-way. Ms. Hruby said staff would have to look at this area.

Mayor Jordan, Ms. Davis, Mr. Putens, Ms. Mach, Mr. Herling and Ms. Pope indicated their support for Option A. Mr. Roberts indicated his preference for Option B.

Ms. Hruby reviewed the next steps which will include WSSC flagging the trees and City staff meeting with WSSC staff to address any concerns. She said the final plans will be presented to Council.

There was discussion regarding proposed work on the water storage tank. Ms. Wright said the \$1 to \$1.5 million project will provide the water tower with a new coating that will last 15 to 20 years, along with tamper proof screening and a climbing ladder. She advised that the water tower project work will be done Monday through Saturday, and includes sandblasting the inside and outside of the tower which will create noise. She estimated the project will take nine to twelve months to complete.

Ms. Davis suggested a neighborhood meeting be held before the tank work begins to inform neighboring residents. Ms. Wright said yes, but noted that this project wouldn't start until the water line replacement work is complete.

***Status of Water Line Replacement in Lakeside Neighborhood:** Mr. Demler said the WSSC representatives present were not involved in this project. He suggested the City contact Ms. Marsha Tucker, WSSC's Infrastructure Systems Group Leader, regarding the status of this project.*

***Low Water Pressure Problem in Windsor Green Neighborhood:** Ms. Wright said WSSC had recently met with homeowners in Windsor Green regarding the 210 homes experiencing low water pressure due to their location on high ground. She said WSSC is offering a rebate of up to \$800 to each of the 210 homeowners over the next two years for the installation of a booster pump to correct the water pressure problem.*

Mr. Roberts said all WSSC customers should receive the same level of service and suggested that WSSC install a new pumping station to correct the water pressure problem. Ms. Wright said it would cost over \$1 million to install a new pumping station.

Ms. Davis and Mr. Putens expressed concern that not all of the homeowners would receive the rebate information given the turnover of residents. Mr. Wilkins said he would contact the property management company and suggest that notification of the WSSC rebate be sent to ever homeowner about every six months.

***National League of Cities (NLC) Water Line Insurance Program:** Mr. Demler said WSSC does not currently participate in the program but has been monitoring the results of similar insurance agreements that have been executed by other local jurisdictions.*

Mr. Putens mentioned the success of the NLC program.

***Other Issues:** Ms. Pope mentioned a problem with sink holes in Belle Point. Mr. McLaughlin said WSSC had been notified of this concern and were working to address the problem.*

Informational Items

Ms. Mach reported that she had attended the Park and Recreation Advisory Board (PRAB) meeting earlier this evening and PRAB is hoping that the Sustainable Land Care Policy will be approved soon. She also said PRAB hopes the work session on Youth Sports will be scheduled before the budget process.

Mr. Herling and Mr. Roberts reported on the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments Transportation Planning Board meeting.

Mr. Herling reported that the City of College Park and Town of Berwyn Heights had approved \$5,000 each towards the funding of the Federal Bureau of Investigation video, but not the City of New Carrollton.

Several other informational items were discussed.

The meeting ended at 9:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

*Cindy Murray
City Clerk*



Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission

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Jerry N. Johnson

January 6, 2012

Ms. Gretchen Overdurff, General Manager
Greenbelt Homes, Inc.
One Hamilton Place
Greenbelt, MD 20770

Re: Water Main Rehabilitation Project

Dear Ms. Overdurff:

Thank you for your October 26, 2011 letter regarding the water main rehabilitation in the Greenbelt Homes Inc. (GHI) community.

The Commission determined that the existing lines in the GHI community, originally installed in 1937, met its criteria for replacement. This project posed considerable challenges as the original system was not designed by WSSC, and the placement and size of the mains did not meet WSSC or industry standards. WSSC staff began the design effort in the fall of 2007 and for four years have made three design attempts to minimize disruption to the homeowners. All proposed solutions have been rejected as unacceptable by GHI.


On August 31, 2011, WSSC staff met with several representatives from GHI to present the details of our final attempt to design an acceptable solution. A modified Traditional Open Trench (TOT) method of construction was discussed. The solution relocates the water mains from the individually improved areas directly in front of the houses to the paved parking lots in the common areas. This solution allows WSSC to vacate the existing rights of way on landscaped property, but would also result in GHI owning and maintaining an additional forty to forty-eight feet of water service connections from the meters to the residences. The Commission does not maintain service connections on private property and an increase in overall service connections to be maintained by GHI is an unavoidable consequence of the relocation of the existing mains from their current, unacceptable locations in the front or back yard of the houses. WSSC requested GHI's concurrence before completing the design.

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Your October 26, 2011 response informed WSSC that GHI is unwilling to assume ownership and maintenance of the increased footage of service connections resulting from this modified design. Considering this impasse, and the considerable time and resource commitment to date, WSSC has decided to terminate the GHI infrastructure upgrade project and focus its rehabilitation efforts on other communities in the service area.

We regret that we are unable arrive at a mutually agreeable solution. If you have any questions, please contact Gary Gumm, Chief Engineer, who can be reached at 301-206-8555 or ggumm@wsscwater.com.

Sincerely,



Jerry N. Johnson
General Manager/CEO

- c: The Honorable Judith F. Davis, Mayor, City of Greenbelt
- Michael P. McLaughlin, City Manager, City of Greenbelt
- Tokey Boswell, President, Board of Directors, Greenbelt Homes, Inc.
- Eldon Ralph, Assistant General Manager, Greenbelt Homes, Inc.
- Martin Hutt, Attorney, Lerch, Early & Brewer
- Johnnie R. Hemphill, Chief of Staff, WSSC
- Gary J. Gumm, Chief Engineer, WSSC
- Marcia G. Tucker, Systems Infrastructure Group Leader, WSSC
- Laura Swisher, Associate Counsel, WSSC
- Eugene Williams, Government Relations Manager, WSSC
- Samuel Bajomo, Civil Engineer, WSSC