

WORK SESSION OF THE GREENBELT CITY COUNCIL held Wednesday, December 11, 2013, to meet with Prince George's County Executive Rushern L. Baker.

Mayor Jordan started the meeting at 8:42 p.m. It was held in the Council Room of the Municipal Building.

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 and David Moran, Assistant City Manager.

ALSO PRESENT WERE: Rushern L. Baker, County Executive; Bea Tignor, Municipal Liaison; Barry Hutson, County Executive's Office; Aaron Marcavitch, Nicole Williams, Steve Skolnick, Molly Lester, Jeff Lemieux, Cary Coppick and Bill Orleans, Greenbelt residents and Thomas X. White, Greenbelt News Review.

Mr. Baker began by discussing his Transforming Neighborhoods Initiative (TNI). He reported crime reduction and lessening school dropout rates in these areas. He believed the County was now able to redevelop areas and attract businesses to the County and cited several developments underway. Mr. Baker felt good about the direction of the County.

Relocation of FBI Headquarters to Greenbelt: Mr. Baker noted a meeting with Congressman Barletta (who chairs the House Subcommittee on Economic Development, Public Buildings, and Emergency Management) where he had invited him to visit Prince George's County. He reported that the Greenbelt site was backed by all of Maryland's elected officials. Mr. Baker suggested that the City and County work together. Ms. Mach reported on the City's Advisory Committee on Education's work with Greenbelt area schools. Ms. Davis suggested the County include the City's Welcome Packet in any promotional efforts and also referenced working with College Park and Berwyn Heights. Mayor Jordan emphasized the University of Maryland as an asset. Ms. Pope noted the City's recreation offerings as an attraction.

County Economic Development Initiative (EDI): Mr. Baker discussed the effort to retain the Bozzuto Group in Greenbelt. He stated his hope to increase available EDI funding this year.

Funding for Theater Renovation: Mayor Jordan discussed the renovation project and the funding shortfall. He requested assistance from the County. Mr. Baker suggested sitting down with his Economic Development team to see what funding is available.

Greenbelt Homes Inc. Water Line Issue: Mr. McLaughlin summarized the history of the issue. Mr. Roberts noted the unique configuration of the GHI homes. Mr. Baker suggested that Carla Reid, Deputy CAO for Infrastructure, and the County's WSSC commissioners be briefed on the situation.

Commercial Kitchen in Greenbelt Community Center: Ms. Mach described the change in County requirements which prevented the City from renting this kitchen to catering firms. Mr. Baker agreed to have the Department of Permits, Inspections & Enforcement (DPIE) look into the issue to see if there was a waiver option or if legislation was needed.

Reestablish Landlord – Tenant Commission: Mr. Baker indicated he had recently heard this same concern from the Apartment and Office Building Association (AOBA) and was looking into the issue. He noted the Commission had not been properly staffed in the past.

Enforcement of CB-89-2012: Mr. Baker did not know if CB-89 had been implemented and agreed to let the City know how it was working. Mr. Putens noted the problem of absentee landlords.

Social Services: Mayor Jordan referenced a gap in social service programs particularly for people who didn't meet the income requirements but were still struggling. Mr. Baker stated that the County had limited resources and needed to target those resources.

County FY 2015 Budget Outlook: Mr. Baker stated his hope that the budget would not be as bad as the FY 14 budget. He noted that every agency except schools had sustained reductions in prior budgets.

Cooperation with County Departments: Mayor Jordan thanked the County Executive for the cooperation with the County Police and Chief Magaw. Mayor Jordan expressed appreciation for the full-time career staffing at the Greenbelt Fire Department.

Sunnyside Avenue Bridge Replacement: Mr. Roberts acknowledged the need for a new bridge, but stated that the City wanted to reduce the size of the bridge and reduce its cost. He requested the bridge be redesigned and stated this would be better for the environment. Mr. Coppick wanted the land use character of the area to remain the same and believed that this was a precursor to widening of Edmonston Road/MD 201.

Bike Racks on Buses: Mr. Orleans noted that Prince George's was the only jurisdiction in the region without bike racks on their buses. Mr. Baker agreed to look at this.

New Storm Water Regulations: Ms. Davis complemented the work of Adam Ortiz, Director of the County Department of Environmental Resources, and stated that municipalities wanted to partner with the County as storm water projects are selected and implemented.

Mr. Coppick requested that the County's MS4 permit reflect Clean Water Act provisions. He stated that sound water protection was important for quality of life in Prince George's County.

Mayor Jordan thanked the County Executive for attending. Mr. Baker thanked Council for their time and service to the County,

The meeting ended at 10:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

David E. Moran
Assistant City Manager