

WORK SESSION OF THE GREENBELT CITY COUNCIL/LEGISLATIVE DINNER held Tuesday, December 11, 2012, at Greenbelt Marriott, for the purpose of discussing the City's legislative priorities and other legislative matters.

Mayor Davis called the meeting to order at 7:35 p.m.

PRESENT WERE: Councilmembers Leta M. Mach, Silke I. Pope, Edward V. J. Putens, Rodney M. Roberts and Mayor Judith F. Davis. Councilmember Konrad E. Herling was unable to attend due to illness and Councilmember Emmett V. Jordan was unable to attend due to a prior commitment.

STAFF PRESENT WERE: Michael McLaughlin, City Manager; David E. Moran, Assistant City Manager; Robert Manzi and John Shay, City Solicitors; and Cindy Murray, City Clerk.

ALSO PRESENT WERE: State Senator Paul Pinsky; State Delegates Anne Healey, Tawanna Gaines and Alonzo Washington; and County Councilmember Ingrid Turner.

Mayor Davis welcomed the legislators. She said the purpose of the gathering was for the City to discuss its legislative priorities for 2013.

The following City priority issues were reviewed.

Joint State/County Issues

PROTECT MUNICIPAL FUNDING SOURCES: Protect municipal funding sources including: Highway User revenues, Police Aid, Youth Service Bureau funding, Program Open Space allocations, Income Tax revenue, M-NCPPC grants, School Resource Officer contribution, CDBG funding and Landfill Disposal Rebate.

FUNDING FOR PURPLE LINE: Fund the Purple Line which will promote smart growth and help relieve traffic congestion.

TRANSIT SERVICE ISSUES:

- Increase funds to allow for more weekend and evening service.*
- Reprioritize State transportation funding (more transit - less highway construction).*
- Provide adequate WMATA funding.*

State Issues

REVISE NOISE BARRIER REGULATIONS: Modify State regulations to allow noise barriers along the Beltway for any community that meets certain noise or traffic levels and provide additional funding for these barriers.

Delegate Gaines said she will ask the State Highway Administration to review the noise barrier regulations.

ENVIRONMENTAL INITIATIVES:

- Discourage/Prohibit the use of plastic shopping (grocery) bags.*
Senator Pinsky said the major grocery chains such as Safeway and Giant were okay with (not opposed to) this initiative. He noted the only opponents were plastic bag manufacturers.
- Encourage/Require alternative energy options (i.e. CNG, charging stations).*
- Create a container deposit program.*

County Issues

NEW GREENBELT FIRE STATION: Continue to pursue funding for land acquisition and construction of a new Greenbelt Fire Station.

REESTABLISH LANDLORD TENANT COMMISSION: Restore the Landlord-Tenant Commission to resolve landlord tenant complaints and provide a resource for renters to address these issues.

Councilmember Turner explained the Prince George's County 3-1-1 call center would direct residents with landlord tenant issues to the Office of Community Relations. She encouraged residents to use this office for all non-emergency complaints. Council requested the City publicize information on the 3-1-1 call center.

ALERT ITEMS

- Update on State & County Financial Situation
- Pit Bull Liability – Court of Appeals Decision
Senator Pinsky said he anticipates this liability issue will be clarified by the State this session.
- Greenbelt Metro Area Sector Plan – Planning Board Action
Councilmember Turner advised the Planning Board considered a variety of issues prior to their approval of the Sector Plan. Council commented on their opposition to the Sector Plan.

OTHER ISSUES OF CITY INTEREST - State

- Funding for Greenbelt Lake Dredging/Dam Repair
Delegate Gaines mentioned the Department of Natural Resources loan program.
- Full Planning & Zoning Authority for Municipalities
- Oppose Kenilworth Avenue (MD 201) Extension/Expansion
- Prohibit Transfer of Gas Station Liquor Licenses
- Amend State Ethics Legislation
There was discussion regarding City concerns with the State Ethics legislation enacted last year. Delegate Healey suggested Mr. Manzi send a letter to the State delegation stating the concerns. Senator Pinsky suggested the Maryland Municipal League submit a request also.
- Apartment Assessment Inequities
- Explore Direction of Local Bus (TheBus) Funding to City instead of County

OTHER ISSUES OF CITY INTEREST - County

- Commercial Kitchen Usage – Change County Requirements
Councilmember Turner requested Mr. McLaughlin send her a written request regarding the City's concerns with the County requirements.
- Funding for Schools to Clear Snow from Sidewalks
Councilmember Turner said the School Board has funding for the sidewalks to be cleared. She said she would relay the issue to the School Board.
- Repair of Beaver Dam Road
Councilmember Turner said she would relay the issue to the County Department of Public Works and Transportation.

- *Full Funding of Bridge to Excellence (Thornton)*
- *Require Art for New Development*

MARYLAND MUNICIPAL LEAGUE LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM

- *Restoration of Municipal Highway User Revenues*
- *Electronic Posting of Legal Notices*

Other Items

Senator Pinsky reported on the meeting he attended with Greenbelt Homes, Inc. (GHI) and the Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission (WSSC). He said the parties were unable to reach a resolution to the waterline replacement work in GHI and appeared to be in a deadlock. Council expressed their concerns regarding the situation.

Mayor Davis noted that Councilmember Turner's term as President of the Maryland Association of Counties (MACo) was about to end and she thanked her for her service to MACo. Councilmember Turner said she looked forward to working with Greenbelt and other municipalities to move the County and State forward in the future. Delegate Washington said he also looked forward to working with Greenbelt in the future.

Delegate Gaines stressed the need for the State to come up with additional revenue. She also noted the need to come up with a solution to the State transportation issues.

The legislators thanked the City for its hospitality. They invited Council to attend the 22nd District Legislative Reception in Annapolis on January 21, 2013. Council thanked the legislators for attending.

The meeting ended at 9:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

*Cindy Murray
City Clerk*