

REGULAR MEETING OF THE GREENBELT CITY COUNCIL held Monday, October 28, 2013.

Mayor Davis called the meeting to order at 8:00 p.m.

ROLL CALL was answered by Councilmembers Konrad E. Herling, Emmett V. Jordan, Leta M. Mach, Silke I. Pope, Edward V.J. Putens, Rodney M. Roberts and Mayor Judith F. Davis.

ALSO PRESENT were Michael McLaughlin, City Manager; David Moran, Assistant City Manager; John Shay, City Solicitor; and Cindy Murray, City Clerk.

Mayor Davis asked for a moment of silence in memory of residents Rev. Herbert Russell Jones and Patrick Brannan and former resident Robert (Bob) Hogan. She then led the pledge of allegiance to the flag.

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA: It was moved by Ms. Pope and seconded by Mr. Jordan that the consent agenda be approved. The motion passed 7-0.

Council thereby took the following actions:

MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETINGS:

Work Session, September 17, 2013

Work Session, October 9, 2013

Interview, October 14, 2013

Regular Meeting, October 14, 2013

Approved as presented.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Community Relations Advisory Board, Report #2013-2 (Council Referral – John Abell Petition regarding Child Pornography): Council accepted this report and will consider it on the agenda of a future meeting.

AMENDMENT TO THE CODE OF PERSONNEL AND ADMINISTRATIVE REGULATIONS (COPAR) - EMPLOYEE PARTICIPATION IN CITY CONTRIBUTION GROUPS: Council adopted a policy that classified employees should not hold leadership positions in City Contribution Groups and directed staff to include this policy in the Code of Personnel and Administrative Regulations (COPAR).

RESIGNATIONS FROM ADVISORY GROUPS: Council accepted the resignations of Ginny Jones from the Senior Citizens Advisory Committee and Aaron Marcavitch from the Greenbelt Advisory Committee on Environmental Sustainability.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: Ms. Mach requested “Festivals on City Property” and “Appointment to Advisory Group” be added to the agenda. With these additions, it was moved by Mr. Herling and seconded by Mr. Jordan that the agenda be approved. The motion passed 7-0.

PRESENTATIONS:

American Legion Post #136 – Veterans Day Program: Mike Moore, Commander of Greenbelt American Legion Post #136, discussed the Veterans Day Program and invited Council and the community to participate in the program on November 11.

America Recycles Month Proclamation: Mayor Davis read a proclamation to recognize November as America Recycles Month. She recognized Luisa Robles, the City Recycling Coordinator, who accepted the proclamation and provided an overview of the activities scheduled for America Recycles Month.

Municipal Government Month Proclamation: Mayor Davis read a proclamation to recognize November as Municipal Government month. She recognized Beverly Palau, the City Public Information and Communications Coordinator, who accepted the proclamation and provided an update of Municipal Government month activities.

Oath of Office – New Greenbelt Police Officer: Chief James Craze introduced Greenbelt's newest police officer, Aaron Davis. Mayor Davis administered the oath of office to Mr. Davis. Council welcomed Mr. Davis to the City.

PETITIONS AND REQUESTS: Bill Orleans, Greenbelt, requested the minutes of the October 14, 2013, regular meeting be removed from the agenda. Mayor Davis said these minutes had already been approved by Council. Referring to a response to a Public Information Act (PIA) request that he had submitted to the City, Mr. Orleans requested that reports be prepared on all property abatement requests received prior to FY 2009. Mayor Davis suggested Mr. Orleans contact the Prince George's County Finance Department for this information. Mr. Orleans also asked whether any of the property tax abatements requests received in FY 2009 and after had ever been challenged. Mayor Davis referred this question to staff to review.

Joe Murray, 9-Q Research Road, read a prepared statement regarding his conflict of interest status on the Greenbelt Forest Preserve Advisory Board (FPAB) due to his work with Ancestral Knowledge. As requested by Council, Mr. Manzi will look into Mr. Murray's request.

Joel Mason Gaines, 13 Lakeside Drive, reported that the sidewalk at the northeast corner of the intersection of Greenbelt Road and Branchville Road was in poor condition and was very dangerous, especially for bicycle riders. He also requested that improvements be made to the pathway which runs beside the sidewalk. Mr. McLaughlin said the sidewalk was within the State Highway Administration (SHA) right-of-way and staff would make notification to SHA. He added that the pathway is on private property and staff would attempt to engage the owner about repairs.

MINUTES: None

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS: Ms. Murray provided an update on the 2013 Election on November 5, 2013. She advised that Early Voting had started on Saturday, October 19th, and would run through Friday, November 1st.

COUNCIL REPORTS: Councilmembers commented on their attendance at the 10th Anniversary Celebration of the Greenbelt Forest Preserve. Mayor Davis reported that many awards were presented at the celebration including congratulatory citations from the Maryland General Assembly

to the four core members of the original Forest Advocacy Group (Rodney Roberts, Paul Downs, Yoni Siegel and Bill Rich) as well as members of the 2003 City Council (Councilmembers Davis, White, Roberts, Turnbull and Putens) for the establishment of the Greenbelt Forest Preserve.

Councilmembers noted their attendance at the following events.

Coop Alliance Coop Month Celebration at New Deal Café/Coopoly Game – Ms. Mach
Utopia Film Festival Opening Reception – Mr. Jordan and Mr. Herling
Utopia Film Festival Film – Ms. Mach
Franklin Park Meeting on establishing a Child Care Cooperative – Ms. Mach
Empty Bowls Fundraiser – Mayor Davis, Mr. Jordan, Mr. Roberts, Ms. Mach and
Mr. Herling
Greenbelt Forest Preserve 10th Anniversary Celebration – All
Halloween Parade – Mayor Davis, Mr. Jordan, Mr. Putens and Ms. Pope
Maryland Municipal League Fall Conference – Mayor Davis, Mr. Jordan, Ms. Mach and
Mr. Herling
Greenbelt Drum and Rhythm Festival – Mayor Davis, Mr. Jordan, Mr. Herling and Ms. Mach
Annual Pumpkin Walk – Mayor Davis and Mr. Roberts
St. Hugh's OctoberFest – Mayor Davis, Mr. Jordan, Mr. Herling, Mr. Putens and Ms. Pope
Shredding Event & Electronics Recycling – Mayor Davis
FallFest at Schrom Hills Park – Mayor Davis, Mr. Jordan, Mr. Roberts, Mr. Putens,
Ms. Mach and Mr. Herling
Greenbelt Volunteer Fire Department and Rescue Squad Fundraiser for Wyncoop Family –
Mayor Davis, Mr. Jordan and Mr. Herling
14th Annual Health and Wellness Fair – Mayor Davis and Ms. Mach

COMMITTEE REPORTS: None

LEGISLATION

A Resolution to Authorize the Negotiated Purchase of a Mobile Tag Reader with Installation
From ELSAG North America in the Amount of \$18,150

Mayor Davis read the agenda comments.

Ms. Pope introduced the resolution for second reading and moved that it be adopted. Mr. Putens seconded.

Mr. Orleans asked and was provided answers to several questions.

ROLL CALL:	Mr. Herling	-	yes
	Mr. Jordan	-	yes
	Ms. Mach	-	yes
	Ms. Pope	-	yes
	Mr. Putens	-	yes
	Mr. Roberts	-	yes
	Mayor Davis	-	yes

The resolution was declared adopted (Resolution No. 2006, Book 8).

A Resolution to Repeal Resolution Number 908 to Update the Charter of the Advisory Committee on Trees

Mayor Davis read the agenda comments.

Mr. Putens introduced the resolution for first reading.

A Resolution to Designate the City of Greenbelt as a Healthy Eating Active Living City

Mayor Davis read the agenda comments.

Ms. Mach introduced the resolution for first reading.

A Resolution to Negotiate the Purchase of the Removal of an Underground Fuel Tank at the Police Station and Replacement of an Above Ground Fuel Tank at the Public Works Facility from Capitol Petroleum Equipment Inc. at a Cost of \$132,974

Mayor Davis read the agenda comments.

Ms. Pope introduced the resolution for first reading.

AWARD OF PURCHASE – PUBLIC WORKS TRUCK: Mayor Davis read the agenda comments.

Ken Hall, Director of Public Works, explained the truck proposed for purchase includes an option of CNG conversion preparation and staff would be seeking grant funding to cover the cost (between \$7,500 and \$10,000) to convert the truck to CNG in the future.

Ms. Mach asked the status of the CNG fueling system at Public Works. Mr. Hall said a possible vendor had been located about repairs to the system.

Mr. Putens moved that Council approve the purchase of a Ford F-350 pick-up truck from Apple Ford of Columbia, Maryland in accord with State of Maryland BPO# 001B3400276 at a cost of \$30,256. Ms. Pope seconded.

In response to a question from Mr. Roberts, Mr. Hall said the CNG conversion work would be contracted out to a private vendor. Mr. Roberts suggested one of the City mechanics be certified so this work could be done in-house.

The motion passed 7-0.

ADVISORY PLANNING BOARD REPORT #2013-05 (DETAILED SITE PLAN FOR FRANKLIN PARK AT GREENBELT STATION SIGN PLAN): Mayor Davis read the agenda comments.

Mayor Davis asked when discussion of street signs on City rights-of-way would be considered. Terri Hruby, Assistant Director of Planning, said staff recommends that this discussion be deferred so that it can be considered in the context of a city-wide street sign program.

Jeff Winter, consultant to Franklin Park, explained Franklin Park has submitted a Detailed Site Plan (DSP) that proposes the installation of 27 pole banner signs, four building real estate banner signs (two currently exist), replacement of two existing monument signs and validation of four existing monument signs. Noting the Advisory Planning Board (APB) comments on the Victorian design of the street signs, he advised these cannot be changed as they have already been fabricated. Ms. Mach mentioned that simpler signage would be more reflective of a New Deal community.

Mr. Jordan and Mr. Herling complimented Franklin Park on the signage program and expressed their general support of the APB recommendation. Mr. Jordan suggested that the street names be spelled out (Drive, Court, etc.) instead of the use of abbreviations (Dr., Ct., etc.) Mayor Davis asked if the banners would be changed seasonally. Mr. Winter said yes. In response to a question from Mr. Herling, Mr. Winter said they would be willing to incorporate "Greenbelt" into the banners.

Mayor Davis asked if a landscape plan had been submitted to the City for landscaping around the monument signs. Mr. Winter said no. Ms. Hruby said a formal landscape plan could be required at the time of permit.

In response to a question from Mayor Davis, Mr. Winter said he brought the idea of wayfinding signage to the applicant for consideration, but the applicant indicated he is not prepared to address it at this time.

Mayor Davis said since Franklin Park is such a large member of the Greenbelt community, it would be nice to add a pole for the Greenbelt flag to fly with the State, County and Franklin Park flags. Mr. Herling suggested kiosks be placed within Franklin Park to promote activities in the City. Ms. Pope suggested an informational center at the shopping center be considered.

Mayor Davis moved that Council support Franklin Park's DSP with the following conditions:

1. The Applicant revise the design for the brackets and base of the banner signs to not include Victorian architectural elements, rather incorporate elements that respect the design of the new monument signs;
2. The DSP be revised to include two building banner signs that are to be considered temporary real estate advertising signs with limited time periods for display (i.e., 6 months at a time) and the signs be redesigned to meet the 10 percent façade area requirement of the Development District Standards in the Greenbelt Metro Area and MD 193 Corridor Sector Plan and Sectional Map Amendment;
3. The DSP be revised to delete the pole mounted banner signs that are located in close proximity to existing monument signs;
4. The Applicant agrees to work with the City to identify opportunities that may exist to include reference to the City and/or city events in the seasonal banner signs.
5. The Applicant agrees to submit a landscape plan for plantings around the monuments signs.

Mr. Putens seconded. The motion passed 7-0.

MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION – DRAFT CONSOLIDATED
TRANSPORTATION PROGRAM, FY 2014 – 2019: Mayor Davis read the agenda comments.

Mr. Roberts asked about the proposed widening/hot lanes program for I-495/I-95. Ms. Hruby said this project was currently on hold. Mayor Davis suggested that Council could state their opposition to this project.

There was discussion regarding the Noise Barrier Program. Mayor Davis, Mr. Putens, Ms. Mach and Ms. Pope noted the formula needs to be changed/revised regarding areas that qualify for noise barriers.

Mr. Roberts suggested that when the next work session is scheduled with Maryland State Highway Administration, representatives above the District Office level should be invited to attend to discuss major projects and transportation issues.

Mr. Putens moved that Council transmit a letter to Transportation Secretary James Smith stating the City's strong support for transit related projects such as the Purple Line, construction of a full interchange at Greenbelt Station and investment in local and regional transit; restating the City's position on the need to increase transit funding (including the establishment of a municipal transit funding program); opposition to the widening of I-495/I-95; reiterating the City's opposition to Maryland Route 201 Extended project; indicating the City's interest in changing/revising the formula for the Noise Barrier Program and the need to expand and increase funding to the Type II Noise Barrier Program; requesting resurrection of the MD 193 Greenbelt Road Streetscape Project which was put on hold in 2002; and referencing the City's Draft Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan and the City's Draft Bus Stop Safety and Accessibility Study and the City's interest in discussing these plans with the applicable agencies in the immediate future. Mr. Jordan seconded. The motion passed 7-0.

GREENBELT GREEN TEAM – SUSTAINABLE MARYLAND CERTIFICATION: Mayor Davis read the agenda comments.

Mr. McLaughlin advised that the Greenbelt Advisory Committee on Environmental Sustainability (GreenACES) has taken up the task as serving as the City's Green Team. He advised they had met last week with students from the University of Maryland who will assist GreenACES in the data gathering required for the Sustainable Maryland Certification (SMC) as their semester project.

Mayor Davis noted that progress is being made towards SMC and she hoped that the City could be certified by spring 2014. She encouraged anyone interested in joining the City's Green Team to submit an application to the City Clerk.

OTHER REPORTS: Councilmembers presented reports on the following meetings and conferences they recently attended.

Mayor Davis, Mr. Jordan and Ms. Mach reported on sessions at the Maryland Municipal League Fall Conference.

Mayor Davis and Mr. Jordan reported on a meeting they had been invited to attend by Congressman Hoyer with contractors of NASA/Goddard. They noted the recent sequestration had caused a multitude of problems for government contract workers and without future stability (possibility of another sequestration in January 2014), the contractors are unable to plan for the future.

FESTIVALS ON CITY PROPERTY – Ms. Mach reported that more festivals are being held throughout the City and often conflict with other activities in the City. She said there may be times permits should be denied when other events have already been scheduled and suggested the matter be referred to staff and the Park and Recreation Advisory Board (PRAB) for review. Mayor Davis suggested a work session be scheduled.

Mr. Putens expressed concern regarding food sold by vendors at the festivals and questioned whether the vendors have Health Department permits. He also suggested a policy restricting the number of food vans allowed to participate. Ms. Mach questioned whether vendors are charged to participate.

Ms. Pope requested staff check with other municipalities regarding their procedures for festivals. She also suggested City enforcement staffing during the festivals. Ms. Mach said that a deposit from festival applicants should be considered in case of damage to City property.

Ms. Mach moved that Council 1) refer the matter to staff, Park and Recreation Advisory Board, Arts Advisory Board, Advisory Planning Board and Public Safety Advisory Committee for their review and 2) when reports are received, a work session be scheduled and the Chesapeake Education, Arts, and Research Society (CHEARS) and Friends on the New Deal Café (FONDCA), the main producers of the festivals, be invited to participate in the work session. Mr. Herling seconded. The motion passed 7-0.

APPOINTMENT TO ADVISORY GROUP: Ms. Mach moved to appoint Kimberly Knox to the Greenbelt Advisory Committee on Environmental Sustainability. Ms. Pope seconded. The motion passed 7-0.

FINAL COMMENTS: Since this was the last meeting of the 39th Council, Councilmembers reflected on the events of the last two years, thanked their colleagues, staff, members of City advisory groups, and thanked the residents for the opportunity to serve. Councilmembers wished all the candidates good luck with the upcoming election.

MEETINGS: Council reviewed the upcoming meeting schedule.

ADJOURNMENT: Ms. Mach moved to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Putens seconded. The motion passed 7-0.

Mayor Davis adjourned the regular meeting of Monday, October 28, 2013, at 10:58 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Cindy Murray
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 October 28, 2013."

Judith F. Davis
Mayor