

REGULAR MEETING OF THE GREENBELT CITY COUNCIL held Monday, October 12, 2020.

Mayor Byrd called the meeting to order at 8:00 pm.

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

ALSO PRESENT were staff members Nicole Ard, City Manager; Terri Hruby, Planning and Community Development Director; Greg Varda, Recreation Director; Charise Liggins, Economic Development Coordinator; Beverly Palau, Public Information and Communications Coordinator and Bonita Anderson, City Clerk.

Mayor Byrd asked for a moment of silence in honor of resident Nathan "Skip" Hughes, III.

Mr. Roberts then led the pledge of allegiance to the flag.

CONSENT AGENDA: It was moved by Ms. Davis and seconded by Mr. Jordan to approve the consent agenda. The motion passed 7-0.

Council thereby took the following actions:

Minutes:

Regular Meeting, December 10, 2018

Approved as presented

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Forest Preserve Advisory Board, Report #2020-06 (Protecting the Sunrise Tract from Beltway Expansion): Council accepted this report.

Letter of Support – Comptroller’s Proposal to Create a Small Business Grant Program: Council approved sending a letter to Governor Hogan supporting this initiative.

General Assembly Letter Opposing Beltway Widening: Council approved the letter.

Reappointment to Advisory Boards: Council appointed Kevin Murphy to a new term on the Employee Relations Board.

Resignation from Advisory Group: Council accepted Richard Marcus’ resignation from the Employee Relations Board.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: Mr. Jordan requested that Live Music Events at Roosevelt Center be added to the agenda as item #20. It was moved by Mr. Jordan and seconded by Ms. Davis that the agenda be approved as amended. The motion passed 7-0.

PRESENTATIONS:

Co-Op Month Proclamation: Mayor Byrd read the agenda comments. Mayor Byrd proclaimed October National Co-Op Month. Mr. Bob Davis and Ms. Mach expressed their gratitude for the proclamation and provided Council with an update on this year's events.

Maryland Economic Development Week: Mayor Byrd read the agenda comments. Mayor Byrd declared October 19 through 23rd Economic Development Week. Charise Liggins, Economic Development Coordinator, was present to provide the Council with an update on this year's activities and events.

PETITIONS AND REQUESTS:

Greenbelt Public Safety Petition to the City Council: Mayor Byrd read the agenda comments and petition from Justin Baker, a Greenbelt resident, presented to the City Council to maintain and improve Greenbelt Public Safety.

Konrad Herling, a Greenbelt resident, suggested outreach to the Smart Growth Coalition.

Bill Orleans, a Greenbelt resident, requested a status update on rent increases and evictions.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS:

Ms. Ard announced that the City was recently awarded the Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA) Distinguished Budget Award for the 15th year.

LEGISLATION:

Rent Increase Freeze Ordinance: Mayor Byrd read the agenda comments. He introduced the resolution for the first reading.

OTHER BUSINESS:

WMATA's Proposed Service: Mayor Byrd read the agenda comments.

Ms. Pope moved that the City Council authorize staff to transmit a letter to WMATA requesting that service on Metrobus routes serving Greenbelt is restored to pre-pandemic levels and that Metrorail late-night service not be discontinued. Mr. Roberts seconded. The motion passed 7-0.

Authorization for City Manager to sign WMATA Trail Permit: Mayor Byrd read the agenda comments.

Mr. Jordan moved that the City Council authorize the City Manager or designee to sign the WMATA Real Estate Permit for the Greenbelt Station WMATA Trail project. Mayor Byrd seconded. The motion passed 7-0.

COUNCIL ACTIVITIES:

Council Members commented on their attendance at the following events:

Maryland Municipal League Conference – Mayor Byrd, Mr. Jordan, and Ms. Davis
Greenbelt Volunteer Fire Department Crab Feast – Mr. Jordan, Ms. Davis, Ms. Pope, and Mr. Putens.
Greenbelt’s Advisory Committee on Education, Grant Writing Workshop – Mr. Jordan
County Councilmember Todd Turner’s Food Distribution Event – Mr. Jordan
Beltway Plaza Food Distribution Event – Mr. Jordan
St. Hugh’s October Fest – Mr. Jordan, Ms. Pope, and Mr. Putens

COUNCIL REPORTS: None.

Live Music Events at Roosevelt Center: Mayor Byrd requested this be added to the agenda. The City Council decided to defer this item to the next regular meeting for discussion.

MEETINGS: Council reviewed the upcoming meeting schedule.

ADJOURNMENT: A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Ms. Mach and seconded by Ms. Pope. The motion carried 7-0. The Mayor adjourned the regular meeting on October 12, 2020, at 10:07 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Bonita Anderson
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 12, 2020.

Colin A. Byrd
Mayor