

WORK SESSION OF THE GREENBELT CITY COUNCIL held Wednesday, September 19, 2012, for the purpose of meeting with the Greenbelt Ethics Commission.

Mayor Davis started the meeting at 8:01 p.m. It was held in the Multipurpose Room of the Community Center.

PRESENT WERE: 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.

STAFF PRESENT WERE: Michael P. McLaughlin, City Manager; and Cindy Murray, City Clerk.

ALSO PRESENT WERE: Sieglinde Peterson and Bob Zugby, Greenbelt Ethics Commission; Molly Lester and Bill Orleans.

Council reviewed the Ethics Commission Report #2012-1 which recommended an alternate non-voting member be appointed to the committee. Sieglinde Peterson, Chair of the Greenbelt Ethics Commission (GEC), advised that GEC was concerned with having only three members on the commission, especially in the event of the absence of one member for a hearing proceeding. She noted that the City of Laurel's Ethics Commission included an alternate non-voting member who was available in the event of an absence by a regular member.

Mr. Roberts, Mr. Putens and Ms. Mach expressed concern that an alternate member can be viewed as a "sub-standard" member. There was discussion regarding increasing the size of the GEC from three members to five members. Ms. Peterson and Mr. Zugby indicated they would prefer to remain with three members for the time being. They added that in the event a member is not available for a hearing, the individual involved in the hearing could be offered the option to have the hearing proceed with the two members present or to reschedule when all three members are available. If the proceeding is heard by only two members and the opinion is split, the third member could then review the hearing tape and materials and render the final decision.

After further discussion, Council recommended the GEC remain at three members. They further requested the City Solicitor provide an opinion on the appointment of alternate committee members and also provide guidance to the GEC on the matter of recusals.

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

The meeting ended at 8:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

*Cindy Murray
City Clerk*