

GREENBELT CITY COUNCIL
Municipal Building
Regular Meeting
September 15, 2015 - 08:00 p.m.

I. ORGANIZATION

1. Call to Order
2. Roll Call
3. [Meditation and Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag](#)
4. [Consent Agenda - Approval of Staff Recommendations \(Items on the Consent Agenda \[marked by *\] will be approved as recommended by staff, subject to removal from the Consent Agenda by Council.\)](#)
5. [Approval of Agenda and Additions](#)

II. COMMUNICATIONS

6. [Presentations](#)

[National Preparedness Month Proclamation - National Preparedness Month is a national effort to encourage Americans to prepare for all types of emergencies, including natural disasters such as hurricanes and earthquakes, as well as terrorist attacks such as the 9/11 tragedy. Charlene Backstrom, member of the Community Emergency Response Team \(CERT\), and Laura Kressler, Chair of the Public Safety Advisory Committee, will be present to receive the proclamation. \(CM\)](#)

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[Proclamation](#)

Public Lands Day - National Public Lands Day is the nation's largest hands-on volunteer effort to improve and enhance public lands. Brian Townsend, Horticultural Supervisor, will be present to receive the proclamation and provide an update on the plans for this event. (CM).

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[Proclamation](#)

- C. **Petitions and Requests (Petitions received at the meeting will not be acted upon by the City Council at this meeting unless Council waives its Standing Rules.)**

8. [Minutes of Council Meetings](#)

* Work Session, June 24, 2015

[Draft Minutes](#)

* Work Session, July 15, 2015

[Draft Minutes](#)

- Executive Session, July 15, 2015 -In order to approve these minutes, the following motion is needed:

I move that the minutes of the executive session of the City Council held Wednesday, July 15, 2015, at 7:03 p.m. in Room 201 of the Community Center, be approved as presented. Council held this closed meeting in accordance with the General Provisions Article, §3-305(b)(1) of the Annotated Code of Public General Laws of Maryland, to discuss a personnel matter.(CM)

In order to approve these minutes, the following motion is needed:

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* Work Session, August 3, 2015

[Draft Minutes](#)

- Executive Session, August 3, 2015 - In order to approve these minutes, the following motion is needed:

I move that the minutes of the executive session of the City Council held Monday, August 3, 2015, at 9:00 p.m. in the Library of the Municipal Building, be approved as presented. Council held this closed meeting in accordance with the General Provisions Article, §3-305(b)(7) of the Annotated Code of Public General Laws of Maryland, to consult with legal counsel regarding an annexation issue.

In order to approve these minutes, the following motion is needed:

I move that the minutes of the executive session of the City Council held Monday, August 3, 2015, at 9:00 p.m. in the Library of the Municipal Building, be approved as presented. Council held this closed meeting in accordance with the General Provisions Article, §3-305(b)(7) of the Annotated Code of Public General Laws of Maryland, to consult with legal counsel regarding an annexation issue.

9. [Administrative Reports](#)

* 10. Committee Reports

III. LEGISLATION

[Resolution](#)

12. [A Resolution to Authorize the Negotiated Purchase of Professional Services to Develop a Series of Next Steps in Economic Development with the Hyattsville Community Development Corporation at a Cost Not to Exceed \\$33,000 - 1st Reading - 1st Reading](#)

- [Reference: Resolution \(posted below\)](#)
[Proposed Cost Sheet \(posted below\)](#)

- [In 2014, the City contracted with the Sage Policy Group for an Economic Development Study. After review of the study, Council expressed interest in identifying additional next steps in economic development to support existing Greenbelt businesses and attract new businesses to the City.](#)

- [The Hyattsville Community Development Corporation \(HCDC\) submitted a proposal dated July 31, 2015, to develop a series of next steps in economic development. This proposal was considered by Council at a work session on August 26, 2015, and Council expressed its interest in proceeding with Items #1 and #2 in the HCDC proposal.](#)

- [It is recommended the resolution be introduced for first reading. \(MPM\)](#)

[Resolution](#)

Proposed Cost Sheet

IV. OTHER BUSINESS

13. Proposed Metrobus Service and Tariff Changes - Reference: Notice of Public Hearing, WMATA (posted below)

Description of Proposed Changes, WMATA (posted below)

- The Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (WMATA) is proposing a series of changes to Metrobus service throughout the Washington Metropolitan Region. A public hearing on the proposed changes is scheduled for Thursday, September 17, 2015 at 6:30pm in the Metro Headquarters Building in Washington, DC, and written testimony is being accepted until 5pm on Wednesday, September 23rd.

- Changes proposed for Metrobus routes servicing Greenbelt include the following: restructure the G routes into two routes to make service easier for riders to understand, split the C2 and C4 into two separate routes with the C2 operating between Greenbelt Station and the new Takoma Langley Park Crossroads Transit Center via the University of Maryland, eliminate the R3 line which provides weekday peak hour service from Greenbelt Metro Station to Prince George's Plaza Metrorail Station, eliminate route 81 Sunday service at Greenbelt Station and replace with C2 Sunday Service and add Sunday service on routes G12 and G14. The City and the Greenbelt transit community have been advocating for Sunday service for years, and it is important that WMATA hear from the Greenbelt community about the value of providing such service. While the loss of the R3 service, the splitting of the C2 and C4 Route and changes to the 81 Route may negatively impact some Greenbelt transit riders, staff believes the cost savings associated with the entire WMATA service changes are affording WMATA the opportunity to propose adding Sunday service on the G12 and G14 which will have invaluable benefits to the Greenbelt community.

- Staff recommends City Council transmit a letter to WMATA strongly supporting the changes being proposed to the G12, G13, G14 and G16 routes; particularly the proposed addition of Sunday service. (TH)

Notice of Public Hearing WMATA

Description of Proposed Changes, WMATA

14. Proposed Pepco Vegetation Management Work -

Reference: Memorandum, M. McLaughlin, 08/27/2015 (posted below)

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Pepco, the electric utility which serves the city, has proposed vegetation management work as it is required by the Maryland Public Service Commission. The work will occur on city property primarily along street rights-of-way as well as on private property. City permission is being sought for the work along streets and on city property.

- The plans propose tree removal and tree pruning/trimming along seven (7) feeder lines serving the community. Proposed is the removal of approximately 375 trees on city streets and property. Pepco has also proposed the removal of approximately 132 trees on Greenbelt Homes (GHI) property.

- The Advisory Committee on Trees (ACT) and City staff have reviewed the plans and recommend that 60 trees not be touched at all and 37 be pruned rather than removed for a total of 97. GHI has reviewed the plans for its property and wants 10 trees to not be touched and 18 only pruned.

- Council has held two work sessions on this matter, July 22 and September 2. At the September 2 work session, it was recommended that approval or permission be granted for the proposed work on five (5) of the 7 plans in accord with ACT and staff recommendations due to the limited amount of work proposed on those plans. These plans are identified by Pepco as 15738, 15739, 15740, 15744 and 34021/28. The details of those plans are described in a staff memo dated August 27, 2015. Copies of the plans were in the meeting booklet for the September 2, 2015 work session.

- Additional review is needed on plans 15741 and 15742 which include the bulk of the proposed work.

- It is recommended Council grant permission for the vegetation management work proposed by Pepco on its plans 15738, 15739, 15740, 15744 and 34021/28 with modifications as recommended by ACT and City staff. (MPM).

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McLaughlin Memo

15. Campaign Signs on City Property -

Reference: Memorandum, C. Murray, 08/26/2015 (posted below)

- In 1991, the City Council established nine sites on public property throughout the City where election signs could be placed. At that time, candidates entered into a voluntary agreement among themselves not to place campaign signs in residential yards. Council has voted to continue the program through all subsequent City Council elections.

- In 2005, at Council direction, the number of sites was expanded to 15. Because of the increased number of sites, the fee for participation was also raised to \$75 to help defray the costs of staff time and materials.

- Included in Council's packet is a memo from the City Clerk listing the sites proposed for 2015. Council direction is sought regarding continuing this program for the 2015 election.

- Additionally, Woodlawn Development has agreed to the placement of City election signs in the median on Greenbelt Station Parkway approximately 100 feet onto its property from the bridge. The three poles would be stacked, approximately ten (10) feet apart in the median, since there is not enough room there for horizontal placement as with the other signs. It is anticipated the Campaign Signs on City Property program will be expanded to include the Greenbelt Station site in the 2017 election when streets and right-of-ways in Greenbelt Station are City property. (CM)

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[Memorandum, C. Murray](#)

16. [Referral of Solar Energy Project Proposal to Staff - Reference:Memorandum, M. McLaughlin, 08/05/15](#)

[The Solar Task Force of the City's Green Team submitted a proposal to implement solar energy projects on City property/facilities. Council held a work session with the Solar Task Force on August 12, 2015, to be briefed on the proposal.](#)

[Council requested that this item be included on the agenda for referral to staff for review and recommendation. \(CM\)](#)

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Memorandum

17. Council Reports

* 18. Cherrywood Lane Green and Complete Street Redesign -

Council was briefed on the Cherrywood Lane Green and Complete Streets Redesign Project at its August 24, 2015 worksession. Staff from the Planning Department and the Low Impact Development Center presented three preliminary plan design concepts. Each design option illustrated different feasible opportunities for selecting, siting, and utilizing low impact development (LID) stormwater retrofits and complete street concepts.

The Advisory Planning Board, the Greenbelt Advisory Committee on Environmental Sustainability, and Planning staff reviewed each design option and formed a consensus in support of Design Option 3. Design Option 3 consists of a central tree planted median, dedicated vehicle turn lanes, and two vehicle travel lanes. A combination of bio-swales and bio-retention LID techniques are recommended. The concept plan provides opportunities for protected bike lanes, on-street parking, and/or specialized bus loading areas to be evaluated and accommodated during more detailed planning processes.

Council authorization is sought to proceed with development of a final concept design and preparation of the project report. This project will produce a 20 – 30 % concept design plan and concept design report which includes a phasing plan, calculation of stormwater benefits and preliminary cost estimate for construction. Staff recommends Council authorize further development of Option Three utilizing comments received during advisory group meetings and the Council worksession. (JB)

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V. MEETINGS

Reference: Chart, Stakeholder/Regular Meetings Master Calendar An Executive Session is requested either immediately following this meeting or prior to tomorrow's work session on September 16, 2015 at 7:00pm to consult with legal counsel to consider the acquisition of real property for a public purpose. To schedule the Executive Session the following motion is needed: I move that Council schedule an Executive Session (pick one) . immediately following tonight's regular meeting, OR . on Wednesday, September 16 at 7:00pm in the Library of the Municipal Building. Council will hold this closed meeting in accordance with the General Provisions Article 3-305(b)(3) of the Annotated Code of the Public General Laws of Maryland to consider the acquisition of real property for a public purpose. Work Session - Technology Issues (CC) Wed. 09/16 8:00 pm Work Session - SHA Briefing on Beltway Ramps (tentative) Mon. 09/21 8:00 pm Work Session - City Manager Update/Capital Projects Update (CC) Wed. 09/23 8:00 pm Regular Meeting Mon. 09/28 8:00 pm Work Session - Roosevelt Center Owner (CC) (tentative) Wed. 09/30 8:00 pm Work Session - TBA Mon 10/05 8:00 pm Work Session - TBA (CC) Wed 10/07 8:00 pm Regular Meeting Mon 10/12 8:00 pm Ready to be scheduled: WSSC (stakeholder) Rental Apartments (stakeholder) Comcast/Verizon Hotels Roosevelt Center Merchants Organizational Study Next Steps For later scheduling: Forest Preserve/Community

Gardens Zoning Enforcement Parkway Apartment Owners/GHI (parking) Northway Fields Master Plan City Manager Updates (Jan, Pre-budget; July, & Sept/Oct) Cemetery Plans Meeting with County on Transportation Plan Election/Voting Age

Meetings

11. A Resolution to Authorize the Negotiated Purchase of Professional Services to Prepare a Greenbelt Forest Preserve Health Assessment with A. Morton Thomas and Associates, Inc. at a Cost of \$28,450

- 1st Reading

Reference:Resolution (posted below)

Council directed staff to prepare a Request for Proposals (RFP) for the purpose of securing professional services to prepare a forest health assessment for the Greenbelt Forest Preserve. Staff, with review and input from the Forest Preserve Advisory Board (FPAB), prepared the RFP and it was sent to 145 consulting individuals and firms.

A total of five (5) responses to the RFP were received and evaluated by City staff and the FPAB. Council held a work session on August 31, 2015, to consider the responses (proposals) and the recommendations of staff and the FPAB. Based on the outcome of the work session, staff recommendation, and comments of the FPAB, A. Morton Thomas has been identified as the preferred vendor.

Included in Council's packet is a Resolution for Negotiated Purchase to contract with A. Morton Thomas to conduct a forest health assessment for the North and South Cores Preserves at a cost of \$28,450. (MPM)

Item 11 Resolution