

REGULAR MEETING OF THE GREENBELT CITY COUNCIL held Tuesday, September 15, 2015.

Mayor Jordan called the meeting to order at 8:01 p.m.

ROLL CALL was answered by Councilmembers Judith F. Davis, Konrad E. Herling, Leta M. Mach, Silke I. Pope, Rodney M. Roberts and Mayor Emmett V. Jordan. Councilmember Edward V. J. Putens was delayed due to a work matter and arrived at 8:16 p.m.

ALSO PRESENT were Michael McLaughlin, City Manager; David Moran, Assistant City Manager; Karen Ruff, Associate of the City Solicitor; and Cindy Murray, City Clerk.

Mayor Jordan asked for a moment of silence in memory of residents Freda Lebowitz Wollman, Walter H. Hanley, Nancye G. MacCord, Susmana Augustus Jones Sr. and Kenneth Hal Reigner, and former resident Mary Madden Doman, and Sean Davis, General Manager of the Greenbelt Concert Band. Ms. Mach then led the pledge of allegiance to the flag.

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA: It was moved by Ms. Pope and seconded by Mr. Herling that the consent agenda be approved. The motion passed 6-0.

Council thereby took the following actions:

Minutes:

Work Session, June 24, 2015

Work Session, July 15, 2015

Work Session, August 3, 2015

Approved as Presented

Cherrywood Lane Green and Complete Street Redesign: Council approved staff and the Low Impact Development Center to proceed with development of a final concept design and the project report for the Cherrywood Lane Green and Complete Streets Redesign Project utilizing Design Option Three, incorporating comments received during advisory group meetings and the Council worksession.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: It was moved by Ms. Pope and seconded by Ms. Mach that the agenda be approved. The motion passed 6-0.

PRESENTATIONS:

National Preparedness Month Proclamation: Mayor Jordan read a proclamation declaring September as National Preparedness Month. The proclamation was presented to Charlene Backstrom and Ken Theodis, members of the Greenbelt Community Emergency Response Team (CERT).

National Public Lands Day: Mayor Jordan read a proclamation declaring September 26, 2015, as National Public Lands Day. The proclamation was presented to Brian Townsend, Horticultural Supervisor, and Beatrice Alexander, Greenbelt Elementary School. Mr. Townsend and Ms. Alexander provided an update on the plans to celebrate National Public Lands Day at Greenbelt Elementary School with a grounds cleanup, planting event and pollinator garden bed construction.

PETITIONS AND REQUESTS:

Bill Orleans, Greenbelt, asked and was provided answers to questions regarding executive sessions.

Toni Dorben, Greenbelt Step Club, reported that the Club was now back in operation in its new location in Roosevelt Center. On behalf of the Step Club Board, she requested City permission to allow a bench and picnic table (donated) to be placed in the grass area near their Club. She said the bench and table would be for use of members of the Step Club as well as the general public. Council referred the request to staff for review.

MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETINGS:

Minutes – Executive Session of July 15, 2015: Ms. Davis moved that the minutes of the executive session 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.

Ms. Pope seconded.

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

Minutes – Executive Session of August 3, 2015: Ms. Davis moved that the minutes of the executive session 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.

Mr. Putens seconded.

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

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS: Mr. McLaughlin provided an update on the roof replacement project at the Greenbelt Aquatic and Fitness Center.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

LEGISLATION:

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

Mayor Jordan read the agenda comments.

Ms. Davis introduced the resolution for first reading.

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

Mayor Jordan read the agenda comments.

Mr. Herling introduced the resolution for first reading.

PROPOSED METROBUS SERVICE AND TARIFF CHANGES: Mayor Jordan read the agenda comments.

Terri Hruby, Assistant Director of Planning, reported that route changes are being proposed by the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (WMATA) to transit routes throughout the Washington Metropolitan Region. She explained the proposal 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. Ms. Hruby noted that 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.

Ms. Davis asked if Transit Riders United of Greenbelt (TRU-G) had offered any comments to the proposed service changes. Ms. Hruby said overall, TRU-G was supportive of the proposed changes. She added that TRU-G had concerns that the elimination of the R3 route may have some negative impacts and expressed some interest in advocating for the G14 to go into Beltway Plaza during early morning routes.

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.

Mr. Herling moved that 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. Mr. Putens seconded. The motion passed 7-0.

PROPOSED PEPSCO VEGETATION MANAGEMENT WORK: Mayor Jordan read the agenda comments.

In response to a question from Mayor Jordan, Mr. McLaughlin said the City has received responses regarding review of the vegetation management work proposed by Pepco from homeowner associations in Boxwood, Charlestown Village and part of Lakeside.

Ms. Mach moved that 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. Ms. Pope seconded.

Mr. Roberts expressed concern that although the Greenbelt Homes, Incorporated (GHI) Woodlands Committee had reviewed the Pepco plans, individual residents of GHI had not been informed. Ms. Davis said the Chair of the Woodlands Committee, after review of the plans with Pepco, had reported that 18 of the 104 trees on GHI property identified for removal on the Pepco plans had been removed from the list of trees. She added that the Woodland Committee felt that Pepco had done a good job at selecting the trees for removal, most of which were diseased, leaning or had other defects.

Mr. Roberts said he wanted to see a complete list of trees for the trees identified for removal on the Pepco plan, including those on City and private property. Tami Watkins, Government Affairs Manager for Pepco, said Pepco will not share private customer information. She added that Pepco always encourages homeowner associations to share information regarding tree work/removals on its property with the homeowners.

Mr. Putens said since Pepco is a public service, information on trees marked for removal would be public information. He suggested Ms. Watkins check further with Pepco legal representatives because he did not view it as “confidential” information. Ms. Watkins said she would do so.

The motion passed 6-1. (Roberts)

CAMPAIGN SIGNS ON CITY PROPERTY: Mayor Jordan read the agenda comments.

Mr. Putens moved that Council continue the Campaign Sign Program for the 2015 City Council election. Ms. Pope seconded.

Mr. Roberts expressed his opposition for restricting campaign signs on private property. Ms. Davis. Mr. Putens and Ms. Mach noted this was an entirely voluntary program for the candidate.

The motion passed 6-1. (Roberts)

REFERRAL OF SOLAR ENERGY PROJECT PROPOSAL TO STAFF: Mayor Jordan read the agenda comments.

Ms. Davis moved to refer the proposal submitted by the Solar Task Force of the City's Green Team to implement solar energy projects on City property/facilities to staff for review and recommendation. Mr. Putens seconded. The motion passed 7-0.

COUNCIL REPORTS: Councilmembers commented on their attendance at the following events.

Greenbriar Volunteer Appreciation Night – Mayor Jordan, Ms. Davis, Ms. Mach and Mr. Herling
Greenspring International Picnic – Mayor Jordan, Ms. Davis, Ms. Mach, Mr. Herling and Ms. Pope
Greenbelt Community Foundation Awards Ceremony – Mayor Jordan, Ms. Davis, Ms. Mach, Mr. Herling and Ms. Pope
Senator Cardin's Meeting with Municipal Officials – Mayor Jordan, Ms. Davis, Ms. Mach and Mr. Herling
Roosevelt Center Merchants Association Meeting – Mayor Jordan, Ms. Davis, Mr. Putens, Ms. Mach and Mr. Herling
Green Ridge House Picnic – Ms. Davis and Ms. Mach
FBI Promotional Video Viewing – Mayor Jordan, Ms. Davis, Mr. Putens, Ms. Mach, Mr. Herling and Ms. Pope
Social Security Administration 80th Anniversary Event – Mayor Jordan and Ms. Davis
Circus Camp Showcase – Ms. Davis
Moonlit Movie "Robin Hood" – Mayor Jordan, Ms. Davis and Mr. Herling
Congressman Hoyer's Women's Equality Day Luncheon – Ms. Davis
Greenbelt Library Gallery Exhibit by Art Critique – Ms. Davis
Greenbelt Theater Showing of "Rosenwald" – Mayor Jordan, Ms. Davis, Ms. Mach and Mr. Herling
Academy for Excellence in Local Governance Design Team for Graduate Program Conference Call – Ms. Davis
Maryland Municipal League Legislative Committee Meeting – Ms. Davis
Northern Capital Region Emergency Preparedness Council Conference Call – Ms. Davis
Prince George's State's Attorney Angela Alsobrooks Family Picnic – Ms. Davis and Mr. Herling
Moonlit Movie "Ghostbusters" – Ms. Davis
Greenbelt American Legion Picnic – Ms. Davis and Ms. Pope

Ms. Davis reported that she had presented awards at the 12th Annual SIDS Walk/Run.

Mayor Jordan noted that National Hispanic Heritage Month is being celebrated from September 15 to October 15.

Councilmembers thanked the City's Public Works, Recreation and Police Departments, as well as all the volunteers who contributed to the success of the Greenbelt Labor Day Festival. They also congratulated Solange Hess on being named Outstanding Citizen.

MEETINGS: Council reviewed the upcoming meeting schedule.

Executive Session: Ms. Davis moved that in accordance with the General Provisions Article, Section 3-306(c)(2) of the *Annotated Code of Public General Laws of Maryland*, Council schedule an Executive Session on Wednesday, September 16, 2015, at 7:00 p.m. in Room 201 of the Greenbelt Community Center. Council will hold this closed meeting in accordance with the General Provisions Article 3-305(b)(3) of the *Annotated Code of Public General Laws of Maryland* to consider the acquisition of real property for a public purpose.

Ms. Pope seconded.

ROLL CALL:	Ms. Davis	- Yes
	Mr. Herling	- Yes
	Ms. Mach	- Yes
	Ms. Pope	- Yes
	Mr. Putens	- Yes
	Mr. Roberts	- No
	Mayor Jordan	- Yes

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

Mayor Jordan adjourned the regular meeting of Tuesday, September 15, 2015, at 10:37 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 September 15, 2015."

Emmett V. Jordan
Mayor