

REGULAR MEETING OF THE GREENBELT CITY COUNCIL held Monday, September 14, 2020.

Mayor Byrd called the meeting to order at 8:00 pm. The meeting was held virtually.

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; Todd Pounds, City Solicitor; Richard Bowers, Police Chief; Gordon Pracht, Captain; Terri Hruby, Planning and Community Development Director; Molly Porter, City Planner; Brian Townsend, Assistant Public Works Director; Beverly Palau, Public Information and Communications Coordinator and Bonita Anderson, City Clerk.

Mayor Byrd asked for a moment of silence in honor of residents Thomas White, Venkata Kowtha Eunice Barber, Arnold (Avi) Glick, Michelle Hurwitz, Anne Meglis, Daryl Pennington, and former resident Sally Stokes. Ms. Davis 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.

Council thereby took the following actions:

Minutes:

Work Session, March 20, 2019
Work Session, May 28, 2019
Regular Meeting, June 3, 2019
Work Session, July 15, 2019
Work Session, January 22, 2020
Regular Meeting, February 24, 2020
Special Meeting, June 14, 2020
Special Meeting, August 3, 2020
Approved as presented

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Greenbelt Advisory Committee on Trees Report #2020-5 (Arbor Day Proclamation): Council accepted this report.

Forest Preserve Advisory Board Report #2020-5 (FPAB'S Public Walk-through of Sunrise Tract of the Greenbelt Forest Preserve): Council accepted this report.

REAPPOINTMENTS TO ADVISORY BOARDS: Council appointed Benjamin Friedman to the Advisory Planning Board, Elisabeth Kervorkian to the Senior Citizens

Advisory Committee, and Bryan Bruns to the Forest Preserve Advisory Board for a new term.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: Mr. Jordan moved to add Census Outreach Update as item #20. Mayor Byrd seconded. The motion passed 7-0. It was moved by Mr. Putens and seconded by Mr. Jordan that the agenda be approved as amended. The motion passed 7-0.

PRESENTATIONS:

Public Lands Day Proclamation: Mayor Byrd proclaimed Saturday, September 26, 2020, Public Lands Day. Brian Townsend, Assistant Public Works Director, accepted the proclamation and provided Council with a brief update on this year's activities.

Arbor Day Proclamation: Mayor Byrd proclaimed Wednesday, April 22, 2020, Arbor Day. Dr. Charles Jackman, Advisory Committee on Trees member, accepted the proclamation and provided Council with a brief update on this year's activities.

PETITIONS AND REQUESTS:

Amanda Jennings and Daniel Theis, residents, requested that the Council supports the Mayor's Fair and Just Policing Act initiative. Ms. Jennings read to the Council comments obtained from a petition circulated by her online to the Greenbelt community.

MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETINGS

Closed Session of July 29, 2020: Mayor Pro Tem Jordan moved that in accordance with the General Provisions Article, Section 3-306(c)(2) of the *Annotated Code of Public General Laws of Maryland*, the minutes of tonight's meeting reflect that Council met in closed session on Wednesday, July 29, 2020, at 10:46 pm virtually by zoom. Council held this closed meeting in accordance with the General Provisions Article, §3-305(b)(1) and (7) of the *Annotated Code of Public General Laws of Maryland* to discuss the appointment, employment, assignment, promotion, discipline, demotion, compensation, removal, resignation, or performance evaluation of appointees, employees, or officials over whom this public body has jurisdiction; any other personnel matter that affects one or more specific individuals; 2) to consult with legal counsel regarding outstanding legal issues.

The purpose of this meeting was a briefing by the City Manager and City Solicitor on personnel matters and legal issues (Maglev, potential litigation.)

Vote to close the session:

	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent
Ms. Davis	X			
Mr. Jordan	X			
Ms. Mach	X			

Ms. Pope	X			
Mr. Putens	X			
Mr. Roberts		X		
Mayor Byrd		X		

The following staff members were in attendance: Nicole Ard, City Manager; Todd Pounds, City Solicitor; Mary Johnson, Human Resources Director; Rick Bowers, Police Chief; and Bonita Anderson, City Clerk.

Council took no action during this session.

Ms. Davis seconded.

ROLL CALL: Ms. Davis - Yes
Mr. Jordan - Yes
Ms. Mach - Yes
Ms. Pope - Yes
Mr. Putens - Yes
Mr. Roberts - Yes
Mayor Byrd - Yes

Closed Session of August 17, 2020: Mayor Pro Tem Jordan moved that in accordance with the General Provisions Article, Section 3-306(c)(2) of the *Annotated Code of Public General Laws of Maryland*, the minutes of tonight's meeting reflect that Council met in closed session on Wednesday, July 29, 2020, at 10:46 pm virtually by zoom. 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 the appointment, employment, assignment, promotion, discipline, demotion, compensation, removal, resignation, or performance evaluation of appointees, employees, or officials over whom this public body has jurisdiction; any other personnel matter that affects one or more specific individuals.

The purpose of this meeting was to discuss the City Manager's performance evaluation.

Vote to close the session:

	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent
Ms. Davis	X			
Mr. Jordan	X			
Ms. Mach				X
Ms. Pope	X			
Mr. Putens				X
Mr. Roberts		X		
Mayor Byrd	X			

The following staff members were in attendance: Bonita Anderson, City Clerk (left at 8:19 pm).

Council took no action during this session.

Ms. Davis seconded.

ROLL CALL: Ms. Davis - Yes
Mr. Jordan - Yes
Ms. Mach - Abstain
Ms. Pope - Yes
Mr. Putens - Abstain
Mr. Roberts - Yes
Mayor Byrd - Yes

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS:

Ms. Ard provided the City Council with an update that the Economic Development Coordinator compiled the information that Council provided regarding the Business Relief Program. As a result, there will be \$300K Cares Act Funding available for Greenbelt businesses to apply for up to \$10k. In addition, Ms. Ard noted the installation by Pepco of electric vehicle charging stations at Schrom Hills Park and Springhill Lake Recreation Center.

LEGISLATION:

A Resolution to Authorize the Negotiated Purchase of FY 2021 Legal Services from Alexander & Cleaver PA at an estimated cost of \$205,000: Mayor Byrd read the agenda comments. Ms. Mach introduced the resolution for the first reading.

FY21 Recognition Groups: Mayor Byrd read the agenda comments. Ms. Davis moved that Council approve the FY 2021 Recognition Groups applications for Friends of New Deal Cafe Arts (FONDCA) and Greenbelt Arts Center (GAC). Ms. Pope seconded. The motion passed 7-0.

Maglev Task Force: Mayor Byrd read the agenda comments. Ms. Mach moved that the City Council approve the establishment of a Greenbelt SCMAGLEV Task Force, with the understanding that a Resolution establishing the task force will be included on the City Council regular meeting agenda for September 28, 2020, for the first reading. Ms. Davis seconded. The motion passed 7-0.

To discuss and take action on finding a professional environmental engineering firm: Mayor Byrd read the agenda comments. Mr. Roberts moved that the City Council direct staff to prepare a RFP/RFQ for an environmental engineering firm with extensive knowledge of the NEPA process and experience reviewing DEIS for significant infrastructure projects. Mr. Pounds will provide a listing of environmental engineering firms to the City Council at the next meeting.

Prince George's County Historic Preservation Commission (HPC) Evaluation of Toaping Castle Site: Mayor Byrd read the agenda comments. Molly Porter, City Planner, provided the Council with a presentation regarding evaluating the Toaping Castle Site for potential designation as a Prince George's County Historical Site. It was noted that the Historic Preservation Commission would also review the Royal Farms Detailed Site Plan (DSP) related to the Toaping Castle.

Ms. Mach moved that the City Council support the designation of the Toaping Castle site as a County Historical Site. Mr. Jordan seconded. The motion passed 7-0.

Bench Dividers: Mayor Byrd requested that this item be added to the agenda. Mayor Byrd moved to have the bench dividers removed. Mr. Roberts seconded. The motion failed 3-4. (Mr. Jordan, Ms. Mach, Ms. Pope, and Mr. Putens)

American Heroes Project: Ms. Davis requested that this item be added to the agenda. Ms. Davis moved that the Council send a letter to the American Heroes project to have it consider designating the Greenbelt National Park. Ms. Mach seconded. The motion passed 4-2-1. (Ms. Mach and Mr. Putens voted no, and Ms. Pope abstained)

High Crime in Apartment Complexes: Mayor Byrd requested that this item be added to the agenda.

Mayor Byrd moved that the Council direct the City Solicitor to draft legislation requiring apartment complexes to: Conduct an annual security survey, install security cameras and consider the implementation of other measures in accordance with the findings of the surveys.

The law would apply to any apartment complex on a police beat with 30 or more violent crimes annually.

Ms. Pope seconded. The motion passed 6-1. (Ms. Davis)

COVID-19 Emergency Recovery and Reopening Status: Mayor Pro Tem Jordan requested that this item be added to the agenda. He asked for an update on the reopening status of city facilities. Mayor Pro Tem Jordan indicated that the County might be moving to phase three on October 1, 2020. He suggested that the city facilities have more public access to services by October 1, 2020, in the City. Ms. Ard noted that the priority is to keep people safe during the pandemic. The staff department heads briefly discussed the logistics and protocols of their standard operating procedures implemented during the pandemic.

Census 2020 Outreach: Mayor Pro Tem Jordan requested that this item be added to the agenda to discuss the grant funding spending plan. Ms. Porter indicated that only some of the grant funding was spent and provided a breakdown of expenditures. She noted that the City has been planning an event working with the County. Census representatives will attend the City's affairs.

COUNCIL ACTIVITIES:

Tour of WAAVE Cannabis Dispensary – Mr. Jordan and Ms. Davis

Prince George's County Commission for Women Zoom meetings – Ms. Davis
Greenbelt Anti-Maglev Meeting, Zoom – Ms. Davis
Greenbelt Virtual Business Coffee – Mr. Jordan, Ms. Davis, Ms. Mach
GHI Board Meeting, Zoom – Ms. Davis
Commission for Women Legislative Committee conference call – Ms. Davis
18th Annual Women's Equality Day, sponsored by Congressman Steny Hoyer – Ms. Davis
Maryland Municipal League Legislative Committee Zoom meetings – Ms. Davis
Mayor Byrd's Pre-Budget Virtual Town Hall – Ms. Davis
Sustainable Maryland Certified Executive Meeting, Zoom – Ms. Davis
GIVES Quarterly Meeting, Zoom – Mr. Jordan and Ms. Davis
295 Coalition Meeting, Zoom – Mr. Jordan and Ms. Davis

COUNCIL REPORTS: There were none.

MEETINGS:

Council reviewed the upcoming meeting schedule.

ADJOURNMENT: A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Ms. Mach and seconded by Mayor Byrd. The motion carried 7-0. The Mayor adjourned the regular meeting on September 14, 2020, at 11:43 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 September 14, 2020.

Colin A. Byrd
Mayor