

REGULAR MEETING OF THE GREENBELT CITY COUNCIL held Monday, September 14, 2009.

Mayor Davis called the meeting to order at 8:05 p.m.

ROLL CALL was answered by Councilmembers Konrad E. Herling, Leta M. Mach, Edward V. J. Putens, Rodney M. Roberts and Mayor Judith F. Davis.

ALSO PRESENT were Dr. Elizabeth Park, Acting City Manager; John F. Shay, City Solicitor; and Cindy Murray, City Clerk.

Mayor Davis asked for a moment of silence in memory of Greenbelt residents Elizabeth Allen, Walter Andersen and Arthur McKenney, and former residents Jonathan Lastner, Florence Holley and Stephen German. She then led the pledge of allegiance to the flag.

CONSENT AGENDA: Ms. Mach asked to remove the minutes of the work session of July 20. It was moved by Mr. Putens and seconded by Mr. Herling that the agenda be approved as amended. The motion passed 5-0.

Council thereby took the following actions:

MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETINGS

Work Session, June 1, 2009
Work Session, July 15, 2009
Work Session, July 22, 2009
Interview, August 10, 2009
Regular Meeting, August 10, 2009
Work Session, August 12, 2009
Interview, August 24, 2009
Special Meeting, August 24, 2009
Interview, August 31, 2009
Work Session, August 31, 2009
Approved as presented.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Advisory Planning Board, Report No. 09-01 (Craftstar Homes – Revision to Detailed Site Plan Greenbelt Station South Core): Council accepted this report and agreed to add it to the agenda of a future meeting.

REAPPOINTMENT TO ADVISORY GROUP: Council Appointed Virginia Zanner to a new term on the Arts Advisory Board.

RESIGNATION FROM ADVISORY GROUP: Council accepted with regret the resignation of Bobby Rudd from the Youth Advisory Committee.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: Ms. Mach asked to add “Appointments to Committees” to the agenda as Item #18. Mr. Putens asked to add “Empirian Village – Window Guards” to the agenda as Item #19. It was moved by Mr. Putens and seconded by Mr. Herling that the agenda be approved as amended. The motion passed 5-0.

PRESENTATIONS: None

PETITIONS AND REQUESTS:

Bill Duncan, 13-D Ridge Road, reported that Prince George's County stormwater regulations are being revised to comply with new state regulations. He said that local stream groups have reviewed the proposed ordinance addressing the revisions and are concerned that post construction stormwater management affecting new and redevelopment projects had not been adequately addressed. He requested Council support the efforts of the local stream groups and send a letter to the County Executive requesting the ordinance be strengthened to address these concerns.

Mayor Davis said the issue would be referred to staff, the Greenbelt Advisory Committee on Environmental Sustainability and the Advisory Planning Board for review. Mr. Herling commented that Green ACES was currently meeting at the Community Center. Mayor Davis asked Mr. Duncan to attend the meeting and speak to the committee on the issue.

MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETINGS:

Work Session of July 20, 2009: Ms. Mach requested the following sentence be added at the beginning of page 3: "Ms. Mach indicated that she would first like to see part-time employment offered to potential Greenbelt retirees in order to keep their knowledge and experience." With this change, Ms. Mach moved to approve the minutes. Mr. Herling seconded. The motion passed 5-0.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

Mayor Davis announced that the Greenbelt Assistance in Living Program (GAIL) had been named a Maryland Best Practice by the State of Maryland Department of Aging. She congratulated Dr. Park on this honor.

Mr. Herling commented on the presentation given by retired astronaut Loren Shriver to students at Springhill Lake Elementary School. He also mentioned that he, along with Mr. Putens and Ms. Mach, had attended the Greenbelt Baseball Banquet.

Ms. Mach reported on the strategic planning overview session at Prince George's Community College, the Golden Age Club luncheon honoring Jim and Bernie Giese, the Senior Forum and the Eagle Scout ceremony for Nathan Kyle Smith. She also noted her attendance at the Envision Prince George's County breakfast which she attended with Mayor Davis.

Council commented on the Labor Day Festival and Parade. Mayor Davis thanked the Labor Day Festival Committee along with the Police, Public Works and Planning Departments for their work in making the event successful. She also thanked all the community groups that participated in the festival and parade.

Mayor Davis reported on the National League of Cities steering committee meeting in Aurora, Colorado, the Ribbon Cutting ceremony for the Doctor's Hospital Expansion, and the Council of Governments meeting regarding the H1N1 flu. She also noted she and Mr. Herling had attended the Empirian Village Movie Night.

LEGISLATION:

A Resolution of the City of Greenbelt Adopted Pursuant to the Authority of Article XI-E of the Constitution of Maryland and Section 13 of Article 23A of the Annotated Code of Maryland, (1957 Edition as Amended), Title, "Corporation-Municipal," Subtitle "Home Rule" to Amend the Charter of the City of Greenbelt Found, in Whole or in Part, in the Compilation of Municipal Charters of Maryland (1983 Edition As Amended), as Prepared by the Department of Legislative Services Pursuant to Chapter 77 of the Acts of the General Assembly of Maryland of 1983, by Amending Section 5, Titled "Meetings"; Section 7 Titled "Council-Rules; Attendance; Expulsion of Members"; Section 8 Titled "Same-Quorum, Procedure" and Section 9 Titled "Ordinances and Resolutions – Procedure for Adoption; Enacting Clause" to Establish New Voting Requirements for Instances Where More than a Simple Majority of Council is Required to Take Certain Actions (Charter Amendment Resolution No. 2009-3)

Mayor Davis read the agenda comments. Mr. Herling introduced the resolution for first reading.

Mr. Putens questioned whether the proposed resolution should be changed to require a vote of not less than five (5) members to compel the attendance of an absent member and to expel a member from a meeting for disorderly conduct or the violation of the rules. Mayor Davis, Ms. Mach and Mr. Roberts recommended these actions should require a vote of not less than six (6) members, as indicated in the resolution introduced for first reading.

A Resolution to Establish a Committee to Plan and Organize the Celebration of the Seventy-Fifth Anniversary of the Incorporation of the City of Greenbelt, Maryland

Mayor Davis read the agenda comments. Ms. Mach introduced the resolution for first reading. She requested the word "he" under Section IV "Selection of Chair, Vice Chair and Duties" be changed to "he or she".

PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY MASTER PLAN OF TRANSPORTATION (MPOT): Mayor Davis read the agenda comments.

Mr. Herling moved that the City prepare a letter and submit testimony to the County Council at the public hearing on September 29 requesting that Chapter VII be rewritten to specifically include participation of municipalities on inter-jurisdictional Boards or any other committees whose focus will be development within City limits or changes to City-owned roadways. He also moved the testimony should also repeat requests that recommendations for expansion of Hanover Parkway and Cherrywood Lane be eliminated from the MPOT.

Mayor Davis said she will attend the public hearing. She also requested Mr. Herling discuss the issue at the Prince George's County Municipal Association meeting this week.

Mr. Roberts asked if there had been any action by the State regarding the expansion of Kenilworth Avenue. Ms. Hofstra said she will check on the status of the project.

Mr. Orleans asked and was provided answers to questions regarding the public hearing.

The motion passed 5-0.

DEADLINE TO REQUEST LOCAL AND BI-COUNTY BILLS: Mayor Davis read the agenda comments.

Mayor Davis asked staff to determine whether the City of Bowie is submitting legislation related to the delegation of additional limited planning and zoning authority to municipalities. If the City of Bowie is submitting this legislation, Mr. Putens moved that Council support the bill. Mr. Herling seconded. The motion passed 5-0.

SPRINGHILL LAKE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL – GYM CLOSURE: Mayor Davis read the agenda comments.

Mr. Roberts moved that Council send a letter to the Board of Education asking the details of the structural problem and requesting that the gym be repaired as soon as possible so that students will be able to use for physical education classes. Mr. Putens seconded.

Ms. Mach suggested the City offer to allow students to use the Springhill Lake Recreation Center for physical education be included in the letter. Mr. Roberts said he was not opposed to offering use of the Recreation Center but questioned whether the offer of the facility may cause the County to delay repairs to the school.

Mayor Davis suggested staff contact Ms. Jenkins to determine whether the Springhill Lake Recreation Center could be declared as an auxiliary school facility which would eliminate the need for students to have permission slips to move from the school to the Recreation Center. She commented this had been done when a school in Colmar Manor had a similar problem.

Mayor Davis questioned whether a City building inspector could inspect the building. Mr. Shay said the County may allow this as a courtesy, but the City has no authority to inspect the building. Mayor Davis suggested Ms. Hofstra request this inspection as a courtesy.

The motion passed 5-0.

APPOINTMENTS TO ADVISORY BOARDS: Ms. Mach moved to appoint Jamie Krauk to the Community Relations Advisory Board and Herbert Reed and Eva Fallon to the Greenbelt Advisory Committee on Environmental Sustainability. Mr. Putens seconded. The motion passed 5-0.

EMPIRIAN VILLAGE – WINDOW GUARDS: Mr. Putens expressed concern regarding the recent incident of a child falling from a window in Empirian Village. Since Mr. McLaughlin, Mr. Moran and Ms. Craze were not present, he suggested this item be included on the agenda for the meeting on September 29. Mr. Putens requested that staff check on the condition of the injured child and also determine if the residents had been offered the opportunity to have window guards installed in their unit. He further requested that staff review a draft ordinance prepared several years addressing the issue of window guards.

Mr. Roberts noted he had heard of a similar incident involving a child falling from a window in a different apartment complex.

MEETINGS: Council reviewed the meeting schedule. Mayor Davis requested a work session on the Advisory Planning Board Report No. 09-01 be scheduled for October 5. She also requested staff work on scheduling work sessions with the School Board, Civic Associations and PEPCO. Mayor Davis commented that the work session with Green Ridge House Management should be scheduled when the residents' survey has been completed.

ADJOURNMENT: A motion to adjourn the regular meeting was made by Ms. Mach and seconded by Mr. Putens. The motion passed 5-0.

Mayor Davis adjourned the regular meeting of Monday, September 14, 2009, at 9:46 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 14, 2009."

Judith F. Davis
Mayor