

WORK SESSION OF THE GREENBELT CITY COUNCIL held August 31, 2009, for the purpose of meeting with the County Board of Elections.

Mayor Davis started the meeting at 8:15p.m. It was held in the Council Chambers of the Greenbelt Municipal Building.

PRESENT WERE: Council members Leta M. Mach, Edward V.J. Putens, Rodney M. Roberts and Mayor Judith F. Davis. Mr. Herling was unable to attend due to illness.

ALSO PRESENT WERE: Kenneth Barksdale and Olivia Vaughn of the County Board of Elections; Alisha Alexander, County Elections Administrator; Judy Ott, Jean Cook, Dorothy Lauber, Pamela Gregory and Stephen Gilbert of the City's Board of Elections; Sylvia Lewis; Yohance Ford; Bill Orleans; Jordan Attebury, Gazette; Cindy Murray, City Clerk; and Michael P. McLaughlin, City Manager.

Mayor Davis welcomed everyone and noted the purpose of the meeting was to discuss municipal election issues in advance of the city election on November 3, 2009. Topics discussed included:

- 1. Role of the County Board of Elections – Ms. Alexander stated the Board's role is to conduct federal, state and county elections and support municipal elections. It will also provide voter registration lists to candidates through October 5.*
- 2. Changes to the city's election process:*
 - a. Increase in Education and Outreach Efforts – Mayor Davis explained the actions being taken to increase the education and outreach related to the election.*
 - b. Increase in size of Council from 5 to 7 members – Mayor Davis noted that the expansion of the Council seems to have generated a large turnout of potential candidates which will likely generate a larger work load for the County.*
 - c. Early Voting – Mayor Davis and Ms. Murray described the early voting process. Ms. Alexander indicated her staff may come out to monitor the city's process.*
 - d. New Precinct 18 – It was noted the city added a fifth precinct, Precinct 18, as the County recently did.*
- 3. Services provided by the County Board of Elections:*
 - a. Voter Registration Lists – Candidates have to go to the county office to get lists, but can print out a request form and mail it in, and the list should be waiting for the candidate. Ms. Mach and Mr. Putens noted how helpful the staff is in ordering the lists. Mayor Davis asked about how current the lists are. Ms. Alexander noted that many voters in the County are transient and described the process they go through to try to verify whether a resident is still a resident. An inactive voter has to not vote in two federal elections before they can be removed from the registration list.*

- b. *Notification to voters of city election – Will provide notification upon request of the municipality. The city will request this notification.*
 - c. *Support on election day – The County will send a list of streets in advance of the election for review to ensure it has an accurate list for the election. It will also provide telephone support on election day.*
4. *County plans for early voting – Ms. Alexander explained the actions being taken on early voting. They had looked at the Community Center but there is a conflict with Labor Day for the 2010 primary election. She is estimating that around ten (10) percent of voters will take advantage of this opportunity, though she also noted that turnout for a gubernatorial election is not expected to increase as a result of early voting.*

Ms. Ott raised the concern that the city have a valid list in time for early voting. Ms. Murray assured this would be done.

Ms. Mach inquired about same day registration. Ms. Alexander noted that same day registration is being considered, but thought it would cause problems in verification.

In response to a question from Mayor Davis, Ms. Alexander noted that for the 2010 election the County will offer both electronic voting and optical scan voting for those that want a paper record. She noted Fairfax County's recent experience was that 80% of voters choose electronic voting and only 20% choose optical scan or paper voting.

Information Items:

- 1. *Notice at Empirian Village – Mayor Davis provided a copy of a notice from Empirian Village management and asked that staff check into it.*
- 2. *Reduction of hours at Greenbelt Library – Mayor Davis noted a complaint she received about the reduction of hours at the Greenbelt Library and a concern about the lack of a window in the door of the children's room.*
- 3. *Global Local Climate Action Map website – The National League of Cities Energy, Environment and Natural Resources committee is asking its members to post information about best energy practices on this website.*
- 4. *Upper Marlboro zoning request – Council asked for more background information on this request.*

The meeting ended at 9:15 p.m

Respectfully submitted,

*Michael McLaughlin
City Manager*