REGULAR MEETING OF THE GREENBELT CITY COUNCIL held August 12, 2024.

Mayor Jordan called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.

ROLL CALL was answered by Councilmembers Amy E. Knesel, Danielle P. McKinney, Jenni A. Pompi, Rodney M. Roberts, Kristen L.K. Weaver, and Mayor Emmett V. Jordan.

Councilmember Silke I. Pope was absent due to travel.

ALSO PRESENT were Josué Salmerón, City Manager; Timothy George, Assistant City Manager; Bertha Gaymon, City Treasurer; Rick Bowers, Police Chief; Tim White, Deputy Police Chief; Jamarie Spencer, Public Information Producer; and Bonita Anderson, City Clerk.

Mayor Jordan asked for a moment of silence in honor of Leslie Davies-Hilliard. Ms. Weaver then led the pledge of allegiance to the flag.

PETITIONS AND REQUESTS:

Camp Pine Tree and Yogo counselors and campers presented a check for $700 generated from a recent bake sale.

Bill Orleans, a resident, requested the statute reference to closing a meeting to take action for the bonus to the then Interim City Manager.

CONSENT AGENDA: Mayor Jordan requested the removal of item #22, "Authorizing City Manager to execute a contract with Granicus for the Website Renewal," and Mr. Roberts requested the removal of item #20, "Authorization of Engine Rebuild/Replacement for Vehicle 607," from the consent agenda. Mr. Roberts moved to approve the Consent Agenda as amended. Ms. Weaver seconded. The motion passed with a vote of 6-0.

Council thereby took the following actions:

MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETINGS

Work Session, February 6, 2023
Work Session, February 8, 2023
Work Session, February 22, 2023
Special Meeting, August 31, 2023
Special Meeting, October 18, 2023
Special Meeting, October 25, 2023
Work Session, October 30, 2023
Charter Meeting, November 13, 2023
Approved as presented.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Board of Elections Report #2024-03: Noncitizen Voting Legislation: Council accepted the report

which appeared later on the agenda for discussion.

Board of Elections Report #2024-04: Provisions and Proposed Amendments: Council accepted the report.

STAKEHOLDERS LIST: Council approved the stakeholders list.

ACCEPTANCE OF RECOMMENDATION TO APPROVE THE GATe TV RECOGNITION GROUP: Council accepted the recommendation to approve the application.

APPROVAL OF A BUDDY ATTICK LAKE PARK PLAYGROUND PROJECT-CHANGE ORDER: Council approved the change order for $56,601.88.

REAPPOINTMENT TO ADVISORY BOARD/COMMITTEES: Council reappointed Lawrence Hilliard and Matthew Dirksen to the Greenbelt Advisory Committee on Environmental Sustainability.

RESIGNATION FROM ADVISORY BOARD/COMMITTEE: Council accepted the resignation of Rene' Sewall-Raysor from the Reparations Commission.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: Mayor Jordan requested the following changes to the agenda: move Item #7b, "License Plate Reading Camera Project Update," to #13, and move Items #14 and #15 to the end of the agenda. Ms. Knesel seconded the motion. The motion passed 6-0.

PRESENTATIONS:

Recognition of Greenbelt Police Officers: Chief Bowers commended the bravery and dedication of the Greenbelt police officers who responded to a tragic event at Schrom Hills Park in April 2024. He recognized that the officers, without regard for their own safety, rushed towards the gunfire and provided life-saving medical care, resulting in the arrest of the suspects and saving lives. The Council also recognized several police officers for their exemplary performance and dedication during a violent event at the park. Commendations were presented to the officers by Chief Bowers, Mayor Jordan and the City Council. Gratitude was expressed towards the Police Department for its service and dedication to the community.

Legislative Session Recap and Key Legislation Discussion, Carrington & Associates:

Mr. Carrington reviewed the previous legislative session, focusing on key bills, and discussed upcoming events, including the MACo Summer Conference and the next General Assembly session. He warned that budget constraints would likely make passing legislation with fiscal notes difficult in the coming year, suggesting a focus on policy over costly initiatives.

MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETINGS: None.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS:

Mr. Salmerón announced the success of the National Night Out events, which took place at five locations in total. He provided Council with an update on the finalization of the Pepco street light inventory. Additionally, Mr. Salmerón announced the conclusion of the pilot AI Coding Program for students at Springhill Lake Middle School. He also updated Council regarding staffing matters of fire and EMS services, noting that legal counsel has filed an amended complaint opposing the County's motion to dismiss the case.

LEGISLATION:

A Resolution to Authorize the Negotiated Purchase of Certain Goods and Services from Various Vendors as Enumerated Herein when Total Fiscal Year Purchases from each Vendor Exceed Ten Thousand Dollars: Mayor Jordan read the agenda comments. Ms. Weaver introduced the resolution for first reading.

SPECIAL ORDER: Mayor Jordan moved to special order item #17, "Approval of Online Bill Pay Proposal to cover fees for the first year of the program." Ms. Weaver seconded the motion, which passed unanimously, 6-0.

OTHER BUSINESS:

Approval of Online Bill Pay Proposal to cover fees for first year of program: Mayor Jordan read the agenda comments. Ms. Gaymon discussed the upcoming implementation of an online bill pay feature for Greenbelt residents, which will be part of the new Edmonds financial management system. This feature is expected to significantly increase the City's costs, estimated at $50,000 for the first year. The plan is to have residents cover these fees. A decision will be made regarding the launch of the feature in mid-September and, after an initial trial period, individual payees will be responsible for the expenses.

Mayor Jordan moved that Council approve the online bill pay proposal to cover fees for the first year of the program. Ms. Knesel seconded. The motion passed 6-0

SPECIAL ORDER: Mayor Jordan moved to special order item #13, "Presentation Regarding Stop Sign Monitoring Systems and Enabling Legislation." Ms. Pompi seconded the motion, which passed unanimously, 6-0.

Presentation Regarding Stop Sign Monitoring Systems and Enabling Legislation: Mayor Jordan read the agenda comments.

Ms. Pompi moved that staff draft a letter of support to the Prince George's County Council regarding enabling legislation, House Bill 364: Stop Sign Monitoring. Mayor Jordan seconded.

The motion passed 6-0.

License Plate Reading Camera Project Update: Mayor Jordan read the agenda comments. Chief Bowers presented Council with a map showing the locations of the license plate reader cameras. Council discussed the potential costs and the number of cameras that could be installed in the City. They agreed that these details would be communicated to residents, using various media to share information about the license plate reader camera program. No action taken.

Authorizing the City Manager to Execute a Five-Year Contract with Axon Enterprise, Inc. for Body-Worn Cameras, Digital Evidence Management, Tasers and Related Training: Mayor Jordan read the agenda comments. Deputy Chief White discussed the challenges and costs of data storage for managing digital evidence and the potential benefits of bundling the purchase of tasers with body cameras and storage solutions.

Ms. Knesel moved that Council authorize the City Manager to execute the five-year contract with Axon Enterprise, Inc. for body-worn cameras, digital evidence management, less-than-lethal weapons, and associated training for $737,151.90. The cost for Year 1 is $136,774.58. Ms. Weaver seconded. The motion passed 6-0.

MEETINGS: Ms. Knesel proposed that Council meet virtually via Zoom on Monday, August 26, and Wednesday, August 28, at 7:30 PM. Ms. Weaver seconded. The motion passed 5-1. (Mr. Roberts)

Opposition to Federal Funding Cuts for Activities Related to DEI and Climate Change: Mayor Jordan read the agenda comments. Ms. Weaver requested this item to be added to the agenda and pointed out the background information she provided. Ms. Weaver moved that Council officially sign onto the joint letter in opposition to restrictions on federal funding for DEI and climate change. Ms. Knesel seconded. The motion passed 6-0.

Authorizing the City Manager to execute a contract for the File Scanning Project, to digitize records for Administration and Finance: Mayor Jordan read the agenda comments. Mr. Salmerón informed Council that the City had submitted its test box and received the corresponding digital files. Mr. George discussed the City's modernization strategy, which aims to enhance the accessibility and search functionality of public records. Ms. Pompi moved that the City Manager enter into a contract with e-ARC to provide file collection, file scanning, and data integration for files in the City's Municipal Building, primarily in the Administration and Finance departments for Phase 1 and Phase 2, a cost not to exceed $64,172.00. Mayor Jordan seconded. The motion passed 6-0.

Authorization of Engine Rebuild/Replacement for Vehicle 607: Mayor Jordan read the agenda comments. Mr. Roberts requested the removal of this item from the consent agenda for Council discussion. He expressed his dissatisfaction with the proposed deal with Chevrolet for the engine rebuild and replacement of Unit 607, suggesting that the City's mechanics should handle the repairs in-house. Deputy Chief White attempted to provide background details and history on the K-9 vehicle. This item was deferred to the next meeting scheduled for September 9 so that staff can provide additional information to address Mr. Roberts's concerns.

Authorizing the City Manager to execute a contract with Granicus for the Website Renewal: Mayor Jordan read the agenda comments. Mayor Jordan requested the removal of this item from the consent agenda for Council discussion about the status of the website redesign. Mayor Jordan moved to authorize payment for the renewal of the Granicus Web Services contract for FY25 at $42,214.39, with a 30-day cancellation notice upon migrating to a new platform. Ms. Weaver seconded. The motion passed 6-0.

Council Activities: Events between July 10 and August 12, 2024

- 10 July: Lafayette Federal Credit Union ribbon cutting (Jordan, McKinney, Pompi, Weaver)

- 11 July: National League of Cities Transportation and Infrastructure Services Committee meeting (Weaver)
- 12 July: Creative Kids Camp Performance of "The Cookie Caper" (Knesel, Weaver)
- 15 July: National League of Cities Energy Environment and Natural Resources meeting (Pompi)
- 16 July: Maryland Municipal League committee onboarding (Pompi, Weaver)
- 18 July: Metro Washington Council of Governments Chesapeake Bay Policy Committee meeting (Pompi)
- 22 July: Webinar – Winning Safer Streets for Prince George's (Weaver)
- 23 July: Update on Station 835 with Chief Green (Jordan, Pompi, Weaver)
- 23 July: Greenbelt Advisory Committee on Environmental Sustainability meeting (Weaver)
- 24 July: Four Cities meeting (Jordan, Knesel, Weaver)
- 25 July: Greenbelt Business Roundtable (Jordan, Knesel, Weaver)
- 26 July: Greenridge House Crab Feast (Jordan, Knesel, Weaver)
- 30 July: National League of Cities Council on Youth, Education, and Families meeting (Pompi)
- 30 July: Senator Alonzo Washington's Scholarship Committee meeting (Pompi)
- 30 July: Greenbelt Police Department Community Meeting (Jordan, McKinney, Weaver)
- 01 August: Greenbelt Rotary Club meeting (Knesel, Weaver)
- 03 August: Helpers to Good – Taste of Greenbelt (McKinney, Weaver)
- 06 August: National Night Out (Jordan, Knesel, McKinney, Pompi, Weaver)
- 08 August: Greenbelt Rotary Club meeting (Weaver)
- 08 August: National League of Cities Energy Environment and Natural Resources meeting (Pompi)
- 08 August: Community Relations Advisory Board meeting (Pompi)
- 09 August: Creative Kids Camp Performance of "The Cookie Caper" (Jordan)
- 10 August: CCI Block Party at Franklin Park (Jordan, Weaver)

Council Reports: None.

ADJOURNMENT: A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Ms. Weaver and seconded by Ms. Pompi. The motion carried 6-0. The Mayor adjourned the regular meeting of August 12, 2024, at 10:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Bonita Anderson

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 August 12, 2024.

Emmett V. Jordan
Mayor