

REGULAR MEETING OF THE GREENBELT CITY COUNCIL held Monday, July 12, 2010.

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

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

ALSO PRESENT were Michael McLaughlin, City Manager; David E. Moran, Assistant City Manager; John Shay, City Solicitor; and Cindy Murray, City Clerk.

Mayor Davis asked for a moment of silence in memory of Greenbelt resident Fred Asleman, former Greenbelt residents Jean Crabill, Louise Winker, Robert Plackett and Virginia Lammons, and Mount Rainier City Councilmember Alta Morton. She then led the pledge of allegiance to the flag.

CONSENT AGENDA: It was moved by Mr. Putens and seconded by Mr. Jordan that the consent agenda be approved. The motion passed 7-0.

Council thereby took the following actions:

MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETINGS

Interview, June 7, 2010
Regular Meeting, June 7, 2010
Work Session, June 16, 2010
Regular Meeting, June 21, 2010
Approved as presented.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Advisory Planning Board, Report #10-02 (Proposed restructuring of Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority Metrobus routes and Prince George's County Department of Public Works and Transportation TheBus routes in Greenbelt): Council accepted the report and will consider it later on the agenda under Proposed Metrobus and TheBus Service Changes.

ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON TREES (ACT) REPORT – POLICY FOR TREES AND VEGETATION: Council accepted the recommendation of ACT that it is not necessary for the City to develop a comprehensive and strict policy for trees and vegetation.

RESIGNATIONS FROM ADVISORY GROUPS: Council accepted the resignations of Jean Snyder from the Forest Preserve Advisory Board and Rachel McMullin from the Park and Recreation Advisory Board.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: Ms. Mach requested "Appointment to Committee" be added as Item # 25. With this addition, it was moved by Mr. Putens and seconded by Ms. Pope that the agenda be approved. The motion passed 7-0.

PRESENTATIONS:

Tree City USA Award: Mayor Davis announced that Greenbelt had been recognized by the National Arbor Day Foundation as a “Tree City USA” for 2009, which marks the City’s tenth year to receive this recognition. She also announced the City had received a Tree City USA Growth Award for 2009. Mayor Davis presented the award to Lesley Riddle, Assistant Director of Public Works. Ms. Riddle provided an update on tree maintenance.

Park and Recreation Month – Proclamation: Mayor Davis read a proclamation to recognize July as Park and Recreation Month, which was received by Joe McNeal, Co-Acting Director of Recreation. Mr. McNeal gave an overview of this year’s summer recreation camps and programs.

PETITIONS AND REQUESTS: None

MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETINGS: None

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS:

Mr. McLaughlin announced the quarterly newsletter had been mailed out last Friday. He also mentioned that street resurfacing work on Westway began last week with curb installation and the traffic circle resurfacing work on Hanover Drive will be done by late July or early August.

COUNCIL REPORTS:

Mr. Herling, Mr. Jordan, Ms. Mach, Mr. Putens, Ms. Pope and Mayor Davis reported on the Maryland Municipal League (MML) annual conference. It was noted that Mayor Davis had been elected to serve as president of the MML Mayors Association and reelected to the MML Board of Directors, and received a Longevity Award from the Prince George’s County Municipal Association.

Ms. Mach commented on the Greenbelt Community Foundation Meeting where grants had been awarded to Camp Fire USA for a computer education program, Greenbelt Arts Center for restroom renovation project, and the Greenbelt Museum for the “Green from the Start” project.

Mayor Davis commented on the retirement luncheon honoring Willie Davis. She also announced that July 17-25 is Buy Local Week.

COMMITTEE REPORTS: None

LEGISLATION:

An Ordinance to Authorize and Empower the City of Greenbelt to Issue One or More Tax Anticipation Notes in Amounts Not to Exceed \$3.5 Million Dollars in the Aggregate in Anticipation of the Receipt of Current Taxes and Other Revenues, Directing that the Proceeds of Said Notes Shall be Used for General Fund Operating Expenses Heretofore Authorized; and Providing for the Sale of Said Notes by Private Negotiation to Old Line Bank

Mayor Davis read the agenda comments. Mr. Jordan introduced the ordinance for second reading and moved that it be adopted. Mr. Putens seconded the motion.

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

The ordinance was declared adopted (Ordinance No. 1307, Book 12).

A Resolution to Repeal Resolution Number 1047 and Establish Service Charges for Garbage, Trash, and Recycling Collections in the City of Greenbelt, Maryland Effective July 1, 2010

Mayor Davis read the agenda comments. Mr. Putens introduced the resolution for second reading and moved that it be adopted. Ms. Pope seconded the motion.

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

The resolution was declared adopted (Resolution No. 1065, Book 8).

A Resolution to Repeal Resolution 1049 and to Establish Admission Fees and Pass Rates for the Greenbelt Aquatic and Fitness Center, effective September 7, 2010

Mayor Davis read the agenda comments. Ms. Mach introduced the resolution for second reading and moved that it be adopted. Mr. Herling seconded the motion.

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

The resolution was declared adopted (Resolution No. 1066, Book 8).

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 (\$10,000)

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

PRESENTATION ON ELIMINATION OF PESTICIDE USE BY CITY: Lesley Riddle, Assistant Director of Public Works, provided an overview of the staff response to the Greenbelt Advisory Committee on Environmental Sustainability Report #2007-02 regarding pesticide use in the City. She noted the City is taking steps to work toward a cosmetic pesticide free environment, but noted any State mandated use of pesticides for emergency plant management situations would have to be complied with.

Ms. Riddle said she plans to brief all groups that would be impacted by the new plans, including homeowners associations, community groups, City advisory boards and committees and Greenbelt Homes advisory committees.

Mr. Herling commented that all City ballfields look very good this year. Ms. Riddle explained that using natural additives, such as compost, for turf management is very beneficial to the fields.

Lore Rosenthal, 2-R Gardenway, asked several questions regarding the Green ACES report which were answered by Ms. Riddle.

PROPOSED METROBUS AND THEBUS SERVICE CHANGES: Mayor Davis read the agenda comments.

Ms. Hruby explained that the County and the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (WMATA) had listened to the concerns expressed by residents and Council at the work session July 7 regarding the proposed transit service changes and had modified the proposed transit plans to address these concerns.

Larry Glick and Jim Hamre, WMATA, and Carl Schuettler and Kevin Thornton, County, explained the new transit service plans. Mr. Glick said there would be no net reduction in resources invested in the transit service routes affected by the proposed changes.

Mr. Roberts said the proposed plan is a cut in transit service and he would vote against the plan. He noted the need to have improved transit service, including bus and rail transportation, in the region. Mr. Roberts said he would only support the WMATA plan if the County turned over funds for TheBus transit service to the City to run the service on a municipal level.

Mr. Glick commented that the service would only be reduced in areas where the present level of ridership does not justify the number of routes available or the frequency of service, and the resources saved would be reinvested in later evening service in response to requests of residents. He emphasized that there had been no reduction in funding associated with the proposed transit plan, and commented that the new plan would actually be slightly more costly than the existing transit service plan.

Jennifer Errick, representing Transit Riders United of Greenbelt (TRU-G), thanked the WMATA and TheBus representatives, as well as City staff, who had worked with TRU-G and listened to their concerns. However, because of the new information presented this evening, Ms. Errick said she was unable to officially comment for TRU-G on the proposed plan until their membership had an opportunity to review the new plan in detail. She advised a TRU-G meeting was scheduled for July 17.

Mr. Schuettler said if Council supports the proposed plan this evening, the County will request Ms. Hewlett include the plan on the WMATA Board agenda for its meeting on July 22 to allow for

September implementation. If the plan is not included on the July 22 agenda, the next opportunity to be included would be on WMATA's Board agenda for the September meeting which would allow for December implementation. Mr. Hamre noted the possibility that December 2010 will bring budgetary challenges for both WMATA and the County and, if the proposed plan is not approved, there is a significant risk there may be no option but to reduce existing service. However, if the new plan is approved, the risk of any reduction in service within 18 months of implementation would be unlikely.

Mr. Roberts moved that Council not approve the proposed Metrobus and TheBus Service Change Plan. No second was received.

Lore Rosenthal, 2-R Gardenway; Laura O'Neal, 44 Ridge Road; Michael Hartman, 2-R Gardenway; John Stith, 2-G Laurel Hill Road; Regina Lee, 7825 Mandan Road; and Bill Orleans asked and were provided answers on specific details of the new plan. Mr. Stith suggested Council request WMATA improve their process of public hearings on any proposed changes in transit service in the future.

After lengthy discussion, Ms. Mach moved that Council support the proposed Metrobus and TheBus Service Change Plan, noting the concerns outlined by staff and APB, and a request that WMATA hold an additional public hearing on the plan. Mr. Herling seconded.

Mr. Putens suggested that Council hold a special meeting next week to further review the transit service plan. Mr. Schuettler advised he was doubtful if this would allow enough time for Ms. Hewlett to add the plan to the WMATA board agenda for July 22.

Ms. Mach withdrew her motion. Mr. Herling withdrew his second.

Mr. Putens moved that Council hold a special meeting on July 19 to further discuss transit service issues and requested staff notify Ms. Hewlett that the City may forward a request to the County on July 20 to add the proposed changes to transit service to the WMATA board agenda for July 22. Mr. Herling seconded. The motion passed 7-0.

PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY – GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE LEGISLATION: Mayor Davis read the agenda comments.

Mr. Roberts expressed concern about legislation that allows for property owners to disturb trees on property and allows them to mitigate elsewhere or pay fee-in-lieu.

Ms. Mach moved to support the proposed environmental legislation, with the exception of the proposed minimum stream buffer requirements and including the request of the City of Bowie that the legislation provide for a simple, more direct method of determining when stream buffers are expanded, i.e., by using slopes of 15% to 25%. Mr. Jordan seconded. The motion passed 6-1. (Roberts)

AWARD OF PURCHASE – POLICE COMMUNICATIONS EQUIPMENT: Mayor Davis read the agenda comments.

Mr. Herling moved that Council approve the purchase of two radio consoles and 60 portable radios as specified in the July 6, 2010, memo from Lieutenant James Parker from Prince George's County bid #C-08911-06 at a cost of \$516,240. Mr. Putens seconded. The motion passed 7-0.

REVISED GREEN RIDGE HOUSE SMOKE-FREE AGREEMENT: Mayor Davis read the agenda comments.

Mr. Putens moved that Council approve the revised section of the Green Ridge House “No Smoking” policy dealing with the enforcement and the impact of a violation of the policy be approved. Ms. Pope seconded. The motion passed 7-0.

AWARD OF BID – SPRINGHILL LAKE RECREATION CENTER HVAC UNITS: Mayor Davis read the agenda comments.

Ms. Pope moved that Council award the bid for two 15 ton Carrier roof-top HVAC units for the Springhill Lake Recreation Center to Shapiro & Duncan of Rockville, Maryland, at a cost of \$62,000. Mr. Putens seconded. The motion passed 7-0.

Mr. Roberts said that an increased number of small HVAC units directed at specific areas of buildings might heat and cool areas more efficiently than using a smaller number of large units. He suggested this idea be considered in future HVAC bids.

OTHER REPORTS: None

APPOINTMENT TO COMMITTEE: Ms. Mach moved that Council appoint Susan Breon to the Advisory Committee on Education. Mr. Putens seconded. The motion passed 7-0.

MEETINGS: Council reviewed the meeting schedule.

ADJOURNMENT: A motion to adjourn the regular meeting was made by Ms. Mach and seconded by Mr. Putens seconded. The motion passed 7-0.

Mayor Davis adjourned the regular meeting of Monday, July 12, 2010, at 12:04 a.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 July 12, 2010."

Judith F. Davis
Mayor