

REGULAR MEETING OF THE GREENBELT CITY COUNCIL held July 8, 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. Pompei, Silke I. Pope, Rodney M. Roberts, Kristen L.K. Weaver, and Mayor Emmett V. Jordan.

ALSO PRESENT were Josué Salmerón, City Manager; Greg Varda, Recreation Director; Patrick Mullen, Park Ranger Coordinator; Jaime Fearer, Assistant Planning Director; Tyra Smith, Diversity Equity Inclusion Officer; and Bonita Anderson, City Clerk.

Mayor Jordan asked for a moment of silence in honor of Lillian Mae Dambrauskas, Joyce Mangum, Debra Boylan, David Christopher Brinks; former resident Constance “Connie” Nadine Thomas Schwan, and Marc “Kap” Kapastin.

Ms. McKinney then led the pledge of allegiance to the flag.

PETITIONS AND REQUESTS:

Elizabeth Tobey, a resident, requested support from the City Council for the Animal Shelter.

Michael Hartman, a resident, requested that the City research options for the replacement of the Fourth of July fireworks.

Bill Orleans, a resident, indicated that there is no statute/provision for Council to allocate a bonus for the then Interim City Manager.

CONSENT AGENDA: It was moved by Ms. Pope and seconded by Ms. Weaver that the Consent Agenda be approved. The motion passed 7-0.

Council thereby took the following actions:

MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETINGS

Work session, October 11, 2023

Work Session, October 18, 2023

Work Session, October 25, 2023

Approved as presented.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Advisory Planning Board (APB) Report 2024-03 (WMATA’s Proposed 2025 Better Bus Network): Council accepted the report.

Board of Elections Report #2024-02 (Procedures to Fill Council Vacancies): Council accepted the report and will discuss it at the July 29, Council Work Session.

STAKEHOLDERS LIST: Council approved the stakeholders list.

ACCEPTANCE OF COMMUNITY SURVEY REPORT FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND: Council accepted the community survey report.

AUTHORIZATION OF VERSATERM (IAPRO) CONTRACT RENEWAL: Council approved the contract renewal for \$10,124.55.

APPROVAL OF VERMONT SYSTEMS (RECTRAC) SERVICES AND ANNUAL SOFTWARE INVOICE: Council approved the annual software invoice.

RESIGNATION FROM ADVISORY BOARD/COMMITTEES: Council accepted the resignation of Lance Beasley from the Park and Recreation Advisory Board.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: It was moved by Ms. Pompei and seconded by Ms. McKinney that the agenda be approved as presented. The motion passed 7-0.

PRESENTATIONS:

Parks and Recreation Month Proclamation: Mayor Jordan proclaimed July as Parks and Recreation Month. Patrick Mullen, Park Ranger Coordinator, and other Park Rangers were present to accept the proclamation and provided remarks.

MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETINGS: None.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS:

Mr. Salmerón reported on the implementation of the County summer staffing plan, which involved the relocation of 24 career firefighters from the Greenbelt Fire Station. He noted the installation of AEDs in police cruisers to assist with medical emergency response times. He also discussed the installation of additional AEDs in various City locations, the revitalization of Beltway Plaza, and the plans for the Animal Shelter, including the recruitment of two full-time staff members.

LEGISLATION:

An Ordinance to Make a Supplemental Appropriation in the Greenbelt West Fund for the Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2024, in the amount of Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$50,000) for Additional Greenbelt West Fund Expenditures Over the Appropriated Amount: Mayor Jordan read the agenda comments. Ms. Pope introduced for second reading and adoption.

Mayor Jordan seconded.

ROLL CALL: Ms. Knesel - Yes
Ms. McKinney - Yes
Ms. Pompei - Yes
Ms. Pope - Yes
Mr. Roberts - Yes
Ms. Weaver - Yes
Mayor Jordan - Yes

OTHER BUSINESS:

WMATA's Proposed 2025 Better Bus Network: Mayor Jordan read the agenda comments. Ms. Fearer presented to Council the proposed 2025 Better Bus Network, which includes improvements such as Sunday service and connections via the new P20 route, but discontinues the combined 11 and 15X routes.

William Jones, a representative from WMATA, discussed the efforts to enhance bus service connections in the region, particularly in areas with high ridership and potential new links. He addressed concerns regarding service frequency and the necessity of making trade-offs to maintain cost neutrality. Mr. Jones also emphasized the ongoing coordination with Prince George's County and other municipalities to ensure efficient service delivery and improvements for pedestrians.

Brandon Brown, a senior planner with the Prince George's County Office of Transportation, clarified the partnership between Prince George's County and WMATA and reassured the Council that the proposal to limit buses was not aimed at eliminating bus service but rather optimizing it. The proposal aimed to limit the 11 and 15 buses and focus more on the 16 bus, which is heavily utilized and has a long route.

Staff recommended that Council submit a comment letter addressing the concerns and considerations outlined in staff's memo to be sent to WMATA and PGC DPW&T by the July 15 deadline.

Fire and EMS Services; Approval of Stipends and Incentives for Fire Protection Personnel: Mayor Jordan read the agenda comments. Mr. Salmerón noted the challenges faced due to the reduction of 24 career firefighters from Greenbelt Fire Station and proposed reallocating operational funds for retention and recruitment incentives from ARPA funds.

Ms. Pompei moved that Council approve payment to the Greenbelt Volunteer Fire Company of up to \$100,000 from reallocated ARPA funds for stipends and incentives for our Fire Protection Staff.

Ms. Pope seconded.

Council discussed how to ensure the safety of residents, placing particular emphasis on the return of career firefighters to the City and the necessity for better communication with the County. They raised concerns about the lack of data from the County justifying the removal of staff from the Greenbelt Fire Station.

ROLL CALL: Ms. Knesel	- Yes
Ms. McKinney	- Yes
Ms. Pompei	- Yes
Ms. Pope	- Yes
Mr. Roberts	- Yes
Ms. Weaver	- Yes
Mayor Jordan	- Yes

Authorizing City Manager to execute the contract for Phase II of DEI work with Tribes: Mayor Jordan read the agenda comments. Ms. Smith informed Council about the ongoing DEI project focused on promoting transformational change. She highlighted the relocation of focus groups, the significance of diverse representation, and the effects of ongoing initiatives on staff focus and resources. Ms. Pope moved that Council approve Option B: to move all planned August focus groups to September and incur no additional costs, the total at \$32,100. Ms. Knesel seconded. The motion passed 7-0.

Council Activities: Events between June 18 and July 8, 2024

- 18 June: Advisory Planning Board Meeting (McKinney)
- 20 June: Greenbelt Station Community Safety Walk (McKinney, Pompei, Weaver)
- 20 June: National League of Cities First Tier Suburbs Meeting (Jordan)
- 23-26 June: Maryland Municipal League Summer Conference (Jordan, Knesel, McKinney, Pompei, Pope, Weaver)
- 24 June: Meeting with Housing and Community Development Secretary Jake Day (Jordan, Pompei, Weaver)
- 25 June: Meeting with staff from Congressman Glenn Ivey's office (Jordan, Knesel, Pope)
- 27 June: Board of Elections Meeting (Pompi)
- 27 June: Labor Day Festival Committee Fundraiser (Knesel)
- 28 June: Greenbelt Hotel Roundtable (Jordan)
- 29 June: Greenbelt Station Neighborhood Party (Knesel, Weaver)
- 29 June: Greenbelt Jazz Festival (Jordan, Weaver)
- 29 June: Congressman Ivey's Gun Violence Prevention Event (Jordan, Weaver)
- 1 July: Virtual Hearing for Temporary Restraining Order (Jordan, Pompei, Pope)
- 1 July: Greenbelt Police Department Swearing-In Ceremony (Jordan, Knesel, Pompei, Weaver)
- 4 July: Fourth of July Festivities (Jordan, Knesel, McKinney, Pompei, Pope)

Council Reports: None.

MEETINGS:

Closed Session: Ms. Weaver moved that the City Council go into a closed session in accordance with Section 3-305(b)(1)(8) and (10) of the General Provisions Article of the Annotated Code of the Public General Laws of Maryland, to: 1) to discuss the appointment, 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 staff, consultants, or other individuals about pending or potential litigation; and 3) To discuss public security, if the public body determines that public discussion would constitute a risk to the public or to public security, including: (i) the deployment of fire and police services and staff; and (ii) the development and implementation of emergency plans;

The purpose of this meeting is 1) to address personnel matters over which this public body has jurisdiction; 2) to consult with staff about pending or potential litigation; and 3) to discuss the deployment of fire staff.

Ms. Pope seconded.

ROLL CALL: Ms. Knesel	- Yes
Ms. McKinney	- Yes
Ms. Pompei	- Yes
Ms. Pope	- Yes
Mr. Roberts	- Yes
Ms. Weaver	- Yes
Mayor Jordan	- Yes

ADJOURNMENT: The Mayor adjourned the regular meeting of July 8, 2024, at 10:29 p.m.

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 July 8, 2024.

Emmett V. Jordan
Mayor