

WORK SESSION OF THE GREENBELT CITY COUNCIL held Monday, June 13, 2011, for the purpose of holding a stakeholder meeting with the Greenbelt Homes, Inc. (GHI) Board.

Mayor Davis called the meeting to order at 7:34 p.m. It was held in the Council Room of the Municipal Building.

PRESENT WERE: 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.

STAFF PRESENT WERE: Michael P. McLaughlin, City Manager; Carl Schinner, Police Captain; Terri Hruby, Assistant Director of Planning; and Cindy Murray, City Clerk.

ALSO PRESENT WERE: Tokey Boswell, Ed James, David Morse, Irwin Wartell and Laura Moore, GHI Board; Dianne Wilkerson and Bill Edwards, GHI Audit Committee; Gretchen Overdurff, GHI General Manager; and Eldon Ralph, GHI Assistant General Manager.

Following introductions, Mayor Davis noted this would be Ms. Overdurff's last work session with Council and Greenbelt Homes, Inc. (GHI) as she would be retiring later this year. She thanked Ms. Overdurff for her service to the community.

Lighting Concerns: Mr. Boswell noted additional lighting was needed in the area of 11-13 courts Ridge, 14-16 courts Ridge, and 43-45 courts Ridge. Mr. Ralph added the area of highest concern at this time was 11-13 courts Ridge, which is frequently used by residents as a main walking route to the library. After discussion, Mr. McLaughlin said the City would check the areas and determine if tree trimming is needed to improve lighting, and possibly survey residents in the area regarding additional lighting installation. Ms. Pope requested the Police Department also check the areas and make suggestions for possible lighting improvements.

City's 75th Anniversary: Mayor provided an update on the City's 75th Anniversary Committee and advised that volunteers are still needed for the committee. Mr. Wortell advised he was the GHI representative to the committee.

Crime Trends: Mr. Boswell asked for a general update on crime in GHI. Capt. Schinner reported there had been six burglaries and seven robberies (three closed by arrest, three closed by victims declining to prosecute) over the past year in GHI but there were no discernable crime trends.

Mr. Morse said he was concerned that students at Eleanor Roosevelt High School were not reporting crimes involving other students because of fear of retaliation. Capt. Schinner discussed the excellent work done by Officer Rogers, the School Resource Officer, and the great relationship he has with the students. He said students know they can go to him and discuss issues with complete anonymity.

Update on Crescent Road Right-of-Way Project: Ms. Hruby provided an update on the project and said she expected the hearing with the M-NCPPC Planning Board would be scheduled in the fall.

Greenhill/Hillside Roads Stream Stabilization Project: Ms. Hruby reported City staff had been working on the engineering, permitting and funding issues of this project over the past two years, and Council approved award of the bid to McDonnell Landscape, Inc. at the last regular meeting. She said the project is expected to begin next week and should take approximately 90 days.

PEPCO Outages: Ms. Overdurff expressed concern regarding the large number of power outages in GHI over the past few years. Mayor Davis advised Council has a work session scheduled with PEPCO on August 1st to discuss the outages and the smart meter program.

WSSC Water Line Replacement Project: Ms. Overdurff reported WSSC proposed to relocate water meters from the buildings to the sidewalks in 2009 as part of this project. The water lines from the buildings to the street would then become GHI's responsibility. GHI maintains that WSSC cannot do this as part of a 1958 agreement in place, and the Board has now hired legal representation. Ms. Overdurff said they have requested an on-site meeting with WSSC and is hoping they can reach some type of resolution.

Snow Removal Walkway Map: Mayor Davis said GHI and Public Works have been working together on this project and she expects it to be complete in the near future.

Property Assessments: Ms. Mach noted the large number of errors that had occurred in the assessments, specifically brick homes labeled as frame homes and frame homes labeled as brick homes. Ms. Overdurff agreed there were numerous problems with erroneous information on the home assessments, including incorrect square footages areas. She said every assessment is being reviewed and the correct information will be provided to the State.

Home Resales: Ms. Overdurff reported there are currently 62 GHI homes on the market but home sales were very slow right now.

Mayor Davis and Council thanked everyone for attending.

Informational Items

Several informational items were discussed.

The meeting ended at 9:40pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

*Cindy Murray
City Clerk*