

REGULAR MEETING OF THE GREENBELT CITY COUNCIL held Monday, May 24, 2010.

Mayor Davis called the meeting to order at 8:13 p.m.

ROLL CALL was answered by Councilmembers Konrad E. Herling, Emmett V. Jordan, Leta M. Mach, Silke I. Pope, Rodney M. Roberts and Mayor Judith F. Davis. Councilmember Edward V. J. Putens arrived at 9:20 p.m.

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

Mayor Davis asked for a moment of silence in memory of Greenbelt resident Patricia Ann Sweeney. She then led the pledge of allegiance to the flag.

CONSENT AGENDA: It was moved by Mr. Herling and seconded by Ms. Mach that the consent agenda be approved. The motion passed 6-0.

Council thereby took the following actions:

MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETINGS

Interview, April 26, 2010
Regular Meeting, April 26, 2010
Work Session, May 5, 2010
Regular Meeting, May 10, 2010
Approved as presented.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Arts Advisory Board, Report #10-3 (Additional Recognition Group Applications): Council accepted the report and agreed to include it on the agenda of the June 7 meeting.

RESIGNATION FROM ADVISORY GROUP: Council accepted with regret the resignation of Sean Flanagan from the Youth Advisory Committee.

APPOINTMENTS TO ADVISORY GROUPS: Council appointed Patrick Welsh to the Youth Advisory Committee and Carol Malveaux to the 75th Anniversary Committee.

REAPPOINTMENTS TO ADVISORY GROUPS: Council appointed the following individuals to new terms on their respective advisory groups:

Ethel Dutky	Advisory Committee on Trees
Paul Sabol	Park and Recreation Advisory Board

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: Ms. Mach asked to add "Appointment to Advisory Group" as Item #20. It was moved by Mr. Jordan and seconded by Ms. Pope that the agenda be approved as amended. The motion passed 6-0.

PRESENTATIONS:

Memorial Day Poppy Presentation - Unit 136, American Legion Auxiliary: Mayor Davis announced that the American Legion will hold its commemoration of Memorial Day on Monday, May 31, in honor of those who have died in combat while serving in the armed forces. Sandy Dutton, Rosita Dietrich, Rusty Beeg, Jenny Bonny, and Verna Rupert, members of the American Legion Auxiliary of Greenbelt Post 136, accompanied Junior Miss Poppy Gabrielle Dietrick in presenting poppies to Council. Ms. Bonny, president of the Auxiliary, thanked Council and residents for their support throughout the year.

Click It or Ticket Month – Proclamation: Click It or Ticket Month, recognized in the month of May, is part of the year-long Maryland Chiefs' Challenge. Mayor Davis presented a proclamation to MPO Scott Kaiser.

MPO Kaiser reported on the Police Department's visual seat belt checkpoint on Hanover Drive at Schrom Hills Park and the efforts to educate students at Eleanor Roosevelt High School about traffic safety. He commented that Greenbelt has a high compliance rate of 96% for seat belt usage.

Peace Month Proclamation: Mayor Davis read a proclamation to recognize June as Peace Month. Bertram and Marj Donn received the proclamation on behalf of the Prince George's Peace and Justice Coalition. Ms. Donn commented on Peace Month activities scheduled in June. She also thanked Mr. Moran for his assistance. Mr. Herling read the community pledge.

Maryland Municipal League (MML) Service Certificates: Mayor Davis presented MML appreciation certificates to staff and councilmembers for their service to the organization over the past year: Ms. Mach and Ms. McHale, Communications Committee; Ms. Pope, Mr. Putens and Mr. McNeal, Convention Planning Committee; Mr. Moran, Mr. McNeal and Mayor Davis, Board of Directors.

PUBLIC HEARINGS:

Public Hearing on the Proposed FY 2011 Budget: Mayor Davis read the agenda comments. She then announced the meeting was recessed for the public hearings.

Mr. Orleans, Greenbelt, suggested that all budget work sessions be cablecast from the Council Room so that all residents would have the opportunity to watch the sessions.

Stanley Edwards, complimented Council on the wonderful condition of the City overall. He mentioned maintenance issues at the Greenbelt Aquatics and Fitness Center need to be addressed such as cleaning the rear wall, painting the mushroom, replacing siding that hides the mechanical equipment, and removing/replacing the Styrofoam décor over the window at the end of the pool.

Trina Coore, Greenbelt Boys and Girls Club, thanked Council for their efforts in preparing the budget but expressed concern regarding the reduction in contribution group funding to the Boys and Girls Club. Mayor Davis explained the thorough process by the Park and Recreation Advisory Board (PRAB) in reviewing all contribution group funding applications and then making recommendations to Council on the funding level for each organization. She further explained the need for Council to find ways to reduce costs throughout the entire budget and their decision to accept the recommendations of PRAB regarding funding the organization. Mr. Roberts noted that councilmembers were not unanimous in the decision to cut the funds. Ms. Coore said she would contact PRAB for additional information on the recommendation.

Mr. Lange, 12 Pinecrest Court, thanked Council and staff for the tough decisions made during the budget process to reduce costs and still provide quality services to residents.

There was no other public comment on the proposed budget.

Constant Yield Tax Rate: Mayor Davis announced that a notice had been published in accordance with State law. There was no testimony from the general public. Mayor Davis announced that the City's tax rate would be set on June 7, 2010.

At the request of Mr. Orleans, Mr. McLaughlin explained the constant yield tax rate. Mr. Orleans also asked and was provided answers on the commercial tax abatement process.

PETITIONS AND REQUESTS: None

MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETINGS: None

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS:

Mr. Herling reported the problem with individuals smoking at McDonald Field when ballgames are being held is continuing to be a issue. Mr. McLaughlin said the issue had been referred to both Mr. Manzi and the Recreation Department to determine what actions can be taken.

Mr. Jordan commented on the small space the Library is using temporarily in the Community Center and asked if the City could provide additional space. Mr. McLaughlin noted the Library was originally offered a larger space, but they preferred the current location which provides better visibility and was closer to the main entrance door. He said he would discuss the request with staff and report back to Council.

COUNCIL REPORTS:

Ms. Mach commented on the Maryland Municipal League's "If I Were Mayor" awards ceremony which she attended with Mayor Davis.

Mr. Herling reported on the GHI Candidates Forum, the Four Cities Homelessness Task Force Coalition meeting, the Spellman Overpass Community meeting, and the Transit Riders United meeting.

Mr. Jordan commented on the Prince George's County Human Services Coalition luncheon.

Mr. Roberts reported his attendance at the Council of Governments' Transportation Planning Board meeting.

Mayor Davis commented on the Wii Bowling Tournament for seniors, the dedication ceremony for the new ladder truck at Berwyn Heights Volunteer Fire Department and the meeting of the Prince George's County Municipal Association (PGCMA). She announced that Mr. Jordan had been elected to PGCMA Board of Directors.

COMMITTEE REPORTS: None

LEGISLATION: None

FOREST PRESERVE ADVISORY BOARD REPORT – NAMING THE FOREST PRESERVE:

Mayor Davis read the agenda comments.

Virginia Mudrock, chair of the Forest Preserve Advisory Board (FPAB), answered several questions regarding the FPAB report.

Mayor Davis moved that Council accept the FPAB recommendation that all properties, parcels, areas and currently designated forest preserve areas be named “Greenbelt Forest Preserve”, allowing for additional naming based on location, compass designation, entrance, neighborhood, trail head, street location, focal point, specific to an entire preserve area, or part thereof. Ms. Mach seconded. The motion passed 7-0.

ADVISORY PLANNING BOARD REPORT – STREET SMART PEDESTRIAN SAFETY PROGRAM:

George Branyan, chair of the Advisory Planning Board (APB), explained the Street Smart Pedestrian Safety Program is a public awareness and enforcement campaign aimed at reducing the number of pedestrian injuries and deaths in the Washington Metropolitan area. He noted the program is sponsored by the National Capital Region Transportation Planning Board and is funded through contributions. Mr. Branyan advised the APB report had recommended the City contribute \$1,000 towards the program.

There was discussion regarding the contribution level of other municipalities for the program and that previous City contributions to this program had been \$500. Council mentioned they had discussed the contribution for the program at the final budget work session and recommended a \$500 contribution to the program for FY 2011

Mr. Putens moved that Council approve a \$500 contribution toward the Street Smart Pedestrian Safety Program for FY 2011, and that the City maintain or increase the enforcement component of the program. Ms. Mach seconded. The motion passed 6-1. (Roberts)

Mr. Roberts said he supported the full \$1,000 contribution to the program as was recommended by the APB.

Michael Hartwick, Gardenway, said crosswalks were needed on Crescent Road by Gardenway to allow pedestrians to safely cross the streets. He added that pedestrians have difficulty using the underpass at this location due to the steepness of the hill. Mayor Davis requested this issue be referred to Celia Craze, Director of Planning and Community Development.

FEDERAL LEGISLATION HR 3852/S 1816 – CHESAPEAKE CLEAN WATER AND ECOSYSTEM RESTORATION ACT:

Mayor Davis said a number of amendments had been made to legislation over the past month but it is the opinion of Terry Cummings of the Chesapeake Bay Foundation that the bill remains strong and the objectives of the CBA are intact. Mr. Roberts noted that the bill allows for the regulation of non-point source pollution which is a primary concern of the CBA. Mayor Davis expressed concern that funding for enforcement of the legislation was not included.

Ms. Mach moved that Council support the goals of HR3852/S1816, specifically the regulation of non-point pollution, but requests that funding be provided for the organizations that are tasked with enforcement of the legislation. Ms. Pope seconded. The motion passed 7-0.

OTHER REPORTS: Council provided information from the following meetings and conferences they had recently attended.

Ms. Mach – Council of Governments (COG) Metropolitan Development Policy Committee
COG Clean Air Partners meeting

Mr. Jordan - Prince George's County Municipal Association with Montgomery County
Municipal Association

Mayor Davis - COG Board of Directors
Prince George's County Municipal Association with Montgomery County
Municipal Association

APPOINTMENTS TO COMMITTEES: Ms. Mach moved that Council appoint Damien Ossi to the Forest Preserve Advisory Board and Gale Martineau to the Arts Advisory Board. Mr. Jordan 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. Herling. The motion passed 7-0.

Mayor Davis adjourned the regular meeting of Monday, May 24, 2010, at 11:47 p.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 May 24, 2010."

Judith F. Davis
Mayor