

REGULAR MEETING OF THE GREENBELT CITY COUNCIL held Monday, May 9, 2011.

Mayor Davis called the meeting to order at 8:00p.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 P. McLaughlin, City Manager; John Shay, City Solicitor and David E. Moran, Acting City Clerk.

Mayor Davis asked for a moment of silence in memory of Greenbelt resident Diane Coleman-Kilby, and former resident Kirk Brasfield. She then led the pledge of allegiance to the flag.

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

Council thereby took the following actions:

MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETINGS

Work Session, March 30, 2011

Work Session, April 13, 2011

Approved as presented.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Arts Advisory Board, Report 2011-1 (Recognition and Contribution Group Applications): Council accepted this report, which had already been discussed in conjunction with the budget work session for Contribution Groups on May 4, 2011.

Community Relations Advisory Board, Report 2011-1 (9/11 Commemoration): Council accepted this report and agreed to place it on an upcoming agenda for consideration.

REAPPOINTMENT TO ADVISORY GROUP: Council reappointed Christopher Husker to the Park and Recreation Advisory Board.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: Mayor Davis requested the addition of "Referral to PRAB". With this addition, it was moved by Mr. Putens and seconded by Mr. Jordan that the agenda be approved as presented. The motion passed 7-0.

PRESENTATIONS:

ACE Student Awards: The Advisory Committee on Education (ACE) presented its 17th Annual Student Awards program. The ACE awards recognize students who exemplify the spirit of Greenbelt and have made positive contributions towards their community. Jon Gardner, ACE Chair, described the Awards Program. Each of the award recipients

was introduced and presented with a certificate and a small gift. This year also marked the 14th year of the presentation of a scholarship to the student award winners from Eleanor Roosevelt High School. State Delegates Tawanna Gaines, Anne Healey and Justin Ross; Altmann Pannell representing County Councilmember Ingrid Turner; and School Board Member Peggy Higgins also participated. The 2011 recipients were:

Greenbelt Elementary School:	Ahmed Ashkar and Jaylynn Battle
Springhill Lake Elementary School:	William Soriano and Victoria Lemus
Magnolia Elementary School:	Darryl Warren and Fatima Kargbo
Turning Point Academy:	Dante Legette and Zuha Sadeed
Greenbelt Middle School:	Mohammad Omer Wasim and Diane Hope Lamidi
Eleanor Roosevelt High School:	Tedang Ndi Check and Jordan Cathleen Washington

In addition, Delegate Healey presented a Maryland State Legislative Scholarship to Eleanor Roosevelt High School student Rebecca Diaz-Reyes. (CM)

Legislative Wrap-Up – 22nd District Delegation: Maryland State Delegates Tawanna Gaines, Anne Healey and Justin Ross provided an update on the 2011 General Assembly Session.

Delegate Healey reported it was a difficult session. She stated that Prince George's County was a big winner in the Session. Delegate Gaines discussed the deficit at the beginning of the Session. She reported that \$8 million in additional Highway User Revenues had been secured. Delegate Gaines also noted that Youth Service Bureau funding was protected. Delegate Ross commented on the increase in the alcohol tax. He also noted the passage of County ethics legislation. Delegate Ross reported the passage of the UM shuttle bill which was part of the City's Legislative Program.

Mayor Davis asked what would happen to Highway User Revenue (HUR) next year. Delegate Gaines reported that next year's HUR projections were less than this year, but that she would advocate to maintain this year's funding level.

Council Members thanked the Delegates for their hard work during the Session.

Vijay Kowtha, 8009 Craddock Road, mentioned a movie shown at Eleanor Roosevelt called "Race to Nowhere". Mr. Kowtha reported that during a discussion following this movie, several students indicated they had contemplated suicide. He expressed concern about budget cuts at Eleanor Roosevelt, and low teacher and student morale there. Mayor Davis suggested that Mr. Kowtha report this situation to Greenbelt CARES.

Mr. Moran reported that three of the bills (unauthorized signs on State Highway Administration right-of-way, condominium and homeowner association lien priority & manslaughter by vehicle) which passed this year were legislative items that the City had supported for many years. Ms. Mach asked about implementation of the University

Maryland Shuttle legislation. Mr. McLaughlin responded that staff would investigate this and report back to Council.

Older Americans Month – Proclamation: Mayor Davis read a proclamation in honor of Older Americans Month. Sharon Johnson, Service Coordinator for Green Ridge House, accepted the proclamation on behalf of the Greenbelt Assistance in Living Program and the residents of Green Ridge House. Ms. Johnson announced the events occurring throughout the month.

PETITIONS AND REQUESTS: There were none.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS: Mr. McLaughlin reported that the new Greenbelt Connection bus will arrive this week.

COUNCIL REPORTS: Ms. Mach reported on the music festival at Greenbelt Middle School. She also noted the Artful Afternoon program and the American Legion's "post everlasting" event. Mr. Herling participated in the City of Laurel parade with County Council Member Lehman. He also referenced a program called "Leeps" dealing with non-recyclable waste. Mr. Putens reported large potholes at Greenway Center. Mr. Jordan noted he was appointed to the Maryland Heritage Areas Authority. He also commented on a green streets/green jobs forum in Silver Spring. He also mentioned the Berwyn Heights Day program. Mr. Roberts reported on a potential site in Beltsville that could be used to park school busses. Ms. Pope noted the Americanism essay awards at the American Legion. She also reported on the Pet Expo. Mayor Davis commented on the "mock crash" at Eleanor Roosevelt High School. She also reported on the foster parents' celebration at Nationals Stadium sponsored by the Council of Governments. Mayor Davis discussed the "welcome spring" event at the Museum. She also congratulated the City's K-9 unit which finished second at a regional competition and specifically noted that one of Greenbelt's teams, MPO Dewey and Rambo, finished in first place.

LEGISLATION

A Resolution Supporting Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development, Neighborhood Businessworks Program Financing to Helen and Company LLC/Greenbelt Travel Services

Mayor Davis read the agenda comments. Mr. Jordan introduced the resolution for first reading. Council requested a representative from the company attend the next Council meeting.

EXPANSION OF WASHINGTON METROPOLITAN AREA TRANSIT AUTHORITY FACILITY: Mayor Davis read the agenda comments.

Charlie Scott and John Thomas, Washington Metropolitan Transit Authority (WMATA), presented the proposal to add a third track segment between the maintenance yard and College Park. This new track segment would be used to test new rail cars.

Ms. Hofstra reported on meetings with WMATA representatives about this project.

John Thomas, Director, WMATA Office of Engineering Support Services, gave a powerpoint presentation and responded to questions from Council.

Mayor Davis asked if this testing would occur throughout the night and bother nearby residents. Mr. Thomas responded that there shouldn't be any more noise than currently exists from train activity.

Mr. Jordan expressed concern about the size of the parking garage. Mr. Thomas responded that the garage was replacing displaced parking spaces, but was also being overbuilt to add future capacity. Mr. Jordan asked if any jobs would be available to local residents. Mr. Thomas responded that contractors are encouraged to hire local residents.

Mr. Herling asked if the testing would occur outside during normal hours of operation. Mr. Thomas responded that it was a possibility, but not likely.

Mr. Roberts commented on the excess capacity in the proposed parking garage and expressed concern about how it would look from the Beltway. He requested trees and landscaping to visually buffer the new garage. Mayor Davis suggested that WMATA consider reducing the parking garage from four to three stories.

Mr. Putens asked about the construction schedule. Mr. Thomas responded that they hoped to start construction in a year and construction would take about 15 months.

Mr. Orleans asked about the environmental analysis and impacts to Indian Creek. Mr. Thomas responded that they were staying within the existing footprint of the yard and were very careful not to impact any vegetation, trees or the wetlands and Indian Creek.

OTHER REPORTS: Ms. Mach reported on a recent Metropolitan Washington Air Quality Committee meeting. She shared a written report with Council. Mayor Davis reported on the Governor's Roundtable meeting on the Transportation Trust Fund.

REFERRAL TO THE PARK & RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD (PRAB): Mayor Davis requested that David Whiteman's suggestion that the City consider different ways of evaluating resident participation percentages with contribution groups be referred to PRAB. Mayor Davis moved the referral. Mr. Putens seconded. The motion passed 7 to 0.

MEETINGS: Council reviewed the meeting schedule.

ADJOURNMENT: A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Ms. Mach and seconded by Mr. Putens. The motion carried 7-0. The Mayor adjourned the regular meeting of May 9, 2011, at 11:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

David E. Moran
Acting 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 Monday May 9, 2011.

Judith F. Davis
Mayor