

BUDGET WORK SESSION OF THE GREENBELT CITY COUNCIL held Monday, April 30, 2012, for the purpose of reviewing the Public Works section of the Proposed FY 2013 Budget.

Mayor Davis called the meeting to order at 8:00 p.m. It was held in the Council Room of the Municipal Building.

PRESENT WERE: Councilmembers Konrad E. Herling, Emmett V. Jordan, Silke I. Pope, Edward V. J. Putens, Rodney M. Roberts and Mayor Judith F. Davis. Councilmember Leta M. Mach was unable to attend due to family matters.

STAFF PRESENT WERE: Michael McLaughlin, City Manager; Ken Hall, Director of Public Works; Lesley Riddle, Assistant Director of Public Works; Jim Sterling, Assistant Director of Public Works; Luisa Robles, Recycling Coordinator; and Cindy Murray, City Clerk. Jeffrey Williams, City Treasurer, joined the meeting at 8:30 p.m.

ALSO PRESENT WERE: Chris Shuman, Bill Orleans, Molly Lester and Tom White, News Review.

Mr. Hall provided opening comments and mentioned that the proposed Public Works budget maintains all existing services and reflects a number of actions being taken to meet the goal of energy efficiency and stability.

Council then reviewed the budget page by page.

Traffic Control

Mr. Sterling explained that an inventory of street signs must be complete by the end of 2012 in order to comply with the Manual of Uniform Traffic Control Devices. He explained that Public Works is taking the opportunity during the inventory to record the condition and materials of each sign so a work plan can be formed to reach compliance with reflectability standards by 2015.

Mayor Davis commented that residents are very pleased with the parking space lines installed on Hanover Parkway. Mr. Hall said additional lines will be installed.

Mr. Jordan mentioned the voice direction provided by the Rectangular Rapid Flash Beacon for the crosswalk on Crescent Road. Mr. Hall commented on the benefits the voice direction provides to residents who are visually impaired.

Public Works Accomplishments

Mayor Davis noted the City has reduced its generation of greenhouse gases (carbon footprint) by 37% from 2005 levels. Mr. McLaughlin referred to the Sustainability chart and reported that the City has exceeded the State's requirement and Council of Governments Climate Change Initiative goals to reduce one's carbon footprint by 10% by 2012 and 20% by 2025.

Mayor Davis asked where are the locations of the four sediment and erosion sites. Mr. Sterling advised the sites locations were Greenbelt Middle School, Greenhill Stream, Greenbelt Station and the Cherrywood Lane Roundabout.

Public Works Issues and Services

Mr. Hall reported a new bid would be solicited for after hours cleaning services. He advised these services had been performed by an outside contractor for many years.

Council requested a report on the services performed by contractors, including the annual cost to each contractor. They also recommended that a question regarding the salaries paid to employees of contractors be included as part of future bid documents.

Mayor Davis inquired about the vacant Building Maintenance Supervisor position. Mr. McLaughlin said a decision whether to fill this position would be made in the future based on the results of the organizational study. He noted funding from this position and the vacant Assistant Recreation Director position had been moved to the Reserve Appropriation to fund results of the organizational study.

Ms. Riddle explained the need to create a master renovation plan for both Buddy Attick Park and Schrom Hills Park to address areas of overuse and areas in critical need of intervention or renovation. She advised that without proper intervention, the natural systems and species diversity within the parks will be irreversibly impacted. Council requested that when a draft plan is prepared, it be referred to the Park and Recreation Advisory Board and the Advisory Committee on Trees for review.

There was discussion regarding improvements to storm water management. Mr. Hall, Mr. Sterling and Ms. Riddle advised they are reviewing all opportunities for improvements to mitigate storm water runoff.

Maintenance of Multi-Purpose Equipment

Mr. Hall reported he expects to make a recommendation soon regarding a change to the purchase of bio-diesel fuel in place of regular diesel fuel now that the cost of bio-diesel has lowered. He also advised he is exploring grant opportunities to convert diesel engines to propane. Mr. Hall said the cost of conversion is approximately \$8,000 per vehicle.

Mr. Roberts noted the high price of propane and questioned why the fleet wouldn't be expanded to more compressed natural gas (CNG) vehicles. Mr. Hall mentioned the problems associated with the City's CNG fueling station and the purchase price premium that currently makes natural gas vehicles unjustifiable to purchase.

Street Maintenance

Mr. Hall said Public Works is currently reviewing the use of calcium magnesium acetate (CMA) in place of rock salt for snow and ice control. He noted the high cost of CMA that was only available for purchase by the bag and not by bulk sale. Mr. Hall said consideration is being given to using CMA in areas with the highest environmental concerns, such as Roosevelt Center, but continuing the use of rock salt on streets.

Waste Collection and Disposal

Ms. Robles provided a review of the recycling program, including recycling at City events and the Labor Day Festival. She commented that most people are willing to recycle as long as it was convenient and stressed the need to provide a recycling bin next to every trash receptacle.

Ms. Robles advised the 100 recycling rolling carts proposed for purchase in FY 2013 would complete the Boxwood area and will expand the Greenspring area.

Mayor Davis mentioned the new State recycling legislation for multi-family dwelling units and asked how this would impact City apartment developments. After discussion, Mr. McLaughlin said staff would be reviewing options, including whether City legislation is required, and would report back to Council.

Parks

Mayor Davis requested the number of Adopt a trees and benches be included in the chart of performance measures.

Greenbelt Connection

There was discussion regarding Sunday transportation service to Metro. Mr. Jordan asked for the number of trips requests to Metro received on Saturday and Sunday. Mr. Sterling will check and provide this number to Council.

Informational Items

Council requested a work session with the Greenbelt Post Office be added to the meeting schedule.

There was discussion regarding scheduling ribbon cutting ceremony for the Greenhill Stream Project as part of National Public Lands Day event.

The meeting ended at 10:50 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted

*Cindy Murray
City Clerk*