

REGULAR MEETING OF THE GREENBELT CITY COUNCIL held Monday, April 13, 2009.

Mayor Davis called the meeting to order at 8:10 p.m.

ROLL CALL was answered by Councilmembers Konrad E. Herling, Leta M. Mach, Edward V. J. Putens, Rodney M. Roberts and Mayor Judith F. Davis.

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

Mayor Davis asked for a moment of silence in memory of resident Katherine M. Gibson and former resident Cyril Hamilton Femrite. She then led the pledge of allegiance to the flag.

CONSENT AGENDA: It was moved by Mr. Putens and seconded by Mr. Herling that the consent agenda be approved. The motion passed 5-0.

Council thereby took the following actions:

MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETINGS

Regular Meeting, March 23, 2009

Work Session, March 25, 2009

Approved as presented.

PARK & RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD REPORT #09-2: Council accepted the report and will consider it at the Contribution Group budget work session scheduled for April 22.

REAPPOINTMENTS TO ADVISORY GROUPS: Council appointed Virginia Mudrock to a new term on the Forest Preserve Advisory Board.

RESIGNATION FROM ADVISORY GROUPS: Council accepted with regret the resignations of Barbara Dobyns from the Arts Advisory Board and Elizabeth Kibler from the Senior Citizens Advisory Committee.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: Ms. Mach requested "Appointment to Advisory Group" be added as Item #20. It was moved by Mr. Putens and seconded by Mr. Herling that the agenda be approved as amended. The motion carried 5-0.

PRESENTATIONS:

Arbor Day – Proclamation: Mayor Davis read a proclamation to recognize Arbor Day, which was received by Charles Jackman, chair of the Advisory Committee on Trees, and Lesley Riddle, Superintendent of Parks & Grounds. Mr. Jackman gave an overview of this year's Arbor Day and Tree Tour plans, which will be conducted by the City in conjunction with its Earth Day events at the Youth Center on Saturday, April 25.

Public Works Week – Proclamation: Mayor Davis read a proclamation to recognize May 17–23 as Public Works Week. Kenny Hall, Director of Public Works, received the proclamation on behalf of the department. He also gave an overview of the Grand Opening/Open House event at the new Public Works facility on Saturday, April 25. Council thanked the Public Works staff for the work they do.

Historical Sites and Districts Plan for Prince George's County: Chris Wilson, Prince George's County Planning Department of the Maryland National Capital Park and Planning Commission (M-NCPPC), and Nancy Powell, Greenhorne & O'Mara, Inc. presented information on the Historic Sites and Districts Plan Amendment for Prince George's County. Mr. Wilson said that the amendment will bring the Inventory of Historic Resources up to date to reflect the actions of the Historic Preservation Commission and District Council since 1992; propose additions to the inventory; and identify preservation issues and propose future initiatives, preservation goals, policies, strategies and guidelines. He explained that they are currently meeting with citizens groups, government agencies and historic property owners to gather information.

Mr. McLaughlin said staff from the Planning and Community Development Department were monitoring the amendment and would be bringing information to Council as appropriate.

Mayor Davis commented on the need for maintenance and upkeep in several historic cemeteries in the City and asked if any funding was available. Mr. Wilson said he would check into various funding sources to determine if they could be used for historic cemeteries. Mr. McLaughlin advised Megan Young, Museum Curator, is working on locating funds for these cemeteries also.

Council thanked Mr. Wilson and Ms. Powell for the presentation.

Granicus Live Video Streaming: Ms. Palau announced the City was now offering Council meetings and other programming live and on demand on the city website. She said this new initiative, called video streaming, expands the reach of public meetings, beyond cable and FiOS customers, to anyone that can access the Internet. She provided a demonstration explaining the features of video streaming.

City Council Report on Voting System Issues: Mayor Davis read a statement updating Council's recommendations on the voting system reform issue.

PETITIONS AND REQUESTS: None

MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETINGS: Mr. Roberts requested the minutes from the Executive Sessions of March 18, 2009, and April 7, 2009, be removed.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

Mr. McLaughlin announced the Celebration of Spring would be held on Saturday, April 18, from 2 to 6 p.m. at the Springhill Lake Recreation Center.

Mr. Herling commented on the Little League Opening Day parade and opening game, which were attended by several councilmembers.

Mayor Davis and Ms. Mach attended the Women in History breakfast at Springhill Lake Elementary School, the Earth Hour walk, the Greenbelt Observatory dedication and the Easter Egg Hunt. Mayor Davis also attended the Anacostia Trails Heritage Area meeting, and welcomed the Police Chiefs of Prince Georges County and the Maryland Municipal League Chapter Public Works Directors to meetings held in Greenbelt.

Mayor Davis thanked the Green Advisory Committee on Environmental Sustainability for their promotion of Earth Hour and the Potomac Watershed Cleanup events which were attended by several councilmembers.

TRANSFER OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE LICENSE: Mayor Davis read the agenda comments. Robert Kim, attorney for the owners of William's American Bistro, introduced the owners, Mei Lin and Sam Louie, and the restaurant manager, David Lynch, and commented on their many years of previous restaurant experience. Mr. Kim described the new restaurant as an upscale family restaurant and said a grand opening was expected in June or July. Mr. Lynch said he would be purchasing many supplies from nearby small independent family farms.

Council welcomed Mr. and Mrs. Louie and Mr. Lynch to Greenbelt and wished them success.

It was moved by Mr. Roberts and seconded by Mr. Putens that Council take no position on the transfer of alcoholic beverage license from Bennigan's of Maryland, Inc. to William's American Bistro. The motion passed 5-0.

RESPONSE TO PETITION ON PARKING ISSUE: Mayor Davis read the agenda comments. After discussion, Council indicated they were not going to refund the paid penalty. However, Council did request a review of the parking regulation, City Code Section 11-42 (Parking of vehicles on public roadways), by the Code Enforcement and Police Departments to determine the type, length and weight of vehicles considered moving trucks and whether a longer time period should be allowed for moving trucks to be parked on public roadways. Council also recommended publishing information on how to obtain a temporary exception to the parking regulation, such as when moving from or into a residence.

CONCERN ABOUT ENERGY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM: Mayor David read the agenda comments. Mr. Putens moved that a letter be sent to PEPCO, the Maryland Public Service Commission, Governor O'Malley, Senator Pinsky and Delegates Ross, Gaines and Healey, requesting a review of PEPCO's energy assistance program and suggesting eligibility be determined on a sliding scale or a consideration of a person's or family's net pay, rather than gross pay. Mr. Roberts seconded. The motion passed 5-0.

AWARD OF PURCHASE – PICKUP TRUCK FOR PUBLIC WORKS: Mayor Davis read the agenda comments. Mr. Roberts requested a letter be sent to the State asking why natural gas or other alternative fuel vehicles are not included in their bids. Mr. McLaughlin mentioned this had been discussed with the State Delegates at the legislative dinner in February. Mayor Davis suggested contacting the State Delegates again regarding the issue.

Mr. Putens moved that Council approve the purchase of the ¾ ton pickup truck from Criswell Chevrolet, Inc. of Gaithersburg, Maryland, in accord with State of Maryland bid #001B9200260 for a cost of \$29,134. Mr. Herling seconded. The motion passed 4-1. (Roberts)

AWARD OF PURCHASE – POLICE VEHICLES: Mayor Davis read the agenda comments. Mr. Roberts moved that Council approve the purchase of four 2009 Chevrolet Impalas and three 2009 Chevrolet Tahoes from Criswell Chevrolet, Inc. of Gaithersburg, Maryland, in accord with State of Maryland bids #001B9200238 and #001B9200297 for a total cost of \$149,155. Mr. Herling seconded. The motion passed 5-0.

RECOVERY ACT: EDWARD BYRNE MEMORIAL JUSTICE ASSISTANCE GRANT (JAG) FORMULA PROGRAM AWARD: Mayor Davis read the agenda comments. Mr. Putens moved to approve use of the 2009 JAG grant award to purchase interoperable portable, mobile or fixed radio equipment. Ms. Mach seconded. The motion passed 5-0.

CLASSIFICATION AND COMPENSATION STUDY: Mayor Davis read the agenda comments. Mr. Herling moved to approve the Classification and Compensation study, its findings including a payment equal to a one (1) percent increase to all classified employees not covered by a collective bargaining agreement, and the recommended classification and pay plans including the findings in the April 6th memo, and that these adjustments be retroactive to July 1, 2008. Mr. Putens seconded. The motion passed 5-0.

Mr. McLaughlin thanked Council on behalf of the employees.

APPOINTMENT TO ADVISORY GROUPS: Ms. Mach moved to appoint Phyllis Budin to the Senior Citizens Advisory Committee and Sandra Lange to the Advisory Planning Board. Mr. Putens seconded. The motion passed 5-0.

MEETINGS: Council reviewed the meeting schedule.

ADJOURNMENT: A motion to adjourn the regular meeting was made by Ms. Mach and seconded by Mr. Putens. The motion passed 5-0.

Mayor Davis adjourned the regular meeting of Monday, April 13, 2009, at 10:30 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 April 13, 2009."

Judith F. Davis
Mayor