

REGULAR MEETING OF THE GREENBELT CITY COUNCIL held Monday, April 12, 2010.

Mayor Davis called the meeting to order at 8:05 p.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 McLaughlin, City Manager; David E. Moran, Assistant City Manager; Carl Schinner, Police Lieutenant; Ken Hall, Director of Public Works; Lesley Riddle, Assistant Director of Public Works; Luisa Robles, Recycling Coordinator; and John Shay, City Solicitor.

Mayor Davis asked for a moment of silence in memory of Greenbelt residents Thomas M. Teutsch Jr., Robert H. McIntire and Christina Alice Burgess, and former residents Patricia Ann Bell Good, Caitlin Buemi and Richard Carl Schrom Sr. She then led the pledge of allegiance to the flag.

CONSENT AGENDA: Mayor Davis asked to remove the minutes from the March 22, 2010 meeting. Ms. Mach removed ACE Report #1-10 from Committee Reports. It was moved by Mr. Putens and seconded by Mr. Herling that the consent agenda be approved as amended. The motion passed 7-0.

Council thereby took the following actions:

MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETINGS

Work Session, February 17, 2010
Work Session, March 4, 2010
Regular Meeting, March 8, 2010
Work Session, March 10, 2010
Work Session, March 15, 2010
Interviews, March 22, 2010
Interview, March 24, 2010
Work Session, March 24, 2010
Approved as presented.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Greenbelt Advisory Committee on Education, Report #2-10 (Grants to Educators Program):
Council accepted this report and agreed to include it on the agenda of the April 26 meeting.

STATE LEGISLATION (HB 1125): Council approved opposition to HB 1225 and the revised storm water management regulations.

PROPOSAL TO RESOLVE GHI RIGHT-OF-WAY ISSUE: Council approved Option 2 and directed that staff proceed with the preparation of a petition to vacate, which will be brought back to Council for final approval.

RESIGNATION FROM ADVISORY GROUP: Council accepted with regret the resignation of Melissa Hines-Rodriguez from the Park and Recreation Advisory Board.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

Ms. Mach requested “Appointments to Advisory Groups” be added to the agenda. It was moved by Ms. Mach and seconded by Mr. Putens that the agenda be approved as amended. The motion passed 7-0.

PRESENTATIONS:

Oath of Office for New Greenbelt Police Officers: Lt. Carl Schinner introduced Greenbelt’s newest police officers, Jason Cressman and Daniel Unger, to the City Council. Mayor Davis administered the oath of office and welcomed Officers Cressman and Unger to the Greenbelt Police Department.

Arbor Day – Proclamation: Mayor Davis read a proclamation to recognize Arbor Day, which was received by Ethel Dutky, member of the Advisory Committee on Trees, and Lesley Riddle, Assistant Director of Public Works. Ms. Riddle 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 event and Public Works Open House on Saturday, April 24. Mayor Davis noted that the City was again a Tree City and received the Growth Award.

Earth Day – Proclamation: Mayor Davis read a proclamation to recognize the 40th anniversary of Earth Day, which was received by John Lippert, chair, and Mary Chapman, member, of the Advisory Committee on Environmental Sustainability, and Luisa Robles, the City’s Recycling Coordinator. Mr. Lippert discussed this year’s Earth Day event. He suggested the City get involved in the Earth Aid program and indicated he would be providing information to Council about this.

Public Works Week – Proclamation: Mayor Davis read a proclamation to recognize May 16-22 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 Open House event at the Public Works facility on Saturday, April 25.

Proposed FY 2011 City Budget: Mr. McLaughlin presented his proposed FY 2011 budget for the City. In his overview, he noted the key issue that influenced the budget was dealing with the very difficult economic climate. He stated that the Proposed Budget: funds core services, makes progress on Visioning Goals and has 2.9 fewer positions. He summarized key revenues including declining Corporate Property and Hotel/Motel tax revenues, and reductions in Highway User Revenue and Police Aid. Mr. McLaughlin described his “Share the Pain” approach and described the savings, programmatic reductions, employee compensation changes and tax increase included in the budget proposal.

The Mayor and other Councilmembers thanked him and the staff for all the work that went into the preparation of the budget. Mayor Davis mentioned the upcoming budget work sessions and encouraged residents to attend.

Mayor Davis stated this was a sobering Budget. Ms. Mach noted that “tabs” didn’t always reflect the topics discussed at Budget work sessions and requested knowing the topics to be discussed in advance. Mr. Herling requested that Council explore a proactive strategy to bring

businesses to Greenbelt and requested a breakdown on marketing expenditures in Departments.

FY 2010 Award for Distinguished Budget Presentation: The City received the Government Finance Officers Association Award for Distinguished Budget Presentation for its FY 2010 budget. This award recognizes Greenbelt's budget document as one that satisfies national guidelines as a policy document, an operations guide, a financial plan, and a communications device. The City Manager accepted the award on behalf of the City.

PETITIONS AND REQUESTS: None

MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETINGS:

Minutes of Regular Meeting March 22, 2010: Under WMATA's Proposed FY 2011 Service Changes, Mayor Davis requested "impervious" pavement be changed to "pervious" pavement. With this change, Ms. Davis moved that the minutes be accepted. Mr. Herling seconded. The motion passed 7-0.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS: Mr. McLaughlin reported that a Collective Bargaining Agreement had been reached with the Greenbelt FOP Lodge 32. He announced electronics recycling and shred-it days.

Ms. Mach asked that "cell phone use by employees while driving City vehicles" be added to the CAR Report. Mr. Herling asked about a proposed location for a Verizon Cellular tower. Mr. McLaughlin responded that staff would check in to this.

COUNCIL REPORTS: Mr. Herling thanked PCD for the Census program on Saturday. He reported on the Easter Egg hunt.

Ms. Mach discussed her & Mayor Davis's attendance at Mt Rainier's 100th Anniversary kick-off. She also noted the Library 40th Anniversary celebration, a clean-up in Empirian Village, the Prince George's Elected Municipal Women meeting and Little League opening day.

Mayor Davis reported on a clean-up at Springhill Lake Elementary. She reported on the other clean-ups on April 10. Mayor Davis noted that the Library 40th Anniversary was the anniversary of the building and the Library had existed in the community since 1939. Mayor Davis commented on the "March to the Mailbox" Census program and announced the latest Census stats. She also mentioned opening day for Greenbelt Little League.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Greenbelt Advisory Committee on Education, Report #1-10 (Recognition of National Board Certified Educators): Ms. Mach requested that the City seek information from the schools about other Board certified teachers at Greenbelt schools so they could be recognized as well. Mayor Davis asked that Kenneth Bernstein, recipient of the Agnes Meyer Outstanding Teacher Award and a National Board Certified educator, be acknowledged on April 26.

Ms. Mach moved that Council accept this report, look for other Board Certified educators to honor (including Mr. Bernstein) and that Council recognize the National Board Certified educators at the next meeting. Mr. Putens seconded. The motion passed 7 to 0.

LEGISLATION:

A Resolution to Amend Resolution 743, a Resolution to Establish a Youth Advisory Committee

Mayor Davis read the agenda comments. Mr. Roberts introduced the ordinance for second reading and moved that it be adopted. Mr. Putens seconded the motion.

ROLL CALL:	Mr. Herling	-	yes
	Mr. Jordan	-	yes
	Ms. Mach	-	yes
	Ms. Pope	-	yes
	Mr. Putens	-	yes
	Mr. Roberts	-	yes
	Mayor Davis	-	yes

The resolution was declared adopted (Resolution No. 1062, Book 8).

A Resolution to Negotiate the Purchase of Home Modification and Assessment Services from Strategies for Independent Living, LLC of Takoma Park, Maryland at a Cost of \$50,000

Mayor Davis read the agenda comments. Mr. Herling introduced the resolution for first reading.

AWARD OF PURCHASE – DUMP TRUCK: Mayor Davis read the agenda comments.

Mr. Putens moved that Council approve the purchase of a Ford-450 4x4 Dump Truck with a 9 foot plow and salt spreader from Kip Killmon Tyson's Ford of Vienna, Virginia in accord with City of Alexandria bid #0710 at a cost not to exceed \$58,000. Ms. Pope seconded.

Mayor Davis asked why we weren't replacing the transmission on this vehicle. Mr. Hall noted this truck was already listed for replacement. Mr. Jordan asked why we weren't using a bid from a dealer in Prince George's County or the State of Maryland. Mr. Hall responded that he had checked, but there were no bids available that met the City's needs.

Mr. Roberts expressed concern about the cost difference between a 2-wheel and 4-wheel drive vehicle and indicated he would not vote for this. He stated that this winter's snow was a rare, once every 30 year event. He believed the City could save money by not getting a 4-wheel drive vehicle. He also indicated that he did not favor the continued purchase of diesel vehicles.

Mayor Davis stated that the City could not be sure that we wouldn't receive such a large snowfall again.

Mr. Putens expressed support for Mr. Roberts' comments and asked if there was a 2 wheel drive vehicle the City could purchase. Mr. Hall responded that the bid was for a 4-wheel drive truck only.

Mr. Herling moved to call the question. Ms. Mach seconded. The motion passed 6 to 1 (Roberts).

The previous motion passed 5-2 (Putens & Roberts).

FY 2011 ANNUAL ACTION PLAN (CR-27-2010): Mayor Davis read the agenda comments. She referenced the list of projects being recommended for the County and noted that no other applicant was being recommended for two projects and some communities received no funding or a lower allocation than Greenbelt.

Mr. Herling asked if more than one community could apply jointly for funding and cited a potential 4-Cities homeless initiative as an example. Mr. Moran responded he would have to check into this.

Mr. Herling moved that the City send a letter supporting CR-27-2010 and requesting funding for the City's second priority if funds became available. Mr. Jordan seconded. The motion passed 7 to 0.

REPORT ON ACCESSIBLE GREENBELT PROGRAM: Mayor Davis read the agenda comments. David Moran, Assistant City Manager, briefed Council on the accomplishments of the Accessible Greenbelt Program over the past year. He spoke about the program's success and referenced the positive comments in the participant survey.

FEDERAL LEGISLATION – NATIONAL CAPITAL REGION CONSERVATION ACT OF 2009: Mayor Davis read the agenda comments. She provided further information that had been distributed at a Council of Governments (COG) meeting.

Mayor Davis moved to support HR 2986/S 1525. Mr. Jordan seconded. The motion passed 7-0.

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

Mr. Herling noted that this Wednesday was the COG Transportation Planning Board (TPB) meeting. In response to a question from Mayor Davis, Mr. Jordan noted he was receiving emails about TPB meetings, but not meeting packets. Mr. Roberts agreed to resolve this.

Mayor Davis reported that the COG Climate, Energy & Environment Policy Committee was considering an outreach program that would encourage behavior change, possibly through the use of social networking. The Committee would also be seeking information and stats from member jurisdictions re: inventories & action plans, tree canopy, renewable energy purchases, green fleet policies, green purchasing policies and renewable energy systems in the community.

Next, Mayor Davis reported on the WMATA hearing. She stated that "no service cuts" and/or "expand service" were the predominant comments. Speakers also requested no fare increases and some requested fare cuts. Some folks requested no service cuts to Metro Access. Mr. Herling noted that the people that can least afford fare increases or service cuts would be disproportionately affected. Mr. Jordan commented that it was frustrating to have to evaluate WMATA service cuts and route

changes without looking at County TheBus services and the transportation system as a whole. He stressed the need for an integrated transit system.

APPOINTMENTS TO ADVISORY GROUPS: Ms. Mach moved to appoint Dorian Branch to the Youth Advisory Committee and Lester Whitmer to the Park and Recreation Advisory Board. Ms. Pope seconded. The motion passed 7-0.

MEETINGS: Mr. Herling moved that Council change the Regular Meeting in June to June 7 and June 21. Mr. Jordan seconded. The motion passed 6 to 1 (Putens). 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 7-0.

Mayor Davis adjourned the regular meeting of Monday, April 12, 2010, at 10:28 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

David Moran
Assistant City Manager

"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 12, 2010."

Judith F. Davis
Mayor