REGULAR MEETING OF THE GREENBELT CITY COUNCIL held Wednesday, March 27, 2013.

Mayor Davis called the meeting to order at 8:10 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 Moran, Assistant City Manager; Robert Manzi, City Solicitor; and Cindy Murray, City Clerk.

Mayor Davis asked for a moment of silence in memory of Greenbelt resident Louise E. Smith. She then led the pledge of allegiance to the flag.

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA: Ms. Pope moved that the consent agenda be approved. Mr. Putens seconded. The motion passed 7-0.

Council thereby took the following actions:

MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETINGS

Work Session, February 27, 2013
Approved as presented.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Senior Citizens Advisory Committee, Report #2013-1 (Police Department Directional Signage): Council accepted this report and will consider it on the agenda of a future meeting.

REAPPOINTMENTS TO ADVISORY BOARDS: Council appointed the following individuals to new terms on their current advisory boards or committees: Steven Gilbert, Board of Elections; Donna Hoffmeister and Damien Ossi, Forest Preserve Advisory Board; and Michael Hartman, Greenbelt Advisory Committee on Environmental Sustainability

RESIGNATION FROM ADVISORY BOARD: Council accepted the resignation of Ruth Kastner from the Forest Preserve Advisory Board.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: Mayor Davis requested "FY 2013 Award for Distinguished Budget Presentation" be added to the agenda under Presentations. With this addition, Mr. Putens moved that the agenda be approved. Mr. Jordan seconded. The motion passed 7-0.

PRESENTATIONS:

Anacostia Trails Heritage Area Update: Aaron Marcavitch, Executive Director of the Anacostia Trails Heritage Area (ATHA), provided an update on the organization. He mentioned several activities that ATHA was currently working on.

Animal Control "Donate to Adopt" Program: Susie Hall and Lauren Derise, Greenbelt Animal Control Officers, explained the "Donate to Adopt" program which will be held throughout April. They said the program is an effort to increase the number of animal adoptions at the Greenbelt Animal Shelter.

FY 2013 Award for Distinguished Budget Presentation: The City received the Government Finance Officers Association Award for Distinguished Budget Presentation for its Fiscal Year 2013 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. Mr. McLaughlin accepted the award on behalf of the City.

Proposed FY 2014 City Budget: The City Manager presented his proposed FY 2014 budget for the City. In his overview, he advised that the difficult economic climate continues to be the key financial/budget issue and he expects this situation to continue through FY 2016. He noted the three areas of focus in preparation of the budget included: being responsive to difficult fiscal conditions and the likelihood they will continue for next 3 years; developing a work plan around Council's goals; and providing quality services.

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

PETITIONS AND REQUESTS: None

MINUTES:

Work Session, February 27, 2013: Mr. Roberts asked for a moment of discussion regarding the minutes of this meeting. Mayor Davis advised these minutes had been approved on the consent agenda earlier this evening. Mr. Roberts moved that the minutes of this meeting be returned to the agenda. No second was received. The motion failed.

Statement for Record - Executive Session of March 20, 2013: Mr. Jordan moved that, in accordance with Section 10-509 (c) (2) of the State Government Article of the Annotated Code of Public General Laws of Maryland, the minutes of this meeting reflect that the Council met in executive session on Wednesday, March 20, 2013, at 9:50 p.m. in Room 201 of the Community Center. Council held this closed meeting in accordance with Section 10-508 (a) (9) of the State Government Article of the *Annotated Code of Public General Laws of Maryland* to discuss matters related collective bargaining negotiations.

Vote to close session:

	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent
Mr. Herling	X			
Mr. Jordan	X			
Ms. Mach	X			
Ms. Pope	X			
Mr. Putens	X			
Mr. Roberts	X			
Mayor Davis	X			

The following staff members were in attendance: Michael McLaughlin, City Manager, and Cindy Murray, City Clerk.

Other individuals in attendance: None

Council took no actions during this session.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS:

Mr. McLaughlin announced the City's Easter Egg Hunt is scheduled for Saturday at Buddy Attick Park and the Underwater Easter Egg Hunt is scheduled for Friday at the Greenbelt Aquatic and Fitness Center.

COUNCIL REPORTS: Councilmembers commented on their attendance at the following events.

Springhill Lake Elementary School Women's History Month Breakfast – Mayor Davis, Ms. Mach and Ms. Pope
Greenbelt Elementary School Spring Fest – Mayor Davis and Mr. Jordan
Greenbelt Forest Preserve 10th Anniversary "Walk in the Woods" - Mr. Jordan and Mr. Roberts
Council of Governments Board of Directors Meeting - Mayor Davis
Maryland Municipal Clerks Association Meeting in Greenbelt – Mayor Davis
Anacostia Trails Heritage Area Governing Board Meeting – Mayor Davis
Municipal Officials Briefing on Park and Planning Master Plan – Mayor Davis and Mr. Jordan
Greenbelt Rotary Club 25th Anniversary Dinner – Mayor Davis
Beltway Plaza Local Heroes Wall of Fame Unveiling – Mayor Davis and Mr. Jordan
Police Chiefs Association of Prince George's County Meeting in Greenbelt – Mayor Davis
Maryland Municipal League (MML) Legislative Committee Meeting – Mayor Davis and Mr. Jordan
MML "If I Were Mayor" Contest Presentations to 4th Grade Students at Springhill Lake Elementary School – Mayor Davis

Prince George's County Municipal Association Meeting – Mr. Jordan, Ms. Mach and Mr. Herling

Mayor Davis congratulated the Eleanor Roosevelt High School Boys Basketball Team for winning the Maryland 4A Final. She also congratulated the Girls Basketball Team for being runners-up in their Championship Finals.

COMMITTEE REPORTS: None

LEGISLATION: None

LETTER OF SUPPORT – ANACOSTIA TRAILS HERITAGE AREA: Mayor Davis read the agenda comments.

Mr. Putens moved that Council send a letter of support to the Office of Heritage Planning and Outreach, Maryland Historical Trust, for the Anacostia Trails Heritage Area FY 2014 Operating Fund request. Mr. Jordan seconded. The motion passed 7-0.

AWARD OF PURCHASE – CARGO VAN: Mayor Davis read the agenda comments.

Mr. Jordan moved that Council approve the purchase of a Chevrolet 2500 Cargo Van from Sport Chevrolet of Silver Spring in accord with State of Maryland BPO# 001B3400309 at a cost of $17,118. Mr. Herling seconded.

In response to a question from Mr. Herling, Mr. Hall said compressed natural gas (CNG) vehicles are always considered when purchasing new vehicles but the costs cannot be justified. He mentioned it would cost an additional $19,585 to purchase this van as a CNG unit. Mr. Herling noted the need to increase interest in CNG vehicles in order to obtain fair prices.

Mr. Roberts suggested that one of the City mechanics be trained in natural gas vehicle conversions. Mr. Hall said he had looked into this idea but training/certification was not available in this area.

Bill Orleans, Greenbelt, asked and was provided answers to several questions.

The motion passed 7-0.

AWARD OF PURCHASE – ELECTRIC UTILITY VEHICLE: Mayor Davis read the agenda comments.

Ms. Mach moved that Council approve the purchase of a GEM eL XD Low Speed Electric Vehicle from Criswell Chevrolet of Gaithersburg, Maryland in accord with State of Maryland BPO# 001B3400288 at a cost of $20,737. Ms. Pope seconded.

Mr. Roberts said he supports the purchase of electric vehicles but said the cost for this vehicle was too high.

The motion passed 6-1. (Roberts)

AWARD OF PURCHASE - POLICE VEHICLES: Mayor Davis read the agenda comments.

Mr. Putens moved that Council approve the purchase of four (4) 2013 Ford Police Utility Vehicles at a cost of $26,073 per unit, two (2) 2013 Chevrolet Tahoe Police Vehicles at a cost of $26,386 per unit, and one (1) 2013 Chevrolet Impala Police Vehicle at a cost of $21,104, for a total cost of $178,168, from Hertrich Fleet Services of Milford, Delaware, in accord with the Maryland State Police Bid #001B3400263. Ms. Pope seconded.

Mr. Herling asked Chief Craze if he envisioned any alternative fuel police vehicle purchases in the future. Chief Craze said all vehicles purchased by the Department must be certified for police emergency use and there have been no alternative fuel police vehicles certified at this time.

The motion passed 7-0.

FEDERAL LEGISLATION – HR 112 TAX-EXEMPT STATUS OF MUNICIPAL BONDS: Mayor Davis read the agenda comments.

Ms. Mach moved that Council act on the recommendation from the National League of Cities by sending a letter to Congressman Hoyer urging his support of HR 112 commemorating the 100-year precedent of the federal tax exemption of municipal bonds and reinforcing the importance of these bonds to cities across the country, and letters to Senators Mikulski and Cardin urging them to support tax-exempt financing and to oppose any changes to this tool that would increase costs to taxpayers or decrease infrastructure investment. Mr. Jordan seconded.

The motion passed 7-0.

STATE LEGISLATIVE UPDATE: Mr. Jordan said the Maryland Municipal League (MML) had been monitoring legislation that would include the restoration of $15 million in Highway User Revenues (HUR) to municipalities. He expressed concern that the State appears to view HUR funding more as grant funding than part of the budget.

Mr. Jordan and Mayor Davis reported that they, as part of a MML contingent, had met with Governor O'Malley today. Mayor Davis mentioned that Governor O'Malley had said that if all goes well, he believes $15 million will be available again next year.

Mayor Davis said the Transportation Bill which includes a half-cent increase in the gasoline sales tax and partial funding of the Metro Purple and Red Lines, had passed the House very closely. She said this increase would help replenish the State Transportation Fund that is rapidly running out of money

Mr. Roberts said it was not appropriate to raise the gasoline tax given the current economic conditions. He noted the hardships it will cause for small business owners.

PROPOSAL FOR ORGANIZATIONAL ASSESSMENT: Mayor Davis read the agenda comments.

Mr. Putens moved that Council direct staff to contract with The Matrix Consulting Group to conduct the city's Organizational Assessment at a cost of $49,900. Ms. Pope seconded.

Mr. Jordan and Mr. Putens indicated they were pleased with the proposal submitted by The Matrix Consulting Group. Mr. Putens requested a meeting between Council and The Matrix Consulting Group be scheduled. Mr. Jordan said he was looking forward to the study recommending an actionable plan.

Mr. Roberts asked how long the study would take to complete. Mr. McLaughlin estimated 12 weeks.

Bill Orleans asked why Council didn't conduct the organizational study themselves. Mayor Davis explained that it is beneficial to have someone from outside the organization conduct this type of study on occasion and make recommendations. Mr. Orleans requested that Council direct this study be done internally.

The motion passed 6-1. (Roberts)

OTHER REPORTS: Councilmembers presented reports on the following meetings and conferences they recently attended.

Ms. Mach	–	Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (COG) Air Quality Meeting
Mr. Herling	–	COG Climate, Energy and Environment Police Committee Meeting
Mr. Roberts	–	COG Transportation Planning Board Meeting
Mayor Davis	–	Formula 2040: Preliminary Functional Master Plan for Parks, Recreation and Open Space
		COG Board of Directors

MEETINGS: Council reviewed the upcoming meeting schedule.

ADJOURNMENT: Ms. Mach moved to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Putens seconded. The motion passed 7-0.

Mayor Davis adjourned the regular meeting of Wednesday, March 27, 2013, at 10:41 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 March 27, 2013."

Judith F. Davis
Mayor