



CITY COUNCIL WORK SESSION AGENDA

Work Session - Prince George's County Council

This meeting will be held in-person and virtual.

**25 Crescent Road
Greenbelt, MD 20770**

OR

**Virtual Participation
Zoom Webinar Attendees:**

Please submit your request in writing via email to questions@greenbeltmd.gov

**[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89743309746?](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89743309746?pwd=V3YyUTV4UXc5KzA2NDgrMitCREpVQT09)
[pwd=V3YyUTV4UXc5KzA2NDgrMitCREpVQT09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89743309746?pwd=V3YyUTV4UXc5KzA2NDgrMitCREpVQT09)**

Dial-in: 301 715 8592

Webinar ID: 897 4330 9746

Passcode: 613474

**Monday, March 18, 2024
7:30 PM**

Work Session Packet - Prince George's County Council

Work Session - Prince George's County Council
Suggested Action:

Agenda

- Introductions - 15 minutes (7:30 - 7:45 pm)
- Council Discussion - 75 minutes (7:45 - 9:00 pm)
 - **Pending County & State legislation**
 - **Initial comments on the CEX Budget proposal**

- **Schools**
 - Dora Kennedy French Immersion School Relocation and Future of Building
 - Springhill Lake Elementary School Reconstruction
- **Health**
 - Update on relocation of Cheverly Health Clinic to Greenbelt
 - Update on Doctors Hospital
- **DPIE Issues:**
 - Permitting - working with businesses
 - Air B&Bs Permitting
- **DPWT Issues**
 - Transportation: - WMATA Cuts / Funding for TheBus routes: 11, 16, 15x
 - Capital Bike Share stations: When will they be installed?
- **Crime & Public Safety**
 1. Police Accountability Board
 2. Volunteer Firefighters Issues
- **County transportation Construction Priority letter**
 1. Priority for Greenbelt Road planning & streetscape improvements
- **Department of Environment**
 1. Stormwater pond maintenance responsibility issues
 2. Animal Control
 1. Weekend Support
 2. North County Shelter
- Questions and Answers - 15 minutes (9:00 - 9:15 pm)
- Other Items - 30 minutes (9:15 - 9:30 pm)
 - Information Items

[Work Session Minutes - May 31, 2023.pdf](#)

WORK SESSION OF THE GREENBELT CITY COUNCIL held Wednesday, May 31, 2023, to meet with the Prince George's County Council Representatives.

Due to technical difficulties, Mayor Jordan started the meeting at 7:49 p.m. The meeting was held in the Council Chambers of the Municipal Building, 25 Crescent Road, and virtually via Zoom.

PRESENT WERE: Councilmembers Colin A. Byrd, Judith F. Davis (virtual), Ric Gordon, Kristen L. K. Weaver, and Mayor Emmett V. Jordan. Councilmembers Silke I. Pope and Rodney M. Roberts were absent.

STAFF PRESENT WERE: Tim George, Interim City Manager; and Shaniya Lashley-Mullen, Assistant to the City Clerk.

ALSO, PRESENT WERE: Prince George's County Councilmembers Ingrid S. Watson and Calvin S. Hawkins; and others.

Based on a question asked by Mayor Jordan, Mr. Hawkins replied that the County Council is working with the County Executive to keep all services satisfactory in the City of Greenbelt. He noted that the County Executive has ten days to respond to the budget voted on by the County Council. He remarked that the County Council adopted a \$5.4 billion budget and explained this was a \$318 million increase from the FY 2023 adopted budget. He added the budget includes \$2.8 billion for Prince George's County Schools, \$886 million to fund public safety, with 18% funding the County Government operations. He remarked there were several challenges funding the County Council budget including the pandemic, inflation, and a \$60 million drop in residential revenue. Mayor Jordan mentioned that the City Council would likely approve the City's \$35 million proposed budget, with a large portion going towards public safety, during the June 12, 2023, Regular Council meeting.

Mayor Jordan inquired about the search for the new CEO of Prince George's County's Public Schools. Ms. Watson replied that the County Council hadn't received a recent update, but noted the candidates have been narrowed down. Mr. Hawkins added the finalist was meeting with the County Executive team to finalize the selection.

There was discussion regarding the County's Better Bag Ban Bill, CB-32-2023. Ms. Watson provided a summary of what is in the bill, including reducing plastic pollution by prohibiting retailers from providing single-use plastic bags to customers at the point of sale and charging at least \$.10 for other bags. The Better Bag Bill goes into effect after a six-month public education campaign. Mayor Jordan stated the City just passed a Plastic Bag Ban Ordinance. Based on a question asked by Ms. Davis, Ms. Watson replied the Better Bag Ban Bill includes exceptions for dry cleaners and carryout takeout bags.

There was discussion regarding legislation about restrictions on building townhomes. Ms. Watson stated she is interested in hearing from the City's residents regarding the legislation about the new restrictions being put in place concerning townhomes.

Mayor Jordan inquired if the County Council has heard anything from the General Services Administration (GSA) about the relocation of the FBI Headquarters. Mr. Hawkins expressed disappointment regarding the latest stipulation supporting the relocation of the FBI Headquarters to Virginia.

Ms. Davis asked whether Inclusionary Zoning has been addressed. Mr. Hawkins answered the majority of the County Councilmembers are very adamant about this issue. There will be some favorable actions regarding Inclusionary Zoning.

There was a discussion regarding the Maglev. Mr. Hawkins explained the previous County Council spoke against the Maglev and, after a majority vote, provided a written statement against the Maglev. He stated he and Ms. Watson would commit to drafting a letter/resolution to continue to establish their support to oppose the Maglev.

Based on a question asked by Ms. Davis, Ms. Watson stated she would check the North County Animal Shelter's status and will follow-up with the Council.

There was a discussion regarding the Department of Permitting, Inspection, and Enforcement (DPIE). Mayor Jordan stated the City would like the County Council to advocate with DPIE administrative matters on their behalf. He explained there seems to be issues with DPIE being able to keep up with the backlog of permits in a timely manner. He also mentioned there has been a turnover of leadership within the department. Ms. Watson noted there have been public hearings on this issue to help with addressing residents' concerns. She added if there are concerns with permits, contact her office, and she can assist.

Ms. Davis inquired if the Prince George's County Government had challenges hiring and retaining staff. Mr. Hawkins explained one of the challenges is that individuals get hired, trained, and then leave the County for another job with a higher salary. Ms. Watson added that County agencies have stated they need additional personnel.

There was a discussion regarding the Fire Department. Mayor Jordan stated that the funding the Greenbelt Volunteer Fire Department (GVFD) receives to maintain their facility has dropped. Mr. Hawkins said during the budget hearing, those particular questions were raised with Prince George's County Fire Chief Tiffany Green. He explained Fire Chief Green is committed to assessing each of the Fire Departments within Prince George's County. He further remarked that the County Council will be receiving a report with a breakdown on staffing and resource needs for each department and on how this affects their emergency response times. Mr. Hawkins stated once the County Council receives the report and reviews the findings, the report will be disseminated among the 27 Prince George's County municipalities.

Mayor Jordan advised that the City owns the GVFD building and pays for the ambulances and fire apparatus equipment. Ms. Davis added there had been rumors that the career firefighters would be relocated from GVFD. She also stated there is a new fire station planned for Greenbelt in the Prince George's County Capital Projects budget.

Mayor Jordan mentioned that the City of Greenbelt has been trying to obtain the deed for the Armory to use for municipal purposes. Mr. George explained there are two deeds, the first deed is transferring the property from the State back to HUD, and the second deed is transferring the property from HUD to the City. He stated the City is in the process of drafting the deed transfer from HUD to the City.

In regards to the Fire Department discussion, Mr. Hawkins commented he had a phone call with Fire Chief Green regarding the removal of career firefighters from GVFD to Laurel. However, if Council wants additional conversations or a work session, Fire Chief Green is available to discuss their concerns.

Mayor Jordan asked about the status of the Police Accountability Board. Ms. Watson stated she will check on the status of the Police Accountability Board and get back to the Council with more information.

Ms. Davis asked what agency is supposed to enforce the Rent Stabilization Act. Knowing there is a rent cap, Mr. Gordon stated property management companies have increased other fees. Mr. Hawkins noted DPIE will be responsible for enforcing the rent stabilization legislation.

There was a discussion regarding stormwater management. Mayor Jordan stated that the City has benefitted from the Clean Water Partnership Program over the years. He explained the stormwater management pond at Ora Glen and Hanover Parkway sustained considerable damage during the July 2022 storms. Mayor Jordan suggested the location could be more of a recreational amenity. Mr. Hawkins suggested Council set up a tour of the sites with himself, County Councilmember Mel Franklin, Ms. Watson, and State Officials.

Mr. Byrd inquired if the Prince George's County Library could order additional books to reduce the wait times for popular books. He asked about the modifications at the Greenbelt Bus lot. Mr. Byrd expressed his concerns about the safety of school buses and the bus driver shortages. He asked for a status update on the Health Department located in Cheverly which was moved to 9001 Edmonston Road. Ms. Watson stated she would work with Mr. Hawkins to assist in responding to Mr. Byrd's questions.

Bill Orleans, a Greenbelt resident, commented on the Bureau of Engraving and Printing's move to the Beltsville Agricultural Research Center and the Rent Stabilization work group. He asked about the WMATA Better Bus Plan. Mr. Hawkins asked Mr. Orleans to provide his contact information to either Mayor Jordan or Mr. Byrd, and he would then contact him personally to discuss his concerns regarding public transportation.

Michael Hartman, Gardenway, thanked Mr. Hawkins for having an aide focus on residents with disabilities. He stated there are issues with the bus shelters not being accessible or with providing shelters with covers for individuals with wheelchairs.

Ms. Watson said there would be a Greenbelt senior luncheon on June 11th.

Meeting List:

Council reviewed the Meeting list.

Ms. Davis requested adding the Walk-way Fixture work session to the ready-to-be-scheduled list.

The meeting ended at 9:13 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

*Shaniya Lashley-Mullen
Assistant to the City Clerk*