

REGULAR MEETING OF THE GREENBELT CITY COUNCIL held Monday, February 13, 2017.

Mayor Jordan called the meeting to order at 8:03 p.m.

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

ALSO PRESENT were Nicole Ard, City Manager; David E. Moran, Assistant City Manager; Karen Ruff, Associate to the City Solicitor; and Cindy Murray, City Clerk.

Mayor Jordan asked for a moment of silence in honor of former Greenbelt residents Carol Ann Sauls, Donna K. Fluke and Neil Gehrels. Ms. Mach then led the pledge of allegiance to the flag.

CONSENT AGENDA: It was moved by Ms. Davis and seconded by Mr. Putens that the consent agenda be approved. The motion passed 7-0.

Council thereby took the following actions:

Minutes:

Work Session, November 21, 2016
Legislative Dinner, December 13, 2016
Work Session, December 14, 2016
Work Session, January 4, 2017
Work Session, January 18, 2017
Regular Meeting, January 23, 2017
Special Meeting, February 6, 2017

Approved as presented.

Committee Reports:

Arts Advisory Board, Report #2017-2 (Recommendations on Greenbelt Recognition Group Basic Certification Applications): Council accepted this report which will be considered at the Recognition and Contribution Group budget work session.

Repurpose of Newspaper Vending Box: Council supported the request from Elizabeth Barber that the city repurpose an unused newspaper vending box at Southway and Crescent Road with the conditions of a six month trial period, maintenance of the box, and review of a proposed design, and directed staff to contact Dr. Barber.

Reappointments to Advisory Groups: Council reappointed the following individuals to new terms on City Advisory Boards and Committees:

Janet Mirsky
Mark Gransfors-Hunt

Advisory Committee on Education
Arts Advisory Board

David Whaples
Dan Hamlin and Dea Zugby
Valerie Elliott
Matt Dirksen

Etta Fitzgerald and Paula Williams

Board of Appeals
Community Relations Advisory Board
Forest Preserve Advisory Board
Greenbelt Advisory Committee on
Environmental Sustainability
Senior Citizens Advisory Committee

Resignations from Advisory Groups: Council accepted the resignations of Phyllis Budin from the Senior Citizens Advisory Committee, Matthew Johnson from the Advisory Planning Board and Patrick Gleason from the Youth Advisory Committee.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: It was moved by Mr. Putens and seconded by Ms. Pope that the agenda be approved. The motion passed 7-0.

PRESENTATIONS: None

PETITIONS AND REQUESTS:

Council accepted a petition from Eli Zimet, Greenbelt Concert Band, requesting Council waive the Recognition and Contribution Group Policy matching funding requirement for the Greenbelt Concert Band Music Director funds. (Copy of petition attached to minutes.) Council suggested this request be considered during the upcoming budget process. Ms. Mach asked that the example of swim team coaches being paid by the city be considered in relation to this request.

Council accepted a petition from a group of residents of Green Ridge House requesting the designated smoking area behind Green Ridge House remain in its current location. (Copy of petition attached to minutes.) Council suggested this request be considered at the work session on February 15, 2017, on Petitions & Requests.

Council accepted petitions from a group of fifth grade students at Springhill Lake Elementary School requesting trees be provided for planting at the school. Council suggested this request be considered at the work session on February 15, 2017, on Petitions & Requests.

Patricia Walters presented a petition from residents of Greenbelt Station requesting construction of the pathway or bus service for residents of Greenbelt Station to Metro. (Copy of petition attached to minutes.) Council suggested a work session be scheduled with Mr. Augustine from the WMATA Board.

Bob Snyder, 12 Hillside Road, requested Council expand the number of citizen members on the Advisory Committee on Trees to seven (7) or (9) members. He said having a committee of only three (3) members limits the input and involvement of citizens. (Copy of petition attached to minutes.)

Colin Byrd, Mathew Street, mentioned the February 6th Executive Session of Council regarding potential or pending litigation. He requested Council be transparent and provide the names of the parties involved in the litigations. Mr. Byrd also requested water testing by the City.

Michael Hartman, 2-R Gardenway, requested Council support of SB 0835 which will establish Maryland as a Sanctuary State.

Renard Brown, Hanover Parkway, asked Council and staff to protect citizens of Greenbelt from U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) raids.

Bill Orleans, Greenbelt, asked about executive sessions of Council.

Ryan Yager, Greenbelt Station, asked Council to request Woodlawn Development provide an adequate shuttle service that can accommodate the numbers of residents utilizing the shuttle. He noted that the current shuttle often cannot provide transport for all the residents returning to Greenbelt Station from the Metro in the evening.

MINUTES:

Statement for the Record - Executive Session of February 6, 2017: Ms. Davis moved that in accordance with the General Provisions Article, Section 3-306(c)(2) of the Annotated Code of Public General Laws of Maryland, the minutes of tonight's meeting reflect that Council met in executive session on Monday, February 6, 2017, at 7:18 p.m. in the Library of the Municipal Building. Council held this closed meeting in accordance with the General Provisions Article 3-305(b)(1) and (8) of the *Annotated Code of the Public General Laws of Maryland* to discuss: 1) a personnel matter (reassignment of staff during the City Manager transition); and 2) pending or potential litigation.

Vote to close session:

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

The following staff members were in attendance: Nicole Ard, City Manager, and Karen Ruff, Associate of the City Solicitor.

Other individuals in attendance: None

Mr. Herling seconded.

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

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS:

Ms. Ard provided an update on the status of several petitions and requests. She advised that the entire list would be reviewed at the work session on February 15, 2017.

In response to questions from Council, Acting Chief Kemp reported on several crime incidents in the City. He noted that recent ATM theft incidents and thefts of air bags from vehicles were a region-wide problem. Acting Chief Kemp also reported on the steps being taken in the Department to address the staffing challenges caused by retirements and other factors.

LEGISLATION:

A Resolution to Authorize the Negotiated Purchase of Consultant Work to Develop a Recreation and Park Facilities Master Plan for the City of Greenbelt from GreenPlay, LLC at a Cost Not to Exceed \$50,000

Mayor Jordan read the agenda comments.

Ms. Mach introduced the resolution for first reading.

A Resolution to Authorize the Negotiated Purchase of Landscaping Services from Lorenz, Inc. at a Cost Not to Exceed \$47,984

Mayor Jordan read the agenda comments.

Ms. Davis introduced the resolution for first reading.

Lakeside North Development Concept: Mayor Jordan read the agenda comments.

Mayor Jordan expressed concern that there had been so much misinformation and miscommunication in the community about the Lakeside North Development Concept. He stated that the developer had submitted no additional information since the original work session on April 4, 2016.

Terri Hruby, Assistant Director of Planning, agreed there had been a great deal of misinformation in the community. She noted that no plans for the development had been submitted to either the City or County.

Ms. Davis moved that Council oppose the conceptual design presented at the work session with the property owner as it is inappropriate to the character of the nearby neighborhoods, destroys a valuable wooded area, and cannot be developed with the current and prospective zoning. Mr. Herling seconded.

Ms. Davis said when the Lakeside North Concept was presented to Council on April 4, 2016, Council expressed serious concerns. Since that time, she advised Council had been waiting to see if any further action would be taken. Ms. Davis said at this point, since surveying work is being done, Council can oppose the conceptual design and notify the property owner, Prince George's County Planning Board, Prince George's County Council, etc.

Ms. Pope agreed that Council held a discussion on the concept at the work session on April 4, 2016, and that no official proposal had been provided.

Mr. Roberts said he believes that when a developer hires a lobbyist and begins surveying the property, it should be considered a serious proposal.

Mr. Putens asked staff to determine if a conservation easement on the property would be appropriate to be sure the area is not developed in the future.

Mr. Herling and Ms. Mach noted their support for sending a letter of opposition to the concept.

Mayor Jordan advised that when Mr. Hillman came before Council with the Lakeside North drawings, Council pointed out a number of concerns including the height of the building, impact on traffic, etc. He noted that these are the same concerns that people in the community have expressed. Mayor Jordan said he thinks Mr. Hillman did the appropriate thing (scheduling the work session with Council) and expressed concern that without providing the opportunity to discuss with Council, a developer may go directly to the County. Mr. Putens and Mr. Herling agreed.

The motion passed 7-0.

Ms. Davis moved that Council oppose any zoning change or text amendment that allows additional density in the parcel where the Lakeside North apartments are located. Mr. Herling seconded.

The motion passed 7-0.

Brian Almquist, Greenbelt Advocates for Environmental and Social Justice, read a statement in opposition to the Lakeside North Development. (Statement attached.) He noted that another 110 signatures had been obtained on the petition to oppose the development, bringing the total to over 600 signatures.

Donna Almquist, 112 Hedgewood Drive, read a statement in opposition to the proposed Lakeside North Development. (Statement attached.) She also presented letters from members of the community.

David and Christal Jones, 300 Ridge Road, spoke in support of keeping the area as natural as possible. They also expressed concerns with the following issues: 1) trespassers on their property; 2) the standpipe matter; and 3) their property being outside the city limits. Mr. Putens suggested a work session on these matters be scheduled in the future.

Sue Smithers, 10-J Laurel Hill Road, noted her opposition to the Lakeside North Concept.

State Legislation

HB 36 – Plug-In Electric Vehicles – Reserved Spaces: Mayor Jordan read the agenda comments.

Mr. Herling moved that Council support HB 36. Ms. Davis seconded.

The motion passed 7-0.

SB 142 – Task Force to Study Bicycle Safety on Maryland Highways: Mayor Jordan read the agenda comments.

Ms. Davis moved that Council support SB 142. Mr. Putens seconded.

The motion passed 7-0.

HB 172/SB 728 – Home Act of 2017: Mayor Jordan read the agenda comments.

Ms. Mach moved that Council support HB 172/SB 728. Mr. Putens seconded.

The motion passed 7-0.

SB 397 – Local Income Tax Overpayments – Forgiveness: Mayor Jordan read the agenda comments.

Ms. Davis moved that Council support SB 397. Ms. Pope seconded.

The motion passed 7-0.

SB 422/HB 602 – Keep Antibiotics Effective Act: Mayor Jordan read the agenda comments.

Mr. Herling moved that Council support SB 422/HB 602. Ms. Davis seconded.

The motion passed 7-0.

List of Bills from Senator Pinsky: Mayor Jordan read the agenda comments.

Council requested that the list of Senator Pinsky's legislative initiatives for 2017 be discussed further at the Legislative Dinner next week.

Council Activities: Council reported on the following activities and events recently attended.

Maryland Municipal League (MML) Communications Committee Meeting - Ms. Mach
Cookies at the Bridge – Ms. Davis and Ms. Mach
Prince George's Elected Municipal Women Executive Board Meeting – Ms. Davis and Ms. Mach
Prince George's County School Board Public Hearing – Ms. Mach
State Committee Hearing on HB 36/Reserved Parking Spaces for Electric Vehicles – Mr. Herling
Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Council Meeting – Mr. Herling
Prince George's Arts Council Meeting – Mr. Herling
WMATA Public Hearing – Mr. Herling
Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (COG) Transportation Planning Board Meeting – Mr. Herling
Roosevelt Center Merchants Association Meeting – Mayor Jordan, Ms. Davis and Mr. Herling
Four Cities Meeting – Mayor Jordan, Ms. Davis, Mr. Herling, Ms. Pope, Mr. Putens and Mr. Roberts
MML Legislative Committee Meetings (2) and Conference Call (1) – Ms. Davis
MML Sub-Committee Meeting on Utilities – Ms. Davis
COG Chesapeake Bay Policy Committee Meeting – Ms. Davis
COG Region Forward Meeting – Ms. Davis
City Electronics Recycling – Ms. Davis
Greenbelt Homes, Inc. Town Hall Meeting – Ms. Davis and Mr. Putens
Central Maryland Transportation and Mobility Commission and RTA Partners Meeting – Ms. Davis
Maryland Mayors Association Lunch – Ms. Davis and Mayor Jordan
Small Cell Coalition, FCC Action, Conference Call – Ms. Davis
COG Chesapeake Bay Advocacy Committee Conference Call – Ms. Davis
Prince George's Elected Municipal Women, Board Meeting – Ms. Davis and Ms. Mach
GSA/FBI Transportation Update Meeting for Greenbelt Site – Mayor Jordan, Ms. Davis, Mr. Herling, Ms. Mach and Mr. Putens
Meeting with Adam Ortiz regarding Animal Shelter Feasibility Study – Mayor Jordan
Maryland Education Association Breakfast – Mayor Jordan
MML Board Meeting – Mayor Jordan
Maryland Mayors Association Meeting – Mayor Jordan
Citizens Emergency Response Team (CERT) Training – Mayor Jordan
COG Board Meeting – Mayor Jordan
Meeting with County Council Member Turner regarding Tax Differential – Mayor Jordan

Congressman Hoyer's Annual Black History Month Breakfast – Mayor Jordan

Council Reports: None.

MEETINGS: Council reviewed the meeting schedule.

2017 Meeting Schedule: Ms. Mach moved that Council change its 2017 meeting schedule as follows: 1) no work session on Monday, April 17 (Easter Monday); reschedule June 12th and June 26th Regular Meetings to June 5th and June 19th (Budget Adoption Prior to June 10th and MML Conference June 25th – 28th); and 3) no work session on Wednesday, September 20th (Rosh Hashanah). Mr. Putens seconded.

The motion passed 7-0.

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

Mayor Jordan adjourned the regular meeting of Monday, February 13, 2017, at 10:47 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 February 13, 2017.

Emmett V. Jordan
Mayor