

REGULAR MEETING OF THE GREENBELT CITY COUNCIL held Monday, February 11, 2013.

Mayor Davis called the meeting to order at 8:03 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; John Shay, City Solicitor; and Cindy Murray, City Clerk.

Mayor Davis asked for a moment of silence in memory of Greenbelt residents Betty Starry and Nicole Brown and former Greenbelt residents Eleanor Harllee Ritchie, Nicholas Pergola, Catherine Brady, Stephen DeCoste and Ruth Wolfe Hebb. She then led the pledge of allegiance to the flag.

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA: Ms. Mach requested the minutes of the Regular Meeting of January 28, 2013, be removed from the consent agenda. With this change, Mr. Putens moved that the consent agenda be approved. Mr. Jordan seconded. The motion passed 7-0.

Council thereby took the following actions:

MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETINGS

Work Session, January 23, 2013

Interview, January 28, 2013

Approved as presented.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Community Relations Advisory Board, Report #2013-1 (Council Referral – Juvenile Curfew Law): Council accepted this report and will consider it on the agenda of a future meeting.

Public Safety Advisory Committee, Report #2013-1 (Curfew Law): Council accepted this report and will consider it on the agenda of a future meeting.

REAPPOINTMENTS TO ADVISORY GROUPS: Council approved the reappointment of Henry Haslinger to the Senior Citizens Advisory Committee.

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

PRESENTATIONS:

Office of Constituent Services – Prince George’s County Public Schools: Robin Shell, Coordinator of the Office of Constituent Services, provided a briefing on the services provided by her office.

Council thanked Ms. Shell for the information. Ms. Mach suggested Ms. Shell provide the briefing to the Greenbelt Advisory Committee on Education also.

PETITIONS AND REQUESTS:

Barbara Simon, Greenbelt Community Development Corporation (GCDC), reported GCDC would be meeting with Celia Craze, Director of Planning and Community Development, this week to discuss plans for a fundraising effort for the Greenbelt Theater.

MINUTES:

Regular Meeting, January 28, 2013: Under Council Reports, Ms. Mach noted that she and Mr. Putens only had attended the Community Action Meeting in Franklin Park on Child Care. With this change, Ms. Mach moved that the minutes be accepted. Mr. Herling seconded. The motion passed 7-0.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS:

Mr. McLaughlin reported on an update on the City’s assessable base that had been received late Friday.

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

Greenbelt Elementary School STEM Fair - Ms. Mach
Maryland Black History Month Program at Montpelier Mansion – Mayor Davis and Mr. Jordan
Prince George’s County Municipal Association (PGCMA) Meeting – Mr. Jordan and Mr. Herling
Maryland Municipal League (MML) Legislative Committee Meeting – Mayor Davis and Mr. Jordan
MML Briefing to Ways & Means Committee – Mayor Davis
MML Eastern Shore Chapter Legislative Dinner – Mayor Davis
Governor O’Malley’s State of the State Address – Mayor Davis
Maryland Mayor’s Association Conference – Mayor Davis
MML Meeting with Speaker Busch – Mayor Davis
MML Hometown Emergency Preparedness Adhoc Committee Meeting – Mayor Davis

COMMITTEE REPORTS: None

LEGISLATION: None

REORGANIZATION OF THE PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY FIRE/EMS DEPARTMENTS

Mayor Davis read the agenda comments.

Prince George's County Fire Chief Bashoor explained that the Fire/EMS Department recently conducted a multi-faceted evaluation of the Department's overall operations and personnel deployment. The objectives of the study were: 1) realign the Fire/EMS personnel deployment to ensure Maryland National Capital Park and Planning Commission Public Safety Master Plan (PSMP) objectives were met on a consistent basis for all communities within the County; 2) reduce inefficient, redundant and overlapping service coverage; and 3) strive to remain within approved budget parameters, with specific regard to reduction of the dependence on overtime to fill staffing gaps.

As a result, Chief Bashoor said 22 career staff will be redeployed from the Seat Pleasant, Branchville, Boulevard Heights and West Lanham Hills Fire Stations to other stations. He said the staffing realignments were based on adequate response guidelines contained in PSMP. Chief Bashoor noted that in the Greenbelt service area, a total of eight fire stations will service the area and can meet or exceed the service standards (arrive in under 7 minutes) outlined in the PSMP.

Mayor Davis expressed concern that due to the severe problem with recruiting and retaining volunteers, communities were now more dependent on career fire fighters. Chief Bashoor said Prince George's County has the largest combination of volunteer and career fire staff in the United States.

Mr. Putens and Mr. Jordan questioned how long this staffing/reorganization plan would be in place. Chief Bashoor said it is a long term permanent plan. He added that the County can't continue to support staffing all fire stations, a number of which are located in close proximity to other stations.

Mayor Davis and Council thanked Chief Bashoor for the presentation. Mayor Davis said Council will continue to support volunteer and career firefighters as well as the local fire stations.

UPDATE ON VOLUNTEER PARTNERSHIP WITH CHESAPEAKE EDUCATION, ARTS, AND RESEARCH SOCIETY (CHEARS)

Mayor Davis read the agenda comments.

Kristen Wharton, the City/Chesapeake Education, Arts, and Research Society (CHEARS) Volunteer Maryland Coordinator (VMC) reported on the many activities she has been working on since she began her work in September 2012. These activities include: Forest Stewardship Program, Walking the Woods Symposium, National Public Lands Day, the Greenbelt Food Forest, Springhill Lake Demonstration Garden, and developing educational workshops for the upcoming spring and summer. Ms. Wharton noted her position as the City/CHEARS VMC will end in August of 2013.

Ms. Mach moved that Council approve partnering for a second year with CHEARS for an 11-month VMC through the Volunteer Maryland Program. Mr. Putens seconded. The motion passed 7-0.

AWARD OF CONTRACT – AQUATIC & FITNESS CENTER AFTER-HOURS CLEANING SERVICES

Mayor Davis read the agenda comments.

Mr. Roberts asked how many man-hours are required to clean the Greenbelt Aquatic and Fitness Center (GAFC) each evening. Mr. Moran said he would check with GAFC staff and report back to Council. Mr. Roberts commented that it may be better to have this work done by in-house staff instead of a contractor.

Following further discussion, Mr. Putens moved that Council award the contract for GAFC After-Hours cleaning services to Dalmex Inc., of Dumfries, Virginia, at an annual cost of \$34,400. Mr. Jordan seconded. The motion passed 7-0.

STATE LEGISLATION

SB 28 – Blighted Property – Nuisance Abatement

Mayor Davis read the agenda comments.

Ms. Mach noted the bill requires that if the owner lists the property for sale, it must be done through a licensed real estate broker. She said the owner should be allowed to offer the property as “for sale by owner.”

Ms. Mach moved that Council support SB 28 with the amendment that the property owner be allowed to offer the property as “for sale by owner.” Mr. Herling seconded. The motion passed 7-0.

HB 78/SB 160 – Personal Injury or Death Caused by Dog

Mayor Davis read the agenda comments.

Mr. Herling moved that Council support HB 78/SB 160. Mr. Jordan seconded. The motion passed 7-0.

SB 389 – Speed Monitoring Systems Enforcement

Mayor Davis read the agenda comments.

Ms. Pope moved that Council support SB 389. Mr. Putens seconded. The motion passed 6-1. (Roberts)

Mr. Roberts noted his support for the requirement that a sworn police officer review and certify all speed camera violations.

HB 362 – Public Ethics – Definition of “Interest” – Mutual Funds

Mayor Davis read the agenda comments.

Mr. Putens moved that Council support HB 362. Mr. Herling seconded. The motion passed 7-0.

HB 587 – Reliability Standards – Vegetation Management

Mayor Davis read the agenda comments.

Mr. Putens moved that Council oppose HB 587. Ms. Mach seconded. The motion passed 7-0.

SB 820/HB 767 – Establishment of Spay/Neuter Fund

Mayor Davis read the agenda comments.

Mr. Putens moved that Council support SB 820/HB 767. Ms. Mach seconded. The motion passed 7-0.

SB 641 – Statewide Container Recycling Incentive Program

Mayor Davis read the agenda comments. She said that since this legislation is part of the City’s 2013 Legislative Program, no further action by Council is needed to indicate support.

LETTER TO CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION – RECOGNITION OF COOPERATIVES
AND CONDOMINIUMS FOR FEDERAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY
ASSISTANCE

Mayor Davis read the agenda comments.

Ms. Mach moved that Council send a letter to its Congressional Delegation urging the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to recognize cooperatives and condominiums as residential housing. Ms. Pope seconded.

Mayor Davis requested the letter indicate that two members of Council reside in condominiums and two members reside in cooperatives, as well as the total number of condominiums and cooperatives in the City.

The motion passed 7-0.

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

Mr. Jordan – Prince George’s County Municipal Association Meeting

Mayor Davis – Governor O’Malley’s State of the State Address
Maryland Mayors Winter Conference

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 Monday, February 11, 2013, at 10:56 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 11, 2013."

Judith F. Davis
Mayor