

WORK SESSION OF THE GREENBELT CITY COUNCIL held Wednesday, February 7, 2018, to meet with the Bureau of Engraving and Printing regarding the Proposed Relocation to the Beltsville Agricultural Research Center (BARC) Campus.

Mayor Jordan started the meeting at 8:00 p.m. The meeting was held in the MultiPurpose Room of the Community Center.

PRESENT WERE: Councilmembers Colin A. Byrd, Judith F. Davis, Leta M. Mach, Silke I. Pope, Edward V. J. Putens, Rodney M. Roberts and Mayor Emmett V. Jordan.

STAFF PRESENT WERE: Nicole Ard, City Manager; Terri Hruby, Acting Director of Planning; and Cindy Murray, Acting City Clerk.

ALSO PRESENT WERE: Chuck Davis, Bureau of Engraving and Printing; Gary Mayo, Legislative Affairs; Howard Zhang, Director of BARC; Kathleen Gallagher, Greenbelt News Review; Brian Gibbons, Advisory Planning Board; Molly Lester and Bill Orleans.

Mr. Davis, Bureau of Engraving and Printing (BEP), said the BEP is looking to construct a smaller and more efficient production facility in the National Capital Region (preferably on federal property) to reduce the federal footprint. He said the Main Building for BEP in Washington, D.C. would be modernized for administrative functions and the Annex Building, which is nearly a full city block, will be surplussed and sold. Mr. Davis said the estimated capital cost to build a new facility and renovate the Main Building is approximately \$1.076 billion (2021 dollars) vs. \$1.788 billion (2021 dollars) to renovate the existing facilities. It is expected the new production facility will be complete in 2026 and the Main Building renovation will be complete in 2028.

Mr. Davis said one of the three sites under consideration for the production facility is an unused 100 acre site at BARC. He mentioned that the majority of BEP employees live in Maryland (64.8%) and of those, 44.1% reside in Prince George's County.

Mr. Zhang, Director of the Beltsville Agricultural Research Center (BARC), said BARC is supportive of BEP relocating to BARC. He commented that BARC research dollars wouldn't have to be used towards upkeep/demolishment of abandoned buildings on the site under consideration by BEP. He said the Friends of BARC is supportive of the BEP relocation also.

In response to a question from Ms. Davis, Mr. Zhang said there are 512 buildings at BARC, with about 260 of them in active use and the rest inactive. Mr. Davis said BEP would remediate and demolish approximately 23 abandoned buildings on the proposed site.

Mr. Davis described the exact location at BARC that was under consideration for the production facility and commented that the facility would be constructed on less than 2% of BARC's existing 6,500 acres. The facility will be approximately 1M square feet in size with a height of 25 feet to 35 feet. Mr. Davis said an 800 space parking area will be included, which could be an above ground garage, to accommodate the three shifts of workers at the 24/7 facility.

Mr. Roberts expressed concern about contaminants from the production facility polluting the creek. Mr. Davis said air and waste water would be treated onsite prior to discharge and storm water would be controlled onsite.

In response to a question from Ms. Mach, Mr. Zhang said the child care facility would be available for BEP employees. He advised that it was not a cooperative child care facility. Ms. Mach asked if there was a waiting list for the child care facility. Mr. Zhang will check and provide the answer.

Ms. Davis suggested a shuttle be considered from Greenbelt Metro for BEP employees that may use Metro, MARC, etc. Mr. Mayo said BEP anticipates sharing shuttle services already in place by BARC.

In response to a question from Ms. Davis, Mr. Davis said BEP External Relations staff would reach out to local high schools and community colleges to engage students.

Mr. Byrd asked the status of the redesign of the \$20 bill with Harriett Tubman. Mr. Davis explained BEP designs suggestions but it is a political decision regarding which designs are selected.

Mr. Davis said BEP requires legislative action to use its Revolving Fund to acquire land and construct a building shell. He advised Secretary Mnuchin approved BEP's request to add legislative language into the FY 2018 Presidential Budget to Congress and the Office of Management and Budget approved the addition. BEP is currently awaiting FY 2018 congressional action.

Mr. Davis noted that the BARC site was one of three sites BEP was looking at. He stressed that this was an informal process at this time and BEP was just trying to engage communities where they are looking at proposed sites. Mr. Davis said BEP wants to be good neighbors and they don't want to further pursue areas where they are not wanted.

Mr. Orleans said Council is on record for supporting agricultural research at BARC. He said if BARC land isn't being used now, it should remain in an agricultural state in case it's needed in the future.

In response to a question from Mr. Putens, Mr. Zhang explained research has drastically changed with modern technology over the past 30 years and the amount of livestock needed for research has been significantly reduced. He said BARC had 3.5 million square feet of building space in use in 1996, uses 2.5 million as of today and is working towards using 1.5 million in the future.

Ms. Davis stressed the importance of BARC to Council. She said she is very concerned that unused areas may be sold off in parts. Ms. Davis said she is open at this point to consideration of BEP's relocation but is very concerned.

Brian Gibbons asked and was provided answers to several questions. He said the Advisory Planning Board (APB) will review the possible BEP relocation to BARC.

Mayor Jordan asked if there was an opportunity for the City to partner on proposed solar field projects at BARC. Mr. Zhang said that was an interesting idea.

Mayor Jordan mentioned the proposed SC Maglev project and asked about its impact to BARC.

Mr. Zhang said he has been asked to provide comments on the project but hasn't yet done so. Mayor Jordan asked that he share his comments with Council when they are complete.

Informational Items

Mayor Jordan reported that he had discussed the Urban Land Institute Technical Assistance Panel (ULI TAP) with Mayor Wojahn of College Park and Mayor Jewitt of Berwyn Heights. He said Berwyn Heights was willing to contribute \$2,500.

Mayor Jordan said he would be meeting with Greenbelt Homes, Inc. (GHI) on Monday in advance of a meeting between GHI and the Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission on Tuesday. He invited other councilmembers to attend.

Ms. Davis reported on the Maryland Municipal League Legislative Committee meeting. She provided an update of bills under consideration.

The meeting ended at 10:30 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

*Cindy Murray
Acting City Clerk*